

# EIR

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## From the Associate Editor

Lyndon LaRouche's April 30 webcast in Washington (previewed on page 4), underscored the fact that he, personally, must be brought in to resolve the crisis in Southwest Asia. This is the element of his paper "Southwest Asia: The LaRouche Doctrine" (published in *EIR* last week), which some policymakers, who otherwise welcome his initiative, are having a little trouble with. The stickler is his point 5: "However, no such policy proffered by the U.S., even if it followed to the letter what has been said here, would not be accepted among the peoples of the regions, unless the U.S. government were to identify such a declaration as the adoption, by name, of this as a 'LaRouche Doctrine.' No other notable political figure of the U.S. would be capable of enjoying the trust of the Arab and related parts of the world, for this purpose, at the time."

Our *Feature* this week develops his initiative further, by means of an interview with *EIR* Arabic correspondent Hussein Askary. We also document the catastrophic effects in the United States itself, of the fact that the Classical republican military doctrine that LaRouche represents has been scrapped, along with traditional measures to care for America's war veterans.

In an e-mail dialogue on "Islam on Line" on April 29, LaRouche stressed the 11th-hour urgency of the situation: "We have, presently, perhaps only a few weeks, and, considering Bremer's performance lately, perhaps only days, to save the situation from slipping into a new phase where remedies become almost impossible. I am acting with that in mind." Acknowledging that his ability to achieve the desired results is hampered by powerful enemies, LaRouche added that he also has friends at high levels, and there is every reason for optimism: "In such a circumstance, I must prepare my actions, recognizing that only the onrush of the presently disintegrating international monetary-financial system gives me the opportunity to override the opposition. The present situation in Iraq, combined with the immediacy of the world monetary-financial crisis, creates precisely the kinds of conditions under which my capability for success is greatly enhanced in a way which will soon surprise most among my opponents."

*Susan Welsh*

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## No Peace Plan Works Without Lyndon LaRouche

by Nancy Spannaus

No one but Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche has the intellectual or emotional qualifications to push through a workable peace plan for Iraq, and Southwest Asia. Therefore, if the U.S. population, in particular, wants to avoid a New Dark Age, people had better begin to turn to LaRouche now, because he is their “last shot.”

That statement cogently summarizes the message delivered by LaRouche himself, during his April 30 international webcast, broadcast from Washington, D.C. After a half-hour opening statement, the Presidential candidate took questions for two hours, from representatives of leading institutions and members of the LaRouche Youth Movement. Throughout the entire discussion, he was uncompromising about the fact that Americans have to get serious about the election and about themselves, in order to create the potential for him to put his LaRouche Doctrine for Southwest Asia into effect, and stop the uncontrolled spread of war and terrorism throughout the region.

Don't see my proposal for Southwest Asia as a “contract,” LaRouche said, noting that it follows the principles of the famous Treaty of Westphalia of 1648. But you have to understand that there's no solution independent of my name, LaRouche emphasized; he alone has the credibility required, particularly among leading forces in that region. The reason that many fear to discuss with him openly, is that both political parties in the United States are controlled by financier interests, like those of Felix Rohatyn, who know that LaRouche would make the bankers pay, in solving the financial and economic crisis, through adopting FDR's policy outlook.

Right now, LaRouche said, the United States is a pretty sick nation politically. Not only have both parties oriented to the top 20% of income brackets, but people themselves have accepted that fact, and left the decisions to the bankers and their tools. The question then, is whether the people of the United States will stop waiting to have their votes *bought*. Will they mobilize themselves, to vote for their



*LaRouche told an April 30 webcast audience that if the United States adopts his doctrine for peace in Southwest Asia by name, European and Arab nations and the UN would unquestionably cooperate.*

own interests?

Don't believe that any force outside the United States—the United Nations or Europe—will step in and save the situation in Iraq, LaRouche emphasized. The change is going to have to be made by the United States, which alone has the authority to reorganize the bankrupt world financial system, as well as stopping the war.

### **Reversing the Descent of the United States**

LaRouche then reviewed the history of how the United States came to the situation it is in today, dominated as it is by right-wing fascists typified by Vice President Dick Cheney. The postwar shift into the red scare, then the Cuban Missiles Crisis, and then the assassination of Kennedy and the Vietnam War—all of these shaped a Baby Boomer generation that now governs itself by the “polls,” and won't act to deal with reality. The Baby Boomers have adapted to the floating-exchange-rate monetary system, and the hideous economic situation this has created globally; and to the dominance of the Cheney grouping, which literally proposes to carry out perpetual war.

If the Cheney Administration is re-elected, LaRouche said, we are not looking just at a continuation of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, but attacks on Syria, Iran, North Korea—and ultimately China. Combined with the world depression, this policy will take us into a New Dark Age.

To save the world from this hell, the United States must take responsibility for humanity as a whole, just as it did in saving the world from Hitler and the Depression of the 1930s. But to do that, we must change politics in the United States. Now, the lower 80% are unwilling to even come out and fight. We see 15-20% turnouts in elections, fixations on local issues,

and denial of reality. This is what has to be changed.

LaRouche turned to personally challenging his audience. You have to help me change this situation, he said. Either I have to win the Presidency, or we have to change Sen. John Kerry. In fact, LaRouche added, when I'm asked what chance I have to be elected, I have to tell people that my chances are better than you have of surviving if I'm not. The question people have to ask themselves is: Are you willing to save the human race?

If the United States were to adopt my policy by name, LaRouche said, there is no question but that Europe and the United Nations would follow and cooperate. LaRouche has the record of fighting for economic and political justice in the region, and the commitment to the Peace of Westphalia principles which are required. He is known and respected in Southwest Asia and elsewhere for this. But the crucial factor is that the decision to implement the LaRouche Doctrine has to be made here in the United States.

LaRouche pointed to the U.S. Constitutional tradition as a crucial aspect of his ability to solve the problem. The U.S. Constitution is the world's oldest and best, he said, and it gives him the capability of taking executive action to establish the agreements in the Southwest Asian region which we need: to withdraw the troops from active military engagement; to set up arrangements with the United Nations; to bring back Iraqis into control of their country; and provide them the support, and international agreements, they need in order to rebuild. But it would not work without his personal leadership, LaRouche concluded. With that leadership, the United States can prevent a New Dark Age.

*The LaRouche Doctrine and the transcript of the April 30 webcast are both available on [www.larouchein2004.com](http://www.larouchein2004.com).*

# ‘LaRouche Doctrine’ Is the Key To Peace in Southwest Asia

*Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche gave this videotaped interview to Hussein Askary, Arabic correspondent for EIR, on April 24, 2004. The interview is currently in production as a DVD, in both English and Arabic, and will be available soon from the LaRouche in 2004 campaign committee.*

**Askary:** Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, the Democratic Presidential candidate and prominent economist and statesman of the United States, has put forward a proposal to salvage the situation in Iraq and the Middle East in general, which he has called “The LaRouche Doctrine,” and which is being circulated inside the United States and internationally—that, in the context of his proposals for the reorganization of the international financial and monetary systems. So, we are going to ask Mr. Lyndon LaRouche to elaborate on these proposals, and explain the way his initiatives could work.

**LaRouche:** Well, what I did was, among other things, I made a ten-point argument, in order to have it in the point form, which is more easily understood, and divided into three sections the ten points. The first is to emphasize that the present view of the strategic situation in the Middle East is wrong, and can not possibly lead to a successful result. Therefore, we have to redefine the question on all sides; various proposals from all sides, will not work, as previously established. For one reason, the situation [in Iraq] has gone much too far. We’re now in advanced asymmetric warfare, and the United States could not stay in, and the United States could not simply get out, without leaving chaos behind. And therefore, some completely different approach has to be taken to the situation.

The first thing is to recognize that we have to create a zone of security, which is accepted among the countries of the region, and deal with the problem of reconstructing Iraq, in the context of an agreement within the region. Now, the zone I defined is as follows: To the north, you have Turkey; next to it, you have Syria, and you have Iran. You have also at the corner, of the intersection of Turkey and Iraq and Iran, you also have Armenia, and you have Azerbaijan, where there are also problems. If someone is to destabilize Transcaucasia, including the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia and Iran, then you could not possibly maintain a secure Middle East security policy.

So therefore, there has to be a sense of a primary policy, which, on the north, is Turkey, which is a strong nation-state,

with a very definite perception of what the Middle East problems are, for it. You have Iran; whether you agree with Iran or not, it’s a major factor in the region, and has to be consulted and brought in on the agreement. Otherwise there is no secure agreement. You have Iraq itself, but Iraq doesn’t have power now. So, Syria has a sense of being a Middle East power; that is, it has a sense of power as an integrity of a nation, and its own policy. You have Egypt, which is the keystone nation from the other side. You have various other nations that can be brought in, including Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and so forth, but they can not actually function, unless there is a framework in which they can efficiently function within the region.

So that’s number one. So we have to say, “Take the British term ‘Middle East,’ and scrap it.” There is no Middle East, there’s Southwest Asia. And people who want peace will stop using the term “Middle East” and say “Southwest Asia” instead.

**Askary:** What is the significance of that?

**LaRouche:** Well, the British invented the term “Middle East,” which goes back to the beginning of the 19th Century in the course of the Napoleonic Wars, when the British decided that the Ottoman Empire was going to be in trouble. And they were going to be on the inside, and they were going to make trouble. So, they planted the first Jewish settlement, under British direction, in the Middle East, and also picked up some of the Jews who were there, who were bankers, in Syria and so forth, and picked them up and tried to play them as factors in the grain trade and other things which were inside the Ottoman Empire, and play this.

So, all during this period, from 1763 on, in particular, we’ve had a British Empire in fact. Beginning with 1763, with the Treaty of Paris, all of Europe had been involved, by the British, in attacking Prussia, and during this period, the British had exploited this war, the so-called Seven Years’ War, in order to gobble up India, and to gobble up North America, from France. At that point the Treaty of Paris established the British East India *Company*—a *company*—as an empire. And later, this became, formally, the British Empire. But all during this period, from 1763, Europe had been dominated by a group, based in London, which, in fact, is a British Empire. It still exists today, except today, the difference is, the United States was picked, as an English-speaking country, to become a kind of Big Brother, on doing errands for the British masters



*Lyndon LaRouche (left) and Hussein Askary on April 24. In dealing with Iraq, LaRouche said, “the first thing is to recognize that we have to create a zone of security, which is accepted among the countries of the region, and deal with the problem of reconstructing Iraq, in the context of an agreement within the region.”*

in London—that sort of thing.

So, what we have to do, is get a sense of Asia as a whole, and the region as a whole, as the area, not some proprietary conception of British intelligence. Because all the classical things that we get on Middle East policy, come from the question of the British Empire, and various—Russia, Austro-Hungary, at one point, Turkey—all dealing with this region. So, the region has certain internal characteristics. It is the one area in Asia which *is* in trouble. It’s the one area that has to be fixed. So, the people in this area really do have certain common, or interlocking interests, and therefore, unless you are able to bring together these nations around the idea of their interlocking interests—in common security interests, and economic development—you don’t have a party in the Middle East which is going to be capable of administering the question.

Now, we’re dealing with the Arab, in particular, at the same time. From my experience, of more than a quarter of a century: Don’t tell an Arab what to do. Give him an option to make a decision.

So, the first purpose was, define the question in that way. Instead of trying to impose an outside dictate on the region, let the region agree on its own common interest.

**Askary:** There is a question that comes up in that context: It’s the role of the United States itself, because it is the occupying power, it is the dominant power in the Middle East, it is the party which is supporting the Israeli policy, and could deter-

mine the situation. You say, you can’t impose a solution, but what could the U.S.—

**LaRouche:** That’s what I get to. That’s exactly it. That’s exactly it.

It can only come from me, because I’m the only leading American figure, from the United States, who is in a position to, and willing to, take that view of what U.S. policy must be. The advantage of my doing it, is that they have no other solution. We’re headed into an impossible situation. And there are—contrary to what the impression is from the outside—because many people outside don’t understand the United States. Many people in the United States don’t understand the United States, so it’s not an exclusive club. But, we have a Presidential system, and our country, unlike European countries, which are based today on the British-Dutch Liberal model of parliamentary system, we don’t have that. We don’t really think like that, as a nation. We have many people in the

United States who think like that, unfortunately, but we are not that as a nation.

Our system is a Presidential system. It’s a Constitutional-Presidential system, based on principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution. Therefore, from the beginning of the American Revolution, 1776, officially, we built a Presidential system, which is based on a central government, as a Presidential system, with a group of states which agree to become part of a Federal government, not a group of associate governments.

As a result, you have, with this kind of government, the Presidency has to make the decisions. The parliament can not make competent decisions and will not make decisions. It’s for that reason, that in every crisis, every constitutional government in Europe has been overthrown. The British avoided that by never having a constitutional government. They have an arbitrary government of the monarchy. It’s a relic of an imperial system, which doesn’t require a parliamentary system: The boss is the boss. What do you need a constitution for? The boss is going to make the decisions. It may not be the Queen herself, but it’s a group of people who have that function.

So, our system is unique, in the sense that we have an efficient system, which is based on the people, largely, who are permanent servants of government: in the military, in the intelligence services, diplomatic services, and other functions of the Federal government, who are also associated, with their collaborators, traditional collaborators, outside government,

who actually run the government, as an Executive branch

The problem is, the way we run the government, depends upon what kind of a President we have, because under the Constitution, the President is the chief executive. And, if the guy is a dummy, as this present one is, and so forth, you have a problem. Or, if he's an enemy, as many of our Presidents have been, have been virtual traitors, you have problems.

But the essential thing is, we're the only country that, since 1789, the only country in the world, that has maintained the same constitution, the same constitutional system. Not just a revision of the constitution—we've made revisions, in details of the Constitution—but we are the only country in the world which has a viable constitution of that type.

Now, my position is not only that of a candidate, which I've been several times, but for various reasons, I'm essentially a part of the Presidential system. It's the way it works in our country. In connection with the SDI, for example, I had to take an oath, because I was dealing with the Soviet government, as a back channel, for the United States government.

**Askary:** You mean the SDI, the Strategic Defense Initiative?

**LaRouche:** Right. So, since I was dealing with the Soviet government on behalf of the Presidency, I had to take an oath, in terms of what I was doing, a secrecy oath in terms of certain things I was doing. So, because of that, I am essentially part of the system. And many people who are candidates, not in this crowd in particular—Kerry is, of course—are part of the Presidential system, even though he's a Senator. So, therefore, when you get a statement from me, on a matter of crisis, where the rest of the system doesn't work, and where the great numbers, the majority—for example, the majority of the military hate this policy. It's only the dummies that like it. It's a fascist system, which is against the military. Most of the intelligence services don't like it; they've been opposed to it.

**Askary:** As part of your expertise in these security and military issues, I'd like to hear your view of the situation itself inside Iraq, and also, as these circles see it inside Iraq; in military-political terms, how have you seen the war itself, the developments since the war, and the current situation?

**LaRouche:** I'll give you an example. We discussed this weekend some of the changes—even Bremer has been forced to make certain adjustments in his language—in Iraq. What that represents, is, we've had a discussion, over the past days, in leading circles inside the United States, and other places: They agreed with my proposal, in broad terms—they haven't discussed thoroughly all the details. They put the pressure on. We have a crisis. It's obvious that the President's a failure, everybody else is a failure in dealing with the thing. Therefore, the people who represent the institutions, the permanent institutions of government, whether they're out of service or in service, go as experts, and say to their friends who are in government: "This is not going to work, and here is a possibil-

ity of a solution. And therefore, in U.S. national interests, we've got to get out of this mess."

And therefore, they like this ["The LaRouche Doctrine"], I think some of them like it, and you saw an immediate reflection, once the discussion came on this initial proposal. That was my purpose. My purpose was, not to try to push the thing, negotiate it myself, but to state the proposal, have people in the Arab world, in particular, hear it; have the people who know me in the United States and elsewhere, hear it, and say—now, knowing that it's an urgent situation—that if we can't do something within less than 30 days, the situation may be impossible for anyone to deal with.

**Askary:** So, the problem with the discussions that come up is, that, first of all, the situation inside Iraq is somehow locked. That the parties inside Iraq itself are incapable of finding a solution, because some people say, there might be a solution if we get more American casualties, then this will create a reaction inside the United States. But on the other hand, there are forces inside Iraq, and in the Middle East, who look at you as a person of credibility, somebody whom they could trust, because you have a history of interventions in the Middle East, and you have been tested on that side. But then the question that comes up is, two sides of the thing: How you can mobilize forces inside the United States—you refer to these circles—but you, as a political figure, but not only as an individual, because you are also leading a political movement, within the Democratic Party and within the nation as a whole.

**LaRouche:** It's a question of temperament. You see, we keep quoting Shakespeare: *Julius Caesar*, Cassius to Brutus. Most people, including people in high positions of government, think, as Cassius said of himself to Brutus: "We are underlings." Now, what does the underling do? The underling puts out a statement, and hopes that he will become admired for making this statement, and sits and waits, for admiration to sink in. Now, people who actually know something about government, particularly the Presidential system, don't do that. I go as far as I dare, in actually making the thing happen, and keep pushing. And that's the way you have to act; if you're a President, that's the way you act; if you're a key official of government, in a responsible position, that's the way you act. You have a responsibility: Your responsibility is to act. But your responsibility is also not to act, without clarifying what your purpose of action is, and what the action is.

So, what I did, within my limits, was to say, "I am pushing now, as an individual, within the U.S. system, for the United States to make a change in its behavior in this area."

This means that we have to do some other things, apart from just dealing with Iraq. Go back, for example, to what the problem is: First of all, the war was totally unjustified. It was fraudulent. The Congress were a bunch of cowards, the entire U.S. system, the Congressional system, was a bunch of cowards. This includes Kerry and the rest of them. They don't have the guts to be the President of the United States, because

## Southwest Asia



*The countries highlighted here are the four principal states identified in “The LaRouche Doctrine,” whose cooperation is required to create a zone of stability in the region as a whole.*

they’re cowards. And on the question of the war, fundamental issues, if you’re a coward on that issue, and you compromise, you don’t have the qualifications for governing, leading a country.

Yes, in a parliamentary system, you can have a fool as parliament, and what they do, if you get a crisis, the parliament is overthrown, a new government comes in, and somebody runs the thing anyway, not generally too well.

But in the Presidential system, you have to act that way. My proposal is not a proposal for discussion, like parliamentary discussion: It’s a proposal of action. It’s a proposal which, in the United States, is addressed primarily to two things: to those who represent the Presidential institutions; and to those in the Congress whom I consider responsible people, who can organize lawful support for what we must do. That is, there are certain people in the Congress who are very important. They have important committees, they have friends in the Congress, you have networks in the Congress. They’re bipartisan. They’re both Republican and Democratic—it’s not a partisan affair. In a national emergency, people in both parties forget the parties for a moment, and they concentrate on what the national emergency is, and join forces to deal with it. So, if you have support from leading people in the Congress, and if you have the Executive branch prepared to act, you can do something.

And that’s the purpose of this. It’s to set forth, primarily to lay down for the Americans—that’s why I call it a “doctrine”—is to lay down for the United States, a doctrine under

which the Executive branch of government will act. My intention is, they will act immediately, not as something that’s going to happen after the next election. And that’s what sometimes you have to do, in leadership.

So, in this case, I know that we have to have a client; the United States has to have someone to talk to; and the people to talk to, are not the people who are in power, in any way, in Iraq today. So therefore, we have to create a client. The client can not be just Iraq. It has to be a group of nations in the region, who are concerned about what’s happening in Iraq. That’s why I define the *Southwest Asia* policy. These nations, people in these nations, must agree that this crisis must be dealt with, and they want a solution. And they have to be a part of it.

Because, remember, when the U.S. went in there, right after they went in, they did the worst thing to complicate the problem. Any competent military commander, invading a country—whether he wanted to or not, but he’s doing it because he’s ordered—the first thing he will do, when he takes over any part of the territory of that country: He will go immediately to the local officials in that country, local institutions, and tell them: “Okay, we’re here. Our job is, while we’re here, you keep functioning. We set up a liaison with you and you continue functioning, as you would normally, in terms of the country.”

**Askary:** That’s the institutions which already exist, like the military, the security—?



*Iraqi local leaders from Abu Ghrayek. "If you are a military force," said LaRouche, "... the first thing you do, is make sure that the essential institutions of the country function. In other words, you go into an area, there's a mayor. Find the mayor, or find the police chief, find these various people. . . And you tell them, 'What do you need? We'll try to get it for you.' "*

**LaRouche:** Right, exactly. You go to these institutions, and say, "Okay, we're here. We're having a fight with your boss, who may be kicked out. But you are running the country, it's your country; it's not our country. Therefore, you in the military, you must take responsibility for security. And you must take responsibility for economic coordination. You cannot have a disaster." Then you go to the civilian people, who run the various institutions, power plants, and so forth and so on, and say, "You stay on the job. If you've got a problem, you need cooperation, come to us, you will get our cooperation."

So, you know you're in there, not as an occupying force permanently; you're in there as a military force, which has moral responsibility for what it does to the country it's occupying.

**Askary:** Not only did the occupation forces demolish all these institutions, but moreover, they were meddling in the constitutional laws of the country. You had made a statement earlier, on the importance of restoring the previous constitutions of Iraq as an interim period, to have the Iraqis dealing with this problem themselves.

**LaRouche:** Especially when you had an unjust war. I mean, many Iraqis did not like Saddam Hussein. But some of them feel they have an imitation Saddam Hussein in Paul Bremer, sitting there in the same place, doing the same kind of thing that many Iraqis complained about [with] Saddam Hussein. So, if we want to democratize the country, the first thing to do, if we think Saddam was bad, we'd better get Paul Bremer out of there. And I would say, get his friend [George] Shultz, his sponsor, out of there too, because he's not going to do

much good.

So, the first thing is to simply recognize, you are not an imperial force. You are engaged in warfare. You have to operate under the modern law of war. And, if you are a military force, and taking responsibilities that a government has, you must act as a responsible agent to protect the very people whose country you're occupying. And the first thing you do, is make sure that the essential institutions of the country function. In other words, you go into an area, there's a mayor. Find the mayor, or find the police chief, find these various people: Where are they? We've got to talk to them. We've got to get this thing going again. And you tell them, "What do you need? What do you need? We'll try to get it for you." And so that was not done. Therefore, we took a situation which was already bad, that is, an illicit invasion of a country that had been looted over a period of years, under this UN occupation process.

**Askary:** The sanctions.

**LaRouche:** Now, you come in, and you work to destroy the very structure of the country which you had been looting, as an occupying force. So,

what you've done, is, you've created the ideal situation which exists in the world for what's called "asymmetric warfare." What you do is, you take the Iraqi military, which are a capable, trained force, as a military force—they may not have the most advanced weapons in the world, but they were a trained military force. You throw them out, and you start killing the people that they were supposed to be defending, their own people. You shut down the institutions on which the country depended for reasonable functioning. You turn the whole country against you, with the feeling of not only hatred, but desperation.

What happens? The Iraqi Army was trained, and others were trained, for asymmetric warfare. They were trained to fade into the desert and come back into the urban areas. You forced them to do that.

And you threaten to go to other countries and do the same. You create a general feeling in the so-called Arab world, and beyond, that this is something bigger than just Iraq. Then, they look across, and look at Israel and Palestine. And they see the same U.S. government which did this crime, the same George Bush and company, that did this crime, of an unlawful war—it's actually, a war crime was done against the U.S. Constitution, a war conducted, an occupation conducted, against the law of war. And you say, "We're going to do it everywhere."

So, what you do is, you put into motion generalized asymmetric warfare. And you do it under conditions of crisis.

You look at Sharon. What Sharon is doing in the Middle East, and with the consent and backing of the United States President, and Cheney, especially: This is mass murder. This

is Hitler-like crimes. And you have a long period of a long war of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory. And you have cruel, monstrous oppressions, actions which are comparable to those that Hitler perpetrated in occupied territory. You create a general acceleration of a deep, simmering hatred, which has been going on for generations.

Under those conditions, what are you doing? You're setting into motion the preconditions for—you've created combustible material that is about to burst into flames.

Now, you have the first thing which becomes the resistance phase, asymmetric war as resistance. Then it goes into a second phase. It becomes, not a resistance; it becomes an institution; it becomes a government of its own type. We've reached that phase.

So therefore, the United States can not get out, because we destroyed the structure of stability. The Europeans and others don't have the troops to put in. Therefore, we have to say, "Well, where do we get the troops?" "Oh, we have Iraqi troops! We have Iraqi institutions! We don't need to bring in a vast force of occupying military. We don't need to bring in a vast force of institutions. We need simply to provide what we should have been doing before: Provide cooperation and assistance in rebuilding the country." These Iraqis—I've got an army there. Call them back into service. You want 350,000 troops? They're there. Call them back into service, and tell them, now they're going to save the country. And you will find that works.

So, my view was, how do you get that into place? So, we had to go to a process in which the people of the region, or the key governments at least, would agree, that this is an area which is not just Iraq, but it's an area which has a coherent strategic interest, a group of states and peoples, who have coherent interests in having peaceful and productive relations among themselves, without having outside interference. So, that was number one.

The idea was, if they responded, then I could go to people in the United States and elsewhere, and say, "Okay, now we have a client. We have people who are responding, who say they want this kind of policy, or they want more of this kind of policy. So, now, we have somebody to talk to."

**Askary:** So, you are now addressing not only the U.S. policymakers, but also the nations of the Middle East and the governments. So, if you want to address them, what kind of action do you expect from them, in response to your proposal, which you say, has to be in your name, as the "LaRouche Doctrine"?

**LaRouche:** It's like Bremer. Bremer, in the past couple of days, has made statements which sound like he's caving in to my policy. So therefore, words, or something that sounds like similar words, are not the same thing as my intention. Therefore, it has to be in my name, since—what's this policy mean? Well, I'll tell you what the policy means: You've got somebody who's a guarantor of the *intent* of the policy, so don't go to some commentator, or some drunk on the street,

and ask him what the policy means, like the thing with Bremer. So, the sane thing was to get a sense, an emergency sense, of an agreement on a Southwest Asia security pact, among the nations of the Middle East, with the idea that the United States would commit itself, by a doctrine of the United States, to support and participate in supporting that strategic interest.

In other words, Southwest Asia was the no man's land of Asia. There was no coherent definition of a strategic interest. Nasser tried to do something like this, with the United Arab Republic, which blew apart, because the Syrians were a little jealous of this kind of thing from Egypt. There has not been a clear, coherent, sharp definition of a Southwest Asia interest.

**Askary:** If you can elaborate here, because, when people hear, "American interest in the Middle East," the first they think about is the oil.

**LaRouche:** No, it's not the oil.

**Askary:** What do you mean by "American interest," national, strategic, interest?

**LaRouche:** Well, we have an interest in going past the thing that caused two world wars, which is still running loose. We are in danger of going into a global dark age. Now, to get out of that dark age, means that economic and other things have to be done, in many parts of the world.

We have a very difficult situation among nations, with China. China is a positive part of a solution of security and development. It also has a conflict with its neighbors. China is trying to play down its conflict with its neighbors, to come to agreement with countries such as Russia, India, and so forth, and to become a cooperating partner, which it sees as a necessary policy.

We have Pakistan and India; we have Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. We have Southeast Asia, in terms of the Mekong Delta development area, and Myanmar, and so forth. So, these areas—their cooperation is essential to a recovery from the process that's now going on in the world. It's also essential to get past this matter of routine, every few decades, a new world war. Therefore, we have to build a positive economic system of cooperation in Eurasia, in particular. If we do *not* have cooperation in Southwest Asia, then Southwest Asia, and adjoining countries, will become the ulcer to blow up the whole blasted agreement.

We have an African situation, where genocide is occurring.

Now, you have the problem, for example, of Sudan, and Egypt, and water. The United States is playing a dirty game, in water supplies of Sudan, Egypt, and so forth. And trying to take over, in view of an operation run from Britain and the United States and Israel, of the water sources of the Nile. Now, if you start to drain the water sources of the Nile, and control them, again, you're going to sink Sudan and Egypt. Therefore, that means trouble.

Therefore, we have a security interest, which does not

mean simply protection. It means we have to have agreements, which are overriding, that people in that area accept: that any attempt to break those agreements will be jointly resisted by all the nations in the area, by a common agreement, in common interest. You don't have to agree on everything; but you have to define certain things you will agree upon, because you recognize you must defend these things in your common interest. So that's what it was aimed at.

And also, the development of Southwest Asia, which has to be looked at as the crossroads between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. What is needed is an economic development, which does not look at the desert as an impossible thing, but has to look at large-scale water management; we have to look in the long term, at petroleum and natural gas resources, not as fuels, but as petrochemical feed stocks, for the development of industries in the area; and to use the crossroads area, as an area of development. We build transportation routes, not only through the canals; but land routes, where you're going to put along the land routes, new cities, new centers, which will be centers of production: which means to transform a long-term development of what has been the desert area, a gradual development, which will play a key part in the relationship between Europe and Asia. Not merely through the canal, but as actually a part of the connection of the process of production. So, it's an interest area.

**Askary:** You usually refer to these all these strategic issues in the context of your view of the world financial-economic situation. And your view is, also, that the question of stability and peace could also be essential to have the economic situation and development part of it—but there might be other forces who are not interested, whom you refer to.

**LaRouche:** Cheney, and some people in London in the Blair government, are very much against that: traditionally, the Fabian Society. Remember the Fabian Society was the instrument, as typified by H.G. Wells, and Bertrand Russell, which gave us, in the first case, World War I, from Britain, which was an attempt to play the nations of Asia and Eurasia against each other, to preserve the British Empire, by organizing a war. Then, later, you had Bertrand Russell, who came in with the idea of world government through preventive nuclear warfare, and perpetual warfare, like a Roman Empire based on nuclear weapons.

So, the Fabian Society is not exactly a friendly institution for normal people. They, and their friends in the United States, typified merely by Cheney, are determined to have a world war, now: warfare, using nuclear weapons—especially so-called mini-nukes, which are actually low-radioactive-yield, but highly powerful weapons.

They may have been used at the airport, for all I know, in Baghdad: Something melted those tanks, and it wasn't a big firestorm—it was difficult to create a big firestorm there; there is one thing that will do it, and that is, the right kind of nuclear weapon. But suddenly, something happened at the airport,

which has never been cleared up, in my view. Someday, we'll find out.

But, the point is, they do have a nuclear intention, of hitting the nuclear reactor in Iran. They do have the intention of nuclear weapons dropped on North Korea—Cheney has that intention. This is the intention shared with people in the Blair government. The Blair government is a bunch of Fabian Society fanatics, one of my favorite enemies in the world; I mean, the people I like to have as enemies, in a sense.

And therefore, we do have a danger. Therefore, we've come to the time, where we can no longer have these kinds of wars. Therefore, we have to think of new ways, of alternatives to war. We can not eliminate the responsibility for strategic defense by countries, but we can avoid going to wars of the type we've gone to, and that some are trying to put us in, now.

So, it's a matter of defending civilization. And this is one corner of civilization; if we can secure this area and neutralize the danger of war from inside this area, we are doing part of our job in respect to the world as a whole. And if we don't do this, then the very fact that we don't do this, may mean that this part of Eurasia may be a cockpit for triggering more general war, as we've seen recently. We have to do it.

**Askary:** But, what is the motivation of these forces, who would oppose such a solution for the region? But it also includes a solution for the political situation inside the United States? Because, there are obviously forces you have been fighting against, who are behind the war in Iraq, who are supporting Sharon's policies, and they are intending to spread that kind of warfare. What is their motivation?

**LaRouche:** Well, this is the Crusades all over again. And if you look at the Crusades, as they actually were, who fought them: The people who launched the Crusades were not Christians, first of all. They were Crusaders, and the Crusaders were Normans, largely Norman chivalry, who, with the control by Venice, by Venice's oligarchical families, and by certain other forces in Europe, for a long period of time, from about the 10th Century A.D. until near the end of the 14th Century, dominated Europe. And the Crusades were actually an extension of the Roman Empire. These people had the idea of being the new form of the Roman Empire, and they conducted the Crusades for that reason. For example, in the Fourth Crusade, what did they do? They took Byzantium, what was left of it, they occupied it and looted it. If you go to Venice today, you will find that what was in Byzantium, is there, in the form of pillars and so forth, stolen, by the Venetians from their wars in the 13th Century. This was the kind of force.

The point is this, is, you have, in the Roman Empire, typically, and its legacy in Europe, and in the practice of slavery, you have a conception, that some people, who are animals, but beastly animals, have other people who are lackeys, also animals. And they prey upon two other kinds of human cattle: wild cattle, they hunt down and kill; other cattle they herd, exploit, and when they get tired of them, they cull

the herd. It's like camels, in some parts of the Arab world, where the camel runs his race, he has performed his function, and now his fine qualities will be appreciated in a dinner.

The general point is, we don't treat human beings that way. We may admire camels, but we also eat them. And some people treat people pretty much the same way.

So, the point is, that those who do not want the kind of world system, in which the people control their own destiny, because under that system, there's no room for these kind of people as powers.

And, it's the same thing: You see it in Cheney. And, you see it in Shultz, and so forth. You see it in some of the forces behind Blair. Their idea is to destroy the economy, as they've done in the past 40 years. We've destroyed the world economy. We shut down vital industries. We stopped infrastructure. We stopped development. No longer do we have development as a policy. We have "cheaper, cheaper, cheaper; cheaper labor; everything cheaper."

We are looting the world. We like to loot primary materials. Petroleum is something we like to loot. Now, the use of petroleum as a fuel is excessive, because, actually, a better fuel, are hydrogen-based fuels which we can generate synthetically, as with nuclear power. Petroleum is essentially a petrochemical resource, which we also burn as a fuel, as we burn wood. But, we stopped burning wood, because we found out this was creating a problem, by destroying the trees, which are essential for the climate. So therefore, you want to conserve your so-called natural or biospherical resources, and not use them, or just burn them up, but use them in a better way, for a higher rate of benefit to humanity. And use other systems.

So, we are denied technological development—we are told—in the name of controlling carbon dioxide (that's the big issue in the Kyoto agreements). Now, actually, we'd have a much better planet, if we had more carbon dioxide, because plants have one thing they love to eat, and that is carbon dioxide. They live on it. They make trees, they make plants, they make vegetables, they make the climate better. And, if you have more green growth on the planet, the climate is more moderate. You begin to bloom the desert. So, actually, those who are trying to—they're just trying to stop technological progress.

So, it is this conception of man, this degraded conception of man, which has been around for a long time: that some people decide they have a system, under which they will rule, and they will not allow the ordinary people to develop or acquire the powers, to take a hand in their own destiny. We kill people! We have medical policies, health policies—we *kill people*. We say, "They're not worth keeping them alive; kill them. Kill 'em! Let 'em die!"

So it's that kind of attitude, that the problem is. And unfortunately, most people are underlings. And those of us who are not underlings by disposition, have to defend the people, against their own underling qualities: by giving them courage,

giving them a higher sense of what they are. So that they will be more creative, more confident, and not easily drawn into this kind of nonsense.

**Askary:** Right. Now, you addressed the people who are watching this, whether in the Middle East itself, or inside the United States—because there is a U.S. population also, that has to be mobilized. What do you want to tell them, in, for example, support for your initiative, as a person?

**LaRouche:** We don't have that much of a problem. The problem we have is of a different type. It's not a lack of knowledge. I'm one of the best-known figures in the United States. I'm much better known, and have a broader base of support in the United States, than, actually, Kerry had, up until recently. Kerry nominally has more support, because he went into this thing with Dean and company, of getting contributions through the e-mail contributors, which we don't really use. We have access to do it, but we don't do it—I don't like it. But, we have a broader base of support for my candidacy, than virtually any other individual in the United States, in terms of that kind of support: the number of people who financially support me, and my candidacy.

So therefore, I don't have a problem. I have a problem—people think that the enemy is not going to let me win. That's where the problem is. And, who's my enemy? My enemy is the oligarchy. It's usually the British oligarchy, which took over the United States and took over our financial system. It's the same thing, as the worst kind behind Tony Blair. And Tony Blair's a part of it. So that's the problem.

But, when you come to a crisis, as we did several times, as with Roosevelt—we come to a crisis, the American people will break out of their "underlingness." They will respond to leadership, and they will act. But, they will only act if given the kind of leadership to which they will respond. What they will respond to, is someone who, they are convinced, is on *their* side—who is not out to loot them, but is on *their* side; and who has practical measures in view. Like, for example, employment: "You want to create a lot of jobs? Okay, that's good." That sort of thing.

So, we're in one of those periods of crisis, where we're either going to Hell, or we're going to go the other way. As with Roosevelt in 1933, we're going to have to make a decision. We're at a turning point. And since we're the only nation on the planet with a combination of significant power, we have a responsibility to the world, to have the courage to take the first step, in getting the whole world out of this financial crisis we're in now. Anyone who does understand the United States, who understands the world, who looks at the problem, as I looked at this problem: You have a sense, you have a *personal responsibility*, given your limitations, of: What can you do to bring about an initiative, which will change something that urgently needs to be changed? And, it is not sitting back, and trying to write a book full of proposals for future generations. You have to act now, to save people

now. You don't kill people, and then hope that you glory in the fact that they should have acted that way; they should have acted as you proposed.

**Askary:** There is actually a recognition, especially among people from older generations, for example, in the Middle East, people, even religious personalities, who are aware of your role. And they actually recognize the fact that the United States, when they were students in the '40s and '50s, represented something totally different from what you see today. But, they refer to that America. They say, you are—Lyndon LaRouche *is* the representative of that America. You yourself talk about a mission for the United States. What is this mission?

**LaRouche:** We've come to the point where the purpose for which we were created, is now on our plate. We were created by Europeans, who despaired of being able to create a true republic in Europe at that time, under those conditions of the 18th Century, in which the British had just begun the empire. And, you had the British, and then you had all these reactionary types, like the Habsburgs and so forth, running loose. So, it was impossible for them.

The idea was, by creating a republic in North America, sponsoring it, that they would create the conditions under which you could spread it into Europe. Well, it never happened, because of the French Revolution, which the British orchestrated. So, Europe never had a true republic. The closest we came to it in Europe, was with de Gaulle, in the high point of his period. We *never had* a true republic in Europe.

And, the institutions in Europe are based on Anglo-Dutch Liberal standards. This standard gives you a government, which is, first of all, it's impotent, in a crisis. It may work fine, from time to time. But it *can not* respond effectively in a time of crisis, not on its own. It can follow other people, but it can not take the initiative. And, so, that's the nature of the situation. And also, there were two world wars in Europe. Europe has been destroyed by two world wars: *demoralizing* effect. This has cumulative effects, which go from generation to generation. It does not have the courage to do that any more.

So, we have a responsibility in the United States, of performing the mission which was assigned us by Europe: of being the key example, which was supposed to unleash a wave of transformations of governments in Europe. And the next government on the list, was supposed to be France. At that point, France was destroyed, and turned into a monster, by the Jacobin Terror and by Napoleon. We never recovered in Europe, from that. It still goes around to this day.

You still have—human beings are human beings, and therefore, good human beings will always develop things which are progressive, beneficial to humanity. So, we have institutions in Europe, and developments, which are highly beneficial. *But! They were never allowed to stay in charge.* Always, the bankers came in. The Anglo-Dutch Liberal bankers and similar influence came in, and *always* managed—

by wars, by orchestrating wars and so forth—to control the situation, so that every time some durable thing was being proposed in Europe, it got smashed, by some kind of interference.

And that's the situation today. So we, as the United States, we have a moral responsibility, to free the world from the legacy of Anglo-Dutch Liberal tyranny. And give the world a sense, that we can run the affairs of nations without any of this dictatorship.

**Askary:** So, it's not a natural state of affairs in history, that great powers usually become like an empire. That was not the intention of the founders of the U.S. republic?

**LaRouche:** No! Actually, this intention goes back to Mesopotamia, things like that. The Persian Empire, for example, is one expression of it. Or the Babylonian Empire, before then, which rotted out, and was replaced by the Persians. Then, the Peloponnesian War in Greece, which was an imperial kind of thing; the Roman Empire; the medieval imperial system, run by Venice and the Norman chivalry. And, then, the attempt to found empires again, by the Venetians, afterwards, against the Renaissance. Then, you've got the British Empire emerging, in the attempt to try to create a new empire, to prevent this kind of reform from occurring.

So, what we had is, we had a legacy of empire, which is based on this idea, that some small group has to dominate the world. And, basically, in Europe today, it's the Roman Empire, the legacy of the Roman Empire. And we have to get rid of that legacy.

**Askary:** Or, the Western side, like people in the Middle East, for example, in the Arab and other nations—they see themselves all the time as victims, that they are weakened nations at the moment—

**LaRouche:** They are!

**Askary:** And their only reaction is frustration, and desperation. But in the context of your proposal, your statements of policy, you refer also to the question, that the Muslim and Arab nations could play a role, in the sense of a dialogue among civilizations. Not that the Arab and Muslim ones are always the receivers, or the subjects of a certain policy, but, what is their role, as a culture or as a people of historical background, in bringing about these kinds of things?

**LaRouche:** Very simple: You have an area of development, an area which needs development. The worst example is the Middle East desert.

Now, you know, I was in Iraq, in 1975, and went up the Euphrates River. And I saw—which I had known before, because I knew the period of Haroun al-Rashid—here I was, in a country, it's in the 20th Century, and the population of Iraq now, is lower than it was under Haroun al-Rashid. And when I go up the Euphrates River, and there are these [irrigation water] wheels: Where they function, you have the village,

and the fruit and so forth is fine, very good. Then, you go to the next place, where there used to be a village: It's not there—the wheel doesn't turn, it's not there any more.

So therefore, the destruction of what had been built up, in the various parts of the history of the area, to where there had been a population estimated at 35 million people—under more primitive conditions economically, in the world—had a higher standard of living. And the collapse, of course, of the Caliphate was actually another story. But, nonetheless, under the Caliphate, under al-Mamoun and so forth, things had developed to a certain point.

And you go into the country, and you see: This is wrong. The water system is still there. It has to be managed. We can do synthetic things with water supplies; we can change the climate, if we just get enough plant growth going, by micro-weather systems, will come in.

The population of Iraq, at that time, for example, as I knew it in '75, it was in a highly progressive mode. Baghdad, I think, was about 2 million people, at that time. It was a small country, but you could see building everywhere—building, building, building! You'd walk the street, you'd see there's a new Pakistan-designed mosque that's going up, probably some Saudi prince was paying for it. And you see, building, building, building! And the spirit of the population, which is a highly cultured population—many whom I dealt with were fairly ordinary Arabs—they spoke English fluently (because of the benefit of the British occupation). But, they are a highly cultured people. And with a very strong passion for improving their country. It was destroyed!

So that, *if* we did the obvious thing, this area, because of its geographic location, under conditions of development of Asia, in Asia generally, and in Europe, would become—actually, as I described it in Abu Dhabi<sup>1</sup>: It would become a crossroads of development, not merely for pipelines for petroleum; but actually, that the movement, as in the U.S. continental railroad, transcontinental railroad, when you move a system of transportation, along a route, it becomes a zone of production. If you move power and water along that route, this becomes a zone of production. So that, the railroad costs you nothing, because it makes possible the production which otherwise would not occur. You, therefore, transform the area into an area of agriculture and industrial production, which more than pays for the cost of maintaining and creating the railroad.

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1. Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "The Middle East as a Strategic Crossroad," speech in Abu Dhabi, published in *EIR*, June 14, 2002.



*LaRouche spoke at the Zayed Centre in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., on June 1, 2002, on the topic "The Middle East as a Strategic Crossroad." He told Hussein Askary, "The whole area has a natural potentiality for development."*

So, if you take the Middle East as that way, you say: Europe is going to develop. Asia is going to continue to develop. Here's an area which is the natural crossroads, between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. So, it's obviously an area of *great* potential for development. You look at the population of the Palestinians, or, what it was some time ago—they've been brutalized since. But the Palestinians are a well-educated population, in general, highly culturally motivated. Given an opportunity, they would become a very positive factor. You have an Egyptian population, which has the same qualities. You put some of these—

What I saw in Abu Dhabi: In the development there, within 20 years, just what occurred in 20 years, a place with two buildings on a sparse desert, next to just the edge of the water of the Gulf: And here, you have a bustling city, of people from all over the Arab world. Some are citizens, and some are not. But they have permanent visas, they work there. You look at the conditions of life of these people, the habits; and you have a city, which is a beautiful city—developed out of the desert—with plans to develop the whole country.

The whole area has a natural potentiality for development.

**Askary:** It's quite seldom, in the context of political discussions, and conversations, and interviews, that economic issues come up in the discussion. This is one of the major problems, in, for example, looking at politics in the Middle East, the way people look at it that way. Because what we have, is a similar situation, in the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreements: Everybody wanted to talk about political solutions! And nobody was willing to discuss economic solutions, as if these are two separate things! They would say: "Let's get the political agreement, to these long-standing historical problems first,



*LaRouche at the African University in Sudan, December 1994. "We're in an area that needs water to develop. . . . Sand, sand, sand!"*

and then we will think about the economy."

**LaRouche:** That's absolutely the wrong way to do it.

But now, there were people who *did* want to do it. *But:* The point was, that the World Bank intervened on the Oslo Accords, and ruled out the allowance of development; and said, "You can have micro-development."

We're in an area that needs water to develop, as in Jordan. I mean, we went through Jordan: You've got *sand*—and a couple of enclaves. Sand, sand, sand, sand! You fly from Sudan, and you go in there, and it's sand, sand, sand! So therefore, obviously, development—water development and power development—are the major keystones to development of the area. If you want peace, if you don't have enough water, for both the Israelis and the Palestinians, how are you going to have peace? If you take all the water away from the Palestinians, how're you going to have peace?

**Askary:** So, Mr. LaRouche, what is the next step you're going to take, immediately now, in the coming days and weeks?

**LaRouche:** I'm just trying to see what—I'm going to do what I'm doing, in this area; what I've laid out as a policy and doctrine.

I think we're getting people interested in Europe in this, some important people that I've talked to. We're getting response from some people, in the Arab world in particular. Others are interested.

We have among people in the United States, who are influential in the Presidential system and in certain parts of the Congress, we're getting interest. I mean really, immediately, interest.

I'm actually discussing, with some people, who are senior

people, to come on as a task force with me, under the auspices of my Presidential campaign, who are experts in this area: to be prominent Americans associated with me, people who have certain special capabilities, to make themselves apparent, both as advisors to me, and so forth. So, that if we get the situation, where people in that part of the world are able to respond, and we signal that we can then go, by an escalation, a rapid escalation of international discussion. And I'm sure that there are people in various parts, like Cairo and so forth, who will tend to sponsor that kind of discussion, and to get a general idea—not a detailed contract, not a contract; but a principled agreement on objectives. And make very simple lines: "Here are the things that have to be done, to bring about peace."

That would mean—and I've had technical discussions with people on this, how we actually go about it. Get the Iraqi military, get the Iraqi technicians, back into employment, immediately. Give them back *their* government, under *their* constitution. Forget all experiments. Don't try to settle every problem. Get the country functioning. And, we draw the U.S. forces, and other military forces in there, *as supporting forces, for the Iraqi military*. Because Iraq will demand, by instinct, it will have the capability of defending themselves. So therefore, an Iraqi army has to be rebuilt. That's one of the tasks to turn this thing around. We're not coming in as enemies: We're coming to help you build something *for you*, so you can defend yourself.

**Askary:** Ladies and gentlemen, we thank Mr. Lyndon LaRouche for this enlightening approach, and his patience and time.

**LaRouche:** Thank you.

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## Book Review

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# America's Turn From Republic to Empire

by Carl Osgood

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### **Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy and the End of the Republic**

by Chalmers Johnson

New York: Metropolitan Books, 2004

381 pages, Hardbound, \$25

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“American leaders now like to compare themselves to imperial Romans, even though they do not know much Roman history,” writes Chalmers Johnson in his new book *Sorrows of Empire*. “The main lesson for the United States ought to be how the Roman Republic evolved into an empire, in the process destroying its system of elections for its two consuls (its chief executives), rendering the Roman senate impotent, ending forever the occasional popular assemblies and legislative *comitia* that were the heart of republican life, and ushering in permanent military dictatorship.”

Indeed, the example of the Roman Empire ought to be studied by anyone concerned about the fate of the United States. Although his historical evaluation of republican Rome is off the mark (agricultural production in Italy had come to depend on an army of slaves long before Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon), Johnson credibly shows that the trajectory that the neo-con cabal—led by Vice President Dick Cheney and his policy of perpetual warfare—has put America on, is that of empire, and is doomed to the same fate as that of Rome.

Relying on publicly available documentation, reports of investigative journalists, and the statements of the “empire builders” themselves, Johnson builds a picture of a vast U.S. military empire that encompasses the globe. He traces its origins to long before the present administration took office. He takes up the issue of American militarism, which he identifies as the military-industrial complex that President Dwight Eisenhower warned against in 1961. He identifies the chicken-hawks by name, and in their own words, as the driving force behind this militarism, noting as had retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, and others, that though they are readily willing to apply military force in pursuit of their global empire, they have little in the way of military experience them-

selves. In his next-to-last chapter, Johnson challenges the economic assumptions of the new empire; much of it reads as though it was lifted from the pages of *EIR*. Missing from Johnson’s book, however, is an understanding of the historical battle in defense of the principle of the general welfare, which formed the context in which the United States republic was founded, and to which its key founders were committed. Without that crucial element, Johnson’s historical commentary tends to degenerate into a crazy, left-wing version of American history, which is no more truthful than the right-wing version which he attacks.

### **Towards New Roman Legions**

In his infamous 1957 book *The Soldier and the State*, Harvard professor Samuel Huntington wrote, “The skill of the [military] officer is the management of violence; his responsibility is the military security of his client, society.” The ends to which his skills are to be put to use are not for him to question, his motivation being “a technical love for his craft and the sense of social obligation to utilize this craft for the benefit of society.” In Huntington’s view, there is no relationship between the military establishment and the idea of the nation. He takes this notion so far that he condemns the German generals who disagreed with Hitler’s war plans in the 1930s, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur for his disagreement with President Harry Truman on the conduct of the Korean War. “Both the German officers who joined the resistance to Hitler and General MacArthur forgot that it is not the function of military officers to decide questions of war and peace,” Huntington wrote. Though never quoting him, Johnson has detected Huntington’s notion of military professionalism: “The goal of professionalism is to produce soldiers who will fight solely and simply because they have been ordered to do so and not because they necessarily identify with, or have any interest in, the political goals of the war.”

Johnson traces the origins of this problem to the Korean War, when the military tried to inculcate the troops with what Johnson describes as a “John Wayne view of the world,” to substitute for the lack of public support for the war. Professionalization could not really get going until after the end of the draft, however, and the influx of recruits who joined the military primarily for economic reasons. And the unsatisfactory conclusion of the Vietnam War became a right-wing “lesson,” that foreign policy had to become the province of national security specialists who operated with little scrutiny by the media, the Congress or the public. “The result,” Johnson writes, “has been the emergence of a coterie of professional militarists who classify everything they do as secret and who have been appointed to senior positions throughout the executive branch.”

Johnson documents how this coterie has rewritten American strategic doctrine such that the pursuit of perpetual war is now its object. For example, he quotes the policy statement of U.S. Space Command (since absorbed into U.S. Strategic

Command) entitled “Vision for 2020” which states that United States must dominate space—to include denying other countries access to space—to protect U.S. interests and investments. He compares this aggressive, unilateral outlook to that of the 19th-Century British Empire, which made colonies of Egypt and South Africa “so it said, to protect the sea approaches to its imperial enclave in India. . . . But this kind of logic, comparable to the ‘domino theory’ in the Vietnam war, leads to an endless progression of places and commitments that must be protected, resulting inevitably in imperial overstretch, bankruptcy and popular disaffection, precisely the maladies that plagued Edwardian Britain.”

### America’s Empire of Bases

Such logic also leads to an insatiable appetite for spreading the military across the globe, a subject which Johnson delves into in some detail. According to official government reports, the U.S. had some 725 bases in 38 countries, and over 254,000 military personnel overseas, just before the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks. Those numbers, of course, expanded after 9/11, with the building of several new bases in Central Asia for the deployment into Afghanistan, and the buildup in the Persian Gulf region and subsequent invasion of Iraq. Even so, those numbers do not give a complete picture by any means of the U.S. overseas military reach, given that there are bases in some countries, such as Israel, that go unacknowledged, and intelligence listening posts all over the world that are not even listed. Johnson lists some of the more prominent of these spy posts, including RAF Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire, England (said to be the largest spy station in the world), as well as others that serve as listening posts for the National Security Agency or satellite downlink sites for the National Reconnaissance Office.

Johnson quotes Marine Maj. Gen. Smedley Butler, who wrote in 1933 that he had spent most of his military service as a “high-class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and the bankers.” Big business included the oil companies, which, Johnson says, are profiting no less, today, than they did during the early part of the 20th Century. But whereas in the 1920s and 1930s, the countries had names like Nicaragua, Honduras, and Haiti, the main area of oil company interest now is in Central Asia. Johnson ties in such names as Condoleezza Rice (who sat on the board of Chevron), with Zalmay Khalilzad and Henry Kissinger, both of whom were involved in Unocal’s attempt to negotiate a pipeline deal with the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. He goes after the entire chickenhawk gang that brought us the Iraq war, including Richard Perle, David and Meyrav Wurmser, and present Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Doug Feith.

Johnson doesn’t limit his exposure of America’s empire of bases to Central and Southwest Asia, however. He notes the decades-long tendency to establish bases elsewhere, in countries with fascist governments, as well, including Franco’s Spain, and Greece after the 1967 military coup there. In

the case of Spain, Johnson suggests that a case might be made that the United States had to deal with the leader it found there; no such case can be made for Greece, because America actively backed the overthrow of the elected government which would not accede to a U.S.-imposed solution to the Cyprus issue that favored Turkey. The result was a military dictatorship led by a Greek Army colonel, George Papadopoulos, trained by the United States, who was an avowed admirer of Hitler.

The Greek coup came only two years before the beginning of the “strategy of tension” terror campaign in Italy that began with bombings and ended in the kidnapping and murder of a prime minister, Aldo Moro, in 1978. As *EIR* has shown, the strategy of tension was the product of right-wing networks that had evolved from the efforts of the same synarchist banking interests that had promoted the rise to power of both Hitler and Mussolini, to recruit top Nazis after World War II to be deployed “against Communism.” Was the 1967 Greek coup also a product of the same networks? Johnson never explores that possibility, even though the evidence he presents points in that direction.

### The Mission of America

Johnson concludes his book by warning that the American empire will go the way of all that preceded it unless something changes. That change, he hopes, will come from the people retaking control of the Congress, and turning it back into “a genuine assembly of democratic representatives.” This is the second major failing of Johnson’s book, in that he doesn’t identify the original mission of the United States, or who represents that mission today.

As the late Graham Lowry showed in his 1988 book, *How the Nation Was Won*, the founding of the United States was the outcome of a nearly 150-year battle against the oligarchical worldview, then and still today centered in London. The battle was to create a nation-state whose purpose was to promote the general welfare of its population, through scientific and technological progress, as opposed to the oligarchical system of looting. In a 1997 article, Lowry wrote that “America’s war of Independence was mobilized around the highest conception of mankind, as boldly set forth in the Declaration of Independence. Its military objective was to defeat the British Empire, so that all of humanity might enjoy the blessings of being created in the image of God. The foundations had been laid by Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, who seized every opportunity to promote scientific progress and economic development, and hammered the weak flanks inevitably exposed by any system of imperial rule.”

That mission-orientation, carried through by such leaders as Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, and represented today by Lyndon LaRouche, can reverse the turn to empire. Otherwise, as Chalmers Johnson warns us, “Nemesis, the goddess of retribution and vengeance, the punisher of pride and hubris, waits impatiently for her meeting with us.”

# VA Losing the Ability To Care 'For Him Who Has Borne the Battle'

by Linda Everett

As U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan continues, the number of new veterans needing medical care and other services through the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) facilities, escalates. As of December 2003, some 10,000 new veterans from U.S. military actions in Iraq were being treated by the VA. Soon, 25,000 active-duty Reserve and National Guard will be eligible as veterans. How prepared is the nation to care for them and for the nearly 27 million other veterans of World War II, the Korea, Vietnam, and (first) Gulf Wars—who together represent 13% of the population?

While the missions for which the VA was established, and which are central to the functioning of the nation, were already severely threatened by policies begun before the Bush-Cheney Administration, they face catastrophic collapse by this administration's VA budget, and by its disastrous VA Capital Assessment and Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan (see box). The importance of the Veterans healthcare system is such, that it is a critical policy focus of Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who, in an Oct. 22, 2003 Internet webcast from Washington, made restoring the VA medical system among the first actions of a LaRouche Presidency.

## Case Study of Collapse

Today, more than ever, U.S. veterans are under siege. Veterans—particularly huge numbers of aging and disabled vets, and especially those with complicated chronic medical and psychiatric illnesses—have no idea where or even if the VA will be there to help them in the future. For decades, VA healthcare, a discretionary item in the Federal budget, has been severely underfunded. Under a policy of planned shrinkage and privatization, the VA has shifted radically from hospital-based services to outpatient clinics.

As one Vietnam-era veteran nurse serving in a Pittsburgh VA hospital reported, patients have been deliberately squeezed out of the system by the administration in an effort to show "low demand and justify closures. "There seems to be a concerted effort to divert patients," she reported. "Patients have been put out and units closed. There's no place for them to come back to. We can't take them [back]. They have to go someplace else. Sometimes there isn't a someplace else. Sometimes they have even been sent out of state."

The case of the ongoing closing of Lakeside VA Hospital

in Chicago, illustrates the severity of the problems being created by deliberate and systematic underfunding of the Veterans administration, compounded by the draconian CARES shutdown program of the Bush-Cheney White House. Lakeside, since the end of World War II, had been affiliated with the Northwestern University Medical School (NWMS), one of America's top 20 medical schools. Almost 300 physicians on the NWMS faculty served Lakeside and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, one of Chicago's premier healthcare institutions, connected to Lakeside via a bridge. NWMS gladly provided high-end speciality care to VA patients at no compensation; the VA provided the school with excellent teaching facilities for their medical students.

NWMS performed hundreds of highly specialized procedures each year, like cardiac catheterization with interventional angioplasty, which requires surgical back-up of an operating room team. The VA cannot afford to do many of these high-priced procedures, because it pays physicians so little. Lakeside Hospital's affiliation with NWMS provided it hundreds of hours of free speciality care in cardiology, hematology,



*The Veterans Administration, the leading caregiver for hospital patients and the number-one trainer of skilled medical personnel in the nation, has been degraded by budget stinginess for decades; now 11 more of its hospitals have been slated for closure. Sen. Robert Corzine talks with medical personnel at the East Orange, New Jersey VA hospital.*

ogy, oncology, nephrology, and more. When inpatient care at Lakeside was closed on Aug. 7, 2003, this speciality care disappeared for the VA. The Booz Allen Hamilton consultants, paid obscenely high fees to study the CARES shutdown plan, never factored this into their analysis, nor did they consider how crowded the delapidated VA West Side Hospital would become, trying to care for Lakeside patients.

Without Lakeland and its NWMS affiliation, veterans will have to travel for hours outside of Chicago or into Iowa City for care—and wait up to nine months for it. Doctors call the CARES plan “a disgrace” because in Chicago—the third-largest city in the country—if a veteran needs emergency cardiac interventional surgery, he or she can’t get it! Veterans have to travel up to 90 minutes away to Hines VA Hospital. They also have to go outside the city for radiation-oncology treatment, neurological services, and infectious disease specialists—all once provided by Northwestern. Worse, Northwestern will no longer be able to serve the huge outpatient VA clinic at Crown Point, Indiana.

The VA had 171 hospitals nationwide in 1993; by 2003, there were 163. Between 1971 and 2003, VA medical-surgical beds were cut by 75.6% (41,595 beds eliminated). As states closed psychiatric hospitals and literally dumped millions of mentally ill into the streets, the VA slashed 38,602 VA psychiatric beds, a cut by 88% from 1971-2003. It is estimated that there are anywhere between 200-400,000 homeless veterans, 45% of whom suffer from mental illness; 33% suffer from both psychiatric illness and substance abuse. As one long-time VA nurse explained: No matter how healthy you are, seeing 500 people around you blown to pieces in a war will affect you for the rest of your life. Now, 30 years after the end of the Vietnam War, thousands of Vietnam vets are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. A large percentage of the deinstitutionalized mentally ill veterans end up homeless or in jails and prisons—just as in the private sector. VA-operated domiciliary beds—crucial residences for veterans undergoing multiple medical treatments, along with psychiatric or substance abuse treatments—dropped 52% in those three decades.

### **Unique Nursing-Home Care Privatized**

The VA is expert in managing veteran patients who are the hardest to treat—patients with wandering disorders, severe dementia, paralysis, or who are ventilator-dependent. Yet, As Rep. Lane Evans (D-Ill.) has testified, “Private-sector providers and, oftentimes, state [veteran nursing] homes are loath to admit these high-need patients. That’s why I fought to maintain in-house capacity of VA’s nursing home program.” Lane was referring to the Veterans Millennium Healthcare and Benefits Act, which President Clinton signed into law in 1999. It required the VA to maintain its “in-house” long-term care programs, and required it to keep nursing-home capacity at the 1998 baseline level of 13,391 Average Daily Census (ADC).

The Bush White House and the conservative Republican-dominated Congress have ignored the 1999 law—despite the explosion in the number of veterans age 85 and older to nearly 2 million by the year 2010. Privatization—contracting out of long-term, nursing, and psychiatric care—is the Bush VA policy, along with shifting the burden of care of these veterans to the states. State VA nursing homes provide enormous services (the VA, the state, and the individual veteran pay for the care). Although the number of state veteran nursing homes is slowly increasing each year, the states cannot match the needs of the growing number of elderly vets. With most states’ revenues shrunken since 2000, they cannot take on the increased daily costs of care, especially of impoverished veter-

## **‘CARES’: Wartime Rationing, Not Wartime Care**

The VA rationing plan euphemistically called CARES (Capital Realignment for Enhanced Services) has as its alleged goal, to assess veteran healthcare needs and to “enhance” delivery of healthcare services in the geographic areas most populated by a shifting veteran population in the decades to come. Initially, the Administration’s draft CARES plan targeted 11 VA hospitals for total closure, and 33 others for major mission changes—they would be downgraded to clinics or to “Critical Access Hospitals” (limited to only 16 acute-care beds and to patient stays of 96 hours or less). Congressional Veteran Affairs committees and veterans services organizations estimated that as many as 7,066 beds nationwide are on the chopping block. So, in addition to the beds already closed, an estimated 2,152 long-term care beds, 1,630 domiciliary beds, 991 psychiatric beds, and 2,293 medical-surgical beds have been targeted for closure.

The Administration’s draft plan was released to an independent CARES Commission, which then released its proposals in January 2004. The final decision on the Commission’s proposal will be made by the Administration’s VA Secretary Principi at any time. Hospitals listed by the Commission for closure, merger, or major mission change, have been ordered not to speak about the impact of the Commission’s changes may have on veterans’ lives or on the economic and other impact on the surrounding communities.

ans without family.

The VA itself recognizes that at least 17,000 more nursing home beds are needed for the care of elderly veterans. Yet, the Bush Fiscal Year 2004 budget projected the VA nursing home Daily Census to drop to 8,500. The FY 2005 VA budget called for slashing another 5,000 nursing beds, lowering Daily Census projections even more. Most communities cannot absorb these patients, nor provide for their complex needs.

At the same time, the VA claims to have changed its mission from providing VA medical center-based nursing-home care, to privatized care, or to focusing on at-home care or day-care for elderly vets. However, this assumes most elderly vets have families to care for them, could manage at

home, and had no additional medical complications which only the VA-medical center-nursing homes could address.

What is at stake is more than the loss of a bed—all of the VA's four critical missions are at the edge of losing their function. We review these in turn.

### VA's Threatened Missions

The primary mission of the VA is provision of healthcare to veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs is the largest direct provider of healthcare services in the nation.

In its second mission, it provides education and training for healthcare personnel. The VA produces the highly specialized, highly dedicated staff experienced in treating the com-

### Case Study: Waco VA Hospital

One of the targets in the Administration's draft CARES plan and the CARES Commission is the total closure of the Waco, Texas VA hospital, which has 346 hospital beds, including 278 psychiatric beds, and a 20-bed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Program. It is considered the most comprehensive VA psychiatric hospital in the nation and the only one in Texas for long-term psychiatric care. It is the only VA facility in Texas for rehabilitation of blinded veterans; and one of only three VA centers in Texas for acute psychiatric care. It serves tens of thousands of vets, employs a highly trained workforce of 800, and has an occupancy rate of 90%. Instead of expanding the number of beds as VA doctors recommended (to eliminate long waits for treatment and for emergency care), the Administration's plan is to shut Waco down and have VA patients travel for care to other cities; or to privatize their care, "unloading" elderly nursing-home patients into whatever Medicare allows in the community.

The CARES Commission agreed with most of the Administration's plan, except that it would allow Waco to keep its 33 nursing-home beds. Gerald Cowan, senior Vice Commander of the Department of Texas Disabled America Veterans, testified that the VA "can no longer meet the needs of our nation's service-connected disabled veterans." Cowan said veterans in Texas are already asking, "Why do we have to travel hundreds of miles to Oklahoma or to Louisiana for care?" Some vets have to travel six hours roundtrip. According to a VA report, there were 134,287 vets on waiting lists for care, nationally—over 51,000 are waiting at least six months for their appointment.

Waco Mayor Linda Ethridge said the VA invested over \$100 million since 1998 to create state-of-the-art buildings at Waco's VA Medical Center, that are suited to becoming a center for excellence for long-term psychiatric care. She



The Bush Administration's slated shutdown of the large and modern Central Texas Veterans Hospital in Waco, would eliminate a score of special medical programs ranging from MRI/CAT Scan and Nuclear Medicine, to Hearing and Speech Pathology; and it would eliminate in one stroke, within Texas:

#### Authorized Beds:

459 Psychiatry	36 Intermediate Medicine
408 Domiciliary	20 Post-Traumatic Stress Rehabilitation
303 Nursing Home	15 Blind Rehabilitation
134 Internal Medicine	
44 Surgery	

warned against shutting it down: Severely mentally disturbed VA patients are not candidates for deinstitutionalization. There is no capacity in the Waco or neighboring communities to care for so many patients. Closing it will endanger local non-profit community and psychiatric hospitals, due to the costs associated with emergency detention of mentally ill veterans. Waco's private or hospital psychiatrists will not treat VA patients due to "low, slow, or non-existent reimbursements."

—Linda Everett

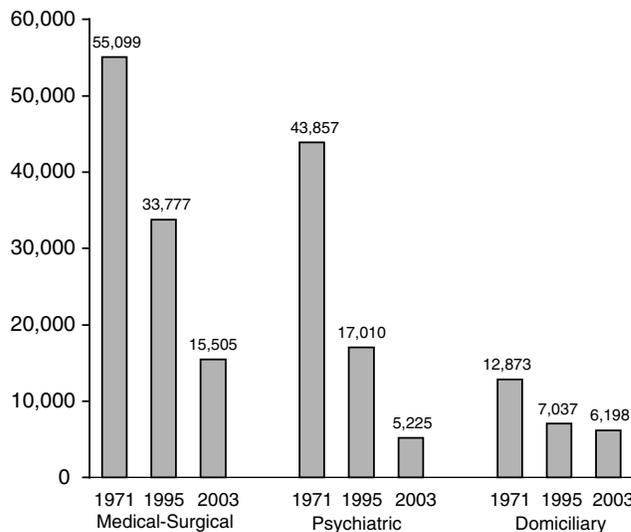
plex mix of medical-psychological challenges veterans face. This crucial part of VA infrastructure is not available in private sector hospitals, long-term care, or nursing homes. Once these people retire or are lost through closure of a VA facility, they are gone. The VA manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States. Its facilities are affiliated with 107 medical schools, 55 dental schools, and more than 1,200 other schools across the country. These affiliations have produced some of the most advanced medical and technological treatments for veterans and for the nation. VA hospitals have the unique capability to translate progress in medical science to improvements in medical care and in public health. Each year, 81,000 health professionals are trained in its medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States have had part of their professional education in the VA healthcare system. How this country's leaders support our veterans and the health and hospital infrastructure that serves them, affects every aspect of the country's private health and public healthcare sector, as well as the country's capability to respond to a national emergency.

The third VA mission is medical research. The advances for which the VA is renowned both nationally and worldwide, benefit everyone. Its research contributed to advances in blind rehabilitation, geriatrics, long-term care, amputation care, prosthetics and orthotics, spinal cord injury, serious mental illness, post-traumatic stress disorder, paralyzes, and more—all of which depend on strong acute care infrastructure to address veterans' care comprehensively. They cannot exist in isolation from the rest of the system, according to reports of the Independent Budget Veteran Services Organizations (VSOs), made up of over 50 veterans services groups. The VA is the world leader in research for Hepatitis C and prosthetics. Yet for FY 2005, the White House proposed cutting VA medical research by \$50 million, or 5%, from the FY 2004 level.

More egregious, in this time of national insecurity, is the undermining of the VA's fourth mission—to provide medical care in times of national medical disaster or public health emergency, as a back-up for the Department of Defense. In 1986, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs testified before the House Armed Services Committee that "VA was directed to serve as primary back-up to the DOD in the event of war or national emergency. The two Departments have made great strides in designing a VA back-up system to our contingency system at DOD. Today the system stands ready to provide 32,506 contingency beds for use by DOD in the event of war or national crisis." Just one month after the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon, the Congressional General Accounting Office (GAO) reported that: "VA has plans for the allocation of up to 5,500 of its staffed operating beds for DOD casualties within 72 hours of notification. VA's plans would provide up to 7,574 beds within 30 days notification."

FIGURE 1  
**Decline in VA Medical Care Infrastructure, 1971-2003**

(Staffed, Operating Beds)



Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

But in December 2003, the VA Emergency Management Group told *EIR* that the VA, in fact, has *no* surge capacity in event of a national emergency. It has no beds set aside for such a crisis. The VA supposedly would simply make available whatever beds were empty, and those it could empty by sending patients elsewhere.

In reality, considering the lack of care for Iraq War veterans, it is not clear that the United States has advanced beyond a status report presented in 1992 by the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) before the House Committee of Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, on the adequacy of plans by the Department of Defense, and the VA and other organizations, to care for wartime casualties returning to the United States. Called "Readiness of U.S. Contingency Hospital Systems to Treat War Casualties," the report found, in part, that "The number of beds expected to be available in DOD, VA, and the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) hospitals is overstated."

The GAO report, though a decade old, raised a pertinent question: Where were VA medical centers planning to get the continued care of patients displaced from the VA centers to make room for national-emergency casualties? The ratio of private/public hospital beds per 1,000 population is now at its lowest level in 30 years.

Severe shortages in medical staffing and speciality care abound in the VA, and are growing acute due to chronic underfunding. It is well known that veterans have to wait up to a

year for an appointment with a primary care physician. VA Secretary Anthony Principi dealt with the problem by restricting the right to VA medical care to only the poorest and most disabled veterans. Overnight, thousands of veterans were banned from getting VA care. This “temporary” restriction, in the Bush FY 2005 budget, now appears permanent—despite the law Congress passed in 1996 to allow all eligible veterans the right to VA medical care (the law led to a 134% increase in enrollment of veterans in the VA system between 1996-2003—from 2.9 million to 6.8 million enrollees. But Congress refused to increase funding for patient care, leading to a continual drop in staff and beds.)

The VA’s loss of critical affiliations to medical schools, like that of Chicago’s Lakeside to Northwestern, compounds a historically worsening shortage of physicians in military medical centers. At one point, a GAO study found that the severe shortage of military physicians from 1973 (after the end of the draft) caused 60% of military hospitals to close medical services or to curtail whole units for up to six months. Then came a concerted effort to close military medical training centers. By 1992, the GAO found the military had inadequate plans to train more speciality care physicians.

Today, the problem is glaring. Not only are our soldiers in Iraq reporting a severe shortage of physicians; the main reason for returning Iraqi soldiers being placed on “medical hold” for months, is the lack of physicians and facilities to treat them or to perform surgeries.

### **Military Hospital System Unprepared**

VA bed closures become even more profound given the drastic drop in the military’s medical care capability. According to the DOD, “Between FY 1987 and FY 2002, the Military Health System reduced from 163 hospital and 583 clinics to 75 hospitals and 461 clinics.” The closure of 88 hospitals (54%) and 122 clinics (21%) was due in part to medical advances requiring less hospital time, and in part to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions of 1995, 1993, 1991, and 1988. In 2001, *EIR* was told that some 26 other hospitals were scheduled for closure. A new BRAC round of base, and possible hospital, closings is set for 2005—President Bush wanted it to begin in 2003.

Since there is no public disclosure of just how many medical-surgical beds the military has closed, an accurate assessment of the actual number of hospital beds per 1,000 population available in event of a national crisis is not available. Congress must mandate that information be released, so that a county-by-county overview of civilian, veteran, and military medical capacity is available in the interests of military preparedness and public health. While the military can fly in hospitals in a pinch, for this or that medical emergency, this does not address the long-term healthcare needs of the population in an era of global biological threats, man-made or otherwise.

The primary issue is that in the last two decades, hospital

and public health capacity and trained, experienced medical personnel in the private, VA, and military health systems were decimated, just as the Baby Boomers reach the age of chronic illnesses, tripling of the number of sick elderly, and those age 85 and over. At the same time, the prestigious Institute of Medicine warned in 2003 that the nation faces the potentiality of a “catastrophic storm of microbial threats,” such as the surge of new infectious diseases like SARS.

Neither the VA, military, nor civilian hospital systems have any redundancy built into them. Such redundancies are crucial to national health security, but they have been hammered out of the system since the managed care “revolution” began in 1973 under President Richard Nixon. Thus Presidential candidate LaRouche calls for banning health maintenance organizations, and all managed care established under the 1973 law.

LaRouche prescribes the restoration of the general welfare approach embodied in the legislation developed by Sen. Lister Hill (D-Ala.) and Rep. Harold Burton (R-Ohio) in 1946, after the nation had found that nearly one-third of its males ages 18-37, when called up for draft in 1941, were physically or mentally unfit for military duty. The draftees had come from counties that lacked basic access to hospitals, physicians, public health, and dental care. The Hill-Burton Act of 1946 set out the objective standard of the number of hospitals, beds, type of beds, and medical personnel needed for every 1,000 people, by county. It called for states to “afford the necessary physical facilities for furnishing adequate hospital, clinic, and similar services to all their people.” Federal monies were available to construct hospitals to bring counties up to the Hill-Burton standards of 4.5-5.5 general-use hospital beds per 1,000 population, with extra beds for long-term care, psychiatric care, isolation of infectious disease, and chronic care.

Medicine and technology have advanced today so that the necessary ratio of hospital beds per population may differ somewhat; but the standard, of ensuring the health of all, in and out of the military, cannot vary. When the Hill-Burton and other General Welfare proposals went into force, the nation saw a radical drop in life-threatening disease and serious medical conditions (tuberculosis, a marker for general health, declined from 137,000 new cases in 1948 to 55,000 cases in 1960).

Damning testimonies presented in Congressional hearings in January 2004 attest that we, as a nation, are not doing the same for soldiers with diseases and disabling conditions of as a result of the Gulf wars.

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## ‘They’re Saving Money on the Backs Of the Returning Combat Soldiers’

*Steve Robinson, a retired U.S. Army Ranger and veteran of both the first Gulf War and the 1991 “Operation Provide Comfort” in northern Iraq, is the Executive Director of the National Gulf War Resource Center ([www.ngwrc.org](http://www.ngwrc.org)), an advocate for veterans and military families. He was interviewed by Carl Osgood on April 21.*



**EIR:** I was looking at the last interview that we did (“Stop the Coverup on Gulf War Illnesses,” *EIR*, Sept. 5, 2003), and a lot of things have happened since then. We discussed last time the issue of stress. I’m sure you know that the Army finally released their mental health report, the survey that they did last Summer and Fall. . . .

**Robinson:** One of the first things was, the Army said that they sent these survey teams in, actually, before it even came on the radar that suicides were up, that there were potentially some morale problems; and that’s good, you have to wait until something happens before you can do. And, yes, they did finally release it, the report was done in what, December?

**EIR:** It was finished in December, and they finally released it in March.

**Robinson:** They released it in March, and from December to March, we had a spike in suicides, we had mental healthcare disorders, we had soldiers committing suicide here in the States; and this information would have been important for clinicians to act upon so that we could redouble our efforts when the soldiers came home. So, yes, I did read the report, and it was pretty much what I thought it would be. It was a reflection of the people I was talking to both in Iraq and here, back at home. There were some interesting little things in there. It seemed like the report highlighted the fact that 77% of the people didn’t feel like there was any stress related to war in Iraq. That was very interesting to me. I’m not so sure that’s a reflection of how they really feel, but more a reflection of their sense of patriotism and their wanting to sound upbeat. We all do it. My parents taught me that you can’t just be negative, you’ve got to find the shining thing in the bad exam-

ple. So, I don’t know if that necessarily reflects the way they really feel, and I suspect that if you had the survey team in there between December and now, and the violence that has occurred, that we might have even more people who are really concerned about their mental health, their morale, and the way they feel.

**EIR:** I want to get into that in a minute, because they’re going back. One of the factors to which they attributed the stress levels that they did acknowledge, was the austere living conditions. . . . The troops were living out in the desert without air conditioning, with supply problems and so forth—which they said, in their March presentation, that all of these problems were alleviated, resolved. So they’re expecting, when they go back, to find the situation much improved.

**Robinson:** It’s funny. I love my country. I love my government. I loved my military service, I had made a lot of good friends. I had disagreed a lot with the policies, and I’m opposed to the idea that they would say that living conditions are the reason that people are having low morale, versus the actual situation that they’re in: Which is, they’re in combat facing terrorists, with an unknown enemy that can attack from any direction. They have unclear objectives. They don’t know how long they’re going to be there.

How do you define how long it will take to form a democracy, and that somehow those things aren’t part of what’s going on? They focus in on the fact that if you give a guy an air conditioner, he’ll be willing to be happy while he’s in Iraq.

It’s a combination of factors. It’s not just living conditions. It’s about the fact that we weren’t prepared to actually do this job. It’s about the fact that you have people who aren’t trained peacekeepers trying to conduct peacekeeper missions. It’s a fact that you have people who aren’t military police retrained to do that job, and they’re not comfortable with it, and there’s rules of engagement that are very difficult: Don’t fire unless fired upon. . . . There’s a whole bunch of factors, and it’s not just the fact that they don’t have air conditioning.

**EIR:** You mentioned the recent increase in violence. . . . Rumsfeld announced just last week that now, 20,000 soldiers, including most of the 1st Armored Division, have to stay there for another four months, and most of these guys have been there a year already. That is undoubtedly adding to their

stress levels.

**Robinson:** Estimates right now are that 40-50% of the force will be National Guard and Reserve soldiers. You can tell an active duty soldier whose career profession it is, “We need you to stay here longer,” because that’s what they expect. They joined the military to train, to go to war and, in war, they stay as long as they have to to complete the objective.

But civilians who serve in the National Guard and Reserves are a different entity, and they require some certainty, because we’re asking them to leave their civilian jobs and to go fulfill, to augment the active force for whatever reason. And in this case they’re augmenting the active force because the Secretary has not bought into the idea that we need more people; therefore, he’s using the National Guard like active duty soldiers. And when you do that, you break the covenant that you made with the National Guard and the reserves. You break the expectation that they will have limited, short-term emergency use; and they have all kinds of problems at home relating to losing their businesses, losing their jobs and promotions when they come back, their employers not wanting them anymore, or their business collapsing because they cannot sustain leaving that civilian world for a greater period of time. Not to mention the fact that we use them like an active duty force, but we don’t give them the same benefits and pay and care that active duty soldiers receive.

So, it’s putting a strain on the National Guard and Reserves. Now, Eric Shinseki, Gen. Eric Shinseki said, beware the 12-division policy for the 10-division army. So, while I’m glad to hear that the Secretary of Defense recognizes that it’s going to take more people, he’s drawing those people from within those that are already serving, and it’s putting an additional burden on them that could be alleviated by increasing the overall end-strength of the military.

**EIR:** Which he refuses to do.

**Robinson:** And he won’t do. He does not want to do. It’s almost a self-fulfilling fallacy. On the one hand, he says, “Commanders need more people in Iraq, but we’re not asking for more troops. Wait, they want 20,000 more people, but we’re not asking for more troops.” It’s just amazing to me to listen to the idea that they would place that additional burden on these National Guard and Reserve soldiers when the real solution would be to recognize that we’re into something that requires more forces on the ground. And while we may initially have to ask people to stay longer, the real answer is going to be overall end-strength, so you can have a viable rotation plan in and out of Iraq.

You can’t keep 130,000-150,000 people on combat readiness for two years in a row. It just doesn’t work. And, currently, the pace of operations in Iraq, along with the increase in terrorism, has got these guys hyper-alert, and there’s no safe place. So, there has to be a place where they can go back on rest and refit and rotate, and everybody get their fair share of combat.

**EIR:** On this Guard and Reserve issue, the Army, in their mental health report, only counted suicides in Iraq. Now, I’ve seen press reports that there may have been as many as seven suicides among soldiers after they came back.

**Robinson:** Correct. What we know is that they’re still refusing to count the suicides in the States, to calculate the overall suicide rate for this war. So, the example would be, if a guy or a girl served in Iraq and made it back to U.S. soil—I’ll give you a real example. A soldier serves in Iraq, comes back, is medivac’d because of psychological problems, goes to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for treatment, is put in Ward 54, which is a locked-down psychology ward, goes through some treatment, and then is moved to Ward 53, which is a come-and-go kind of place where you can go, but not for long periods of time. That soldier then, something happens, ends up hanging himself with his own belt in the barracks, and it’s only two months after he returned. They do not count that as being related to wartime service; they don’t think that wartime service contributes to these soldiers committing suicide, even when they’re in their care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center being treated for combat-related post traumatic stress disorder.

**EIR:** Is seven the number, then, that you know about?

**Robinson:** Right now, yes. In order to figure it out, we’re having to monitor the deaths. See, sometimes a suicide can occur, like what happened recently that didn’t pop up on our radar screen until somebody contacted us. There was a soldier who returned from Iraq. He was offered a promotion before he left to go. He came back to work for the city, went to get his job back and the promotion, and they said, “We had to give that to somebody else.” He asked a lawyer to help him. There was a big news article about him asking for help. The lawyer declined to represent him. Two days later, the guy killed himself.

That suicide was never reported as being related to anything having to do with maybe his wartime service. What we have to understand about suicide is: It’s not what made you jump off the cliff that is the trigger event. . . . It’s what brought you to the edge of the cliff, to where you look over and think, “Hmmm, maybe I’ll jump off this cliff.” It’s what brings you to that point, and all of those factors. And war—I challenge anyone who would say that war is not a factor in why these people are committing suicide. . . .

**EIR:** They talked about traumatic stress—obviously, there’s a lot of that, especially the last two weeks, soldiers being exposed to trauma because of the combat in Fallujah and other places. How much of that are you seeing?

**Robinson:** First off, war is traumatic, and the military indoctrinates you. I was a former Ranger instructor: We indoctrinate our soldiers to desensitize them to the act of pulling the trigger. You reward them for knocking down paper targets on the range, give them medals for accuracy, and then you

advance to like 3-D silhouettes that look kind of like people but don't react the way that a human would react when you shoot it; and then we send them out to war, and there's a big difference between the amount of training we put into teaching them how to pull the trigger, and how much effort we put into taking care of them after they have pulled the trigger.

Each of them are finding that their training, or lack of training, or what they bring to the table, determines how they act or react, whenever they're caught in the violence of war.

What we're seeing in this increased rate of violence in Fallujah and other places, is that it does absolutely have an effect. And so, while I believe that these things are certain, that in some people these experiences are going to create problems, I also believe that if we have a mission to accomplish, we can deal with the psychological and mental aspects of war and accomplish the mission, if the military will recognize that it is a co-factor.

They don't recognize it as a co-factor, and also there's a stigma.

Recently, there was a guy who was charged with cowardice, in Iraq, and that sent a chilling effect across the entire military, to say, if you come forward and ask for help, there's a good chance that you are going to be charged with a crime that is punishable by death, cowardice. Oh, I've talked with the Surgeon General of the Army and . . . he says that's not their policy. They didn't want to send that chilling effect, but it happened. It's out there, but he says what he's going to do is he's going to send a message, force-wide, that says, "We recognize that war has consequences and that some of you may want to talk about things you've seen or done, and that we can achieve our objectives and take care of the psychological injuries or mental injuries that may occur, and we encourage commanders to help soldiers that want to talk."

So, they're going to try to send the message out there that kind of counters this Patton-like experience that occurred with this soldier. I hope they get it out there, soon. If a soldier came in my unit, when I was in, if a soldier said, "I'm afraid to do something, or whatever I just saw bothers me so much that I'm paralyzed with fear," he would not get a boot in the ass, he would get. . . . I would hug him, I would bring his leaders in, we would counsel him, we would put him in a safe place. "We need you, we need you to come back, we need you to accomplish this mission, we understand that you're scared, I'm scared, too, we're all scared, but we need you," and if that didn't work, then he'd have to be evacuated, because he'd be a threat. So, if soldiers aren't being given the opportunity to come forward and express their concerns, from the consequences of war, if they're asked to hold that internally, all kinds of bad things can happen, morale, acting out, all kinds of things.

**EIR:** One would think that fear would be something that you would expect.

**Robinson:** Absolutely.

**EIR:** And you deal with it on that basis.

**Robinson:** We're not robots. Nobody's a robot. . . .

**EIR:** Let me move on, now, to the issue of health screenings, because that was also something we had talked about last time, and there was a big announcement out of the Defense Department that they would change the way that they were screening the soldiers that were being deployed. I looked at the testimony of the National Security Subcommittee, at the end of March, and a couple of the witnesses who were Reservists testified that it really hadn't changed.

**Robinson:** It hasn't. They expanded the paper questionnaire to include more questions about mental healthcare disorders. They did not, and still are not, following the black letter law, Public Law 105-85, to screen soldiers before they go, with a hands-on physical and the drawing of blood, and to screen them when they come back with a hands-on physical and the drawing of blood. They just seem to be, at every installation we went to—I've been to Fort Stewart, Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, I went to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany, every place I've been—they seem to be overwhelmed with people who need mental healthcare counseling. There seem to be significant delays in appointments in getting access to care, guys with injuries that require physical therapy are having to wait weeks to months to get that physical therapy. So, they seem to be overwhelmed.

Now, they have addressed that, and they are starting to put resources out there, because we have identified shortfalls; but there's still a denial on the part of the Department of Defense to adequately screen soldiers.

Let me give you an example. Recently, you may have seen in the newspaper that soldiers came back from Iraq and requested screening for depleted uranium. It happened in New York, a pretty big news story, and the people that they asked in the Department of Defense denied them. They said, "Don't worry about it, you don't have anything to worry about." Well, it turns out they were concerned enough, they went outside the DoD, got screened, and were found to have levels of depleted uranium in their urine. That's just a failure on the part of the Department of Defense to learn the lessons of the first Gulf War, and it's, I think, a cost-saving measure. They would rather wait till people present with problems, than to do what the law says and screen them when they come back.

The reason why the law was written was because of the mistakes of the first Gulf War; that you need to collect data before people go, to see what they look like, and then collect data when they come back to see if there's been any change. And if you do that, you pretty much have a lock-solid workmen's comp case that says, "While I was gone something happened." Well, if you don't collect the data, then the veteran can't make the claim, or, there'll be a bureaucratic delay in gathering the information to make the claim. So, the government is, in some cases, obfuscating, or prohibiting, soldiers

from obtaining the accurate information, even though the law requires them to do it.

**EIR:** One of the things this seems to raise to me, is whether or not they even have the resources to do what they're required to do. Whether they have sufficient medical facilities, trained medical personnel and so forth, that they can deploy to do what the law requires them to do.

**Robinson:** Absolutely. Dr. Winkenwerder, the man responsible for health affairs, came out of the HMO industry, in which it was his job to lower costs and maximize profit, and I believe he is adamantly opposed to screening because it costs money, and because it takes time, and it's time that they don't want to invest. He has stated over and over, in various testimonies, that screening soldiers doesn't reveal any useful information.

Well, that's like saying, "We're not going to technically inspect our aircraft when they come back and land on the carrier." We're just going to hope that they can accomplish the mission the next time we call on them. We invest in our million dollar aircraft. We invest the time to inspect them and to make sure they got gas and to make sure that the avionics work. We do that, but apparently, mechanical equipment is more important than human lives. All we have to do is look back to the first Gulf War to see why there's a cost, associated with risk in Winkenwerder's mind with why he is choosing not to do it; but I submit that if you do it, you take the screening before they go and after they come back, that we would actually save money, because we could rule in or rule out who got affected as a result of their wartime service, unlike in the first Gulf War, when there wasn't a lot of data collected.

Now, as an example, there were over 697,000 people who served in the first Gulf War. Some 13 years later, 330,000 who served in that Gulf War have sought treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, for a multitude of ailments and illnesses resulting from exposures that occurred in that war. It costs the government close to \$2 billion a year to compensate those veterans for those injuries and illnesses. We're talking about 220,000 people who have claims that have been approved; and in this war, I think we've sent over, something upwards of 1 million people have rotated in or out of Iraq, and they're starting to come back, now.

They're starting to tap into the VA system, and the VA recognizes that there's going to be a tidal wave of people that are going to need help. So, in the same way that we make the investment in making sure the airplane can go fly the mission, we have an obligation to make the same investment with these people, because we're the ones that sent them to war.

**EIR:** Another related issue that came up in the testimony that I read, and news coverage that actually came from British newspapers, was the deploying of, or redeploying of soldiers who were not medically fit.

**Robinson:** Right. It's going to turn out to be one of the big

mistakes of the preparation of this war, was that many National Guard and Reserve soldiers, and even some active duty soldiers, were deployed with conditions that should have prevented them from deployment in the first place. I can run down a whole bunch of lists of them. A guy that's got hypertension doesn't need to be serving in 140° in Iraq. He's probably going to have a heart attack and die. Somebody that's just gotten their kidney removed probably doesn't need to deploy to Iraq. Yet, it happened.

The rates of people from the National Guard and Reserves, and the GAO is looking at this right now—who could not deploy because they were not fit was about . . . I've seen it as high as 25%. But then, there's a whole bunch more who were deployed even though they probably shouldn't have been deployed, and that could play into . . . why the evacuation rates for disease and non-battle injuries is very high in this war—because they weren't fit in the first place.

Where does all that tie in? It all ties in to the fact that if Dr. Winkenwerder had followed the public law and screened these people before they deployed, he would have excluded all of the people that weren't fit to deploy, and he would have identified their illnesses for the record, and then the fit people would have deployed, and if they got sick, they would have been screened when they came back. That didn't happen. We have no baseline snapshot, what people looked like before they deployed.

So, now the GAO is going to have to go back retrospectively, just like we did in the first Gulf War, and try to figure out what was the reason why these people couldn't make it; and how many people did we send that we shouldn't have. If they had followed the public law, this problem wouldn't exist; but, what might have existed, if they followed the public law, would be that they wouldn't have had enough people to deploy. And so that goes to the core theme, of: What is the National Guard and Reserve doing to keep themselves ready to answer the call; and are we giving them proper healthcare; and do they have access to treatment? Currently, they don't. Right now, on the Hill, today, there are bills on the floor that they're voting on, for extending healthcare coverage to National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

**EIR:** That also gets to the whole issue of how you want to utilize the National Guard and the Reserves, which is a whole larger issue.

**Robinson:** Are they an active duty force? It sure seems like it, right now. Are they just in case, emergency-type situations? The biggest problem—I don't think the National Guard and Reserve soldiers would tell anybody, "We're opposed, we're not going to do what we're asked to do." But what they're opposed to is being used like active duty, and then treated as second-class citizens, not afforded the proper healthcare when they return, not afforded the same benefits that an active duty soldier might get. There was a command sergeant major at Fort Stewart, Georgia, and she said, "The bullet and the



*Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, a combat veteran, “knows what failure to implement certain policies means,” says Steve Robinson of the Gulf Veterans Resource Center. “Recently, he stood up and said, ‘I’ve been underfunded to the point where I’m concerned, and I’m speaking out for the first time, that I need more money to do the job.’”*

bomb didn’t know the difference between active-duty and National Guard, but when we came home, we found out that there was a big difference, and if we take the same risks, we should be afforded the same care, compensation, and benefits,” and that isn’t the way it’s going down, and those people have a problem with it.

**EIR:** That keeps coming up on Capitol Hill, too. Almost every member of Congress has National Guard as constituents.

Another thing I want to bring up, soldiers on medical hold: You were responsible for creating a big stink about this last Fall, to the point where the then-acting Secretary of the Army went to Fort Stewart and promised that we would fix this problem. Again, the same testimony that I read, it hasn’t been fixed.

**Robinson:** Right. It has to do with money and resources, and while we did raise the profile about the condition of these soldiers, and there were some additional doctors and dollars that got sent to some of these installations, there still has not been the level of commitment given by the Department of Defense or even the Federal government to address the problem.

At Fort Stewart, for example, where soldiers were living in concrete World War II barracks with no air conditioning, they fixed the problem by either putting them in hotels that are 50 and 60 miles from the base, or putting them in double-wide trailers that they have bought that have air conditioning.

As a former soldier, I know that, as a commander, you always do the best you can with what you have, and the commander of Fort Stewart has made requests for additional help and money. He hasn’t gotten it, and neither have the commanders of Fort Knox and some of the other places where these problems were identified. So, that begs the question, what more can we do? The issue’s been raised, and now the money needs to get appropriated to fix the problem. They don’t seem to have any problem conducting maintenance of vehicles and aircraft and—

**EIR:** There’s a lot of that, too, because it’s getting worn out like crazy.

**Robinson:** That’s right, but they can’t seem to find the money to take care of the soldier when they come back. So, it’s about priorities. Historically, you can go back and look about how soldiers have been treated after war. You can go all the way back to the Roman times, and you’ll find that soldiers would scrawl “You love me when the war was happening; but now, we can’t get a crust of bread.” And then we jump forward to World War I, when the Bonus Army, veterans from World War I, came back and demanded their hundred dollar bonus. There’s a picture, it’s these guys sitting at an encampment on the steps of the Capitol, with a sign that says “We have come for that which a grateful nation promised us for serving in the World War,” and they were talking about their hundred bucks. As you know, they got driven off the steps of the Capitol by MacArthur on horseback, and trampled, a lot of people got killed, and it’s been that way ever since.

Soldiers throughout history have always seemed to be first when war occurs, and last when the war is over. Now, I’ve been saying this next quote probably for about a year, now. I think it’s really, really—people need to listen to it. It’s really important. “Our democracy has extended beyond the time in which any other democracy has survived.” Every democracy has fallen. We’re eight-plus, maybe nine years past the time in which every other democracy in the history of mankind has survived and held power. Every democracy has fallen for two reasons. The first reason is that government stopped listening to the people and was more concerned about government and what it was doing, and did not take care of the needs of the people. The second reason, they didn’t take care of the people that protected government and that’s the soldier. That is the two reasons why every democracy has fallen, and we’re in overtime right now, and look at what we’re doing to our soldiers. It doesn’t make sense.

And, now, we’ve got these rumors that maybe we’re going to reinstitute the draft. How do you think that’s going to play on this generation of Americans, who have come to the idea that being American and being free is that you aren’t forced to do things? So, if they reinstitute the draft, there’s going to be some really big problems. So, pay attention and look to your democracy and protect it, and you protect it by taking care of those who protect this nation.

**EIR:** That actually shades into the next subject that I wanted to raise, which is, a lot of these guys have now gotten out, who have been in Iraq, and some of them have filed for claims—  
**Robinson:** Eighty-thousand people have returned. About 13-14,000 of that 80,000 have sought treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Of that number, mental health-care disorders are running at about 14%. So, of about 12,000 people, about 1,500-1,700 have reported significant mental healthcare disorders. If the returning war veterans were a wave, we're just seeing the froth of the wave. We're starting to see the very beginning of that wave; and, it appears as if, if the data that we've collected from various sources is true, that there've been over 22,000 evacuations from the theater in Iraq. That's anybody getting injured and anybody getting moved as a result of their injury. That's an evacuation. Then there's been upwards of 13,000 people who have been evacuated, medically, back to Landstuhl Army Medical Center, and then subsequently back to Walter Reed, Bethesda or someplace else. Of that 13,000 number, 10-14% of them are evacuated for psychological reasons alone and the rest are evacuated for disease, non-battle injury, and the results of bullets and bombs. . . .

**EIR:** Regarding the VA, we've done some work showing that the VA closed a lot of hospitals, and that Secretary Principi has this plan which will result in even more hospitals being closed. What are you looking at in terms of the ability of these new vets to actually get the treatment that they're asking for?

**Robinson:** On a good note: First off, Secretary Principi is an appointee. He's a combat veteran himself. He knows what failure to implement certain policies means. However, he can only be as good as his government allows him to be. Recently, he stood up and said, "I've been underfunded to the point where I'm concerned, and I'm speaking out for the first time, that I need more money to do the job." And, we applaud him for that. Because he has been underfunded, he has had to initiate, as any administrator would, plans to—you're a business man; it takes \$1,000 to pay the bills at the end of the month for your business, but you only make \$500. Your business is going to collapse. So, if you underfund the VA habitually, the only thing that he can do is close services, close facilities, cut access, to make up for the lack of funding. Now, they're not going to reduce the salary of employees. They're not going to make people tighten their belts in the bonuses that they give doctors.

They're going to do it the same way that the Department of Defense does it, on the human [side]. They're not cutting money on the maintenance of an F-16. They're cutting money, they're saving money on the backs of the combat soldiers that come back from this war. So, Secretary Principi stood up and said, "I need more money." The fact is that they're afraid that they're getting ready to get hit with a big wave of people, and they're not going to have the ability to take care of them all, and that's something we're having to address Congress about.

Now, there are others, I call them spinmeisters, they'll say, "Oh well, you know, we're doing fine because there's enough people dying, or not using VA services, that the influx, it'll be kind of an even transition. As the new vets come in, the old vets either die or they no longer use the services," but the numbers don't bear it out. If your secretary, your boss, stands up and says, "I need more money," that's something we ought to pay attention to.

**EIR:** I know there are proposals to make it mandatory funding.

**Robinson:** And there are people who are against mandatory funding because they think that mandatory funding takes away the VA's ability to allocate the money that they get the way they want to, and we agree. The VA gets money to take care of those who have been injured or wounded in war. They should not be conducting research on finding the fat gene, and they should not be conducting research outside of the scope of the injuries and illnesses that happen to soldiers; and they could probably save a lot of money if they would focus on that. It says, right on the wall, "To care for those who bore the burden"; not to discover the fat gene.

**EIR:** That comes from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural speech. He made that as a commitment that the nation should take on.



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## Iraq 'On-the-Ground' Reality Is Demanding LaRouche Doctrine

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

After a disastrous April in Iraq, in which the U.S.-led occupying Coalition killed thousands of Iraqis and lost hundreds of its own soldiers without achieving any objective, Coalition government officials and their allies were growing desperate to transfer some image of “sovereignty” to “the Iraqis.” But only one really workable approach was on the table: the LaRouche Doctrine—including an immediate announcement of withdrawal of occupying forces—outlined by Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche (see page 6), which is circulating throughout leading circles and discussion fora in Southwest Asia. Several leading Iraqi figures, and their Arab compatriots, are demanding that the LaRouche Doctrine, which defines an overhaul of U.S. strategy in Southwest Asia, be implemented immediately. The most recent high-level endorsement came on April 28 from Dr. Ahmed Al-Kubaisi, a leading Sunni religious figure and chairman of the United Iraqi Patriotic Movement, which includes Iraqis of all religious persuasions. Al-Kubaisi represents an important force within Iraq, and is respected as a Sunni scholar worldwide.

In the United States, the impact of LaRouche’s April 17 initiative, and of the reality “on the ground,” was also visible. A spate of articles appeared in the establishment press calling for the dumping of Iraqi Governing Council boss Ahmed Chalabi—known as the author of “de-Baathification”; the rehabilitation of viable Baathist nationalists; and pulling U.S. troops out. Retired U.S. Army Gen. William Odom, in the *Wall Street Journal* April 28, called for withdrawing American troops as soon as possible, so as to avoid regional destabilization, prevent the total international isolation of the United States, and protect its security and economic interests. “We have failed,” Odom declared. “The issue is how high a price we’re going to pay—less, by getting out sooner, or more, by getting out later?”

The American military and its dwindling allies in Iraq

are facing a situation where they are damned if they do and damned if they don’t. In the two strategically crucial battles of Fallujah, in the Sunni Triangle, and Najaf, one of the Shi’ite holy cities, U.S. forces are unwilling to tolerate Iraqi resistance control, but unable to seize control themselves. After days of tough talk by Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmit, U.S. marines attacked Fallujah on the night of April 25-26, attempting to enter the city under the cover of massive aerial bombardments. But after four days of such attacks, the U.S. forces announced on April 29 a “withdrawal” from Fallujah to positions outside the city, and plans to send in units of the “new Iraqi army” to try to get control. But on the same day, contrary reports appeared that large numbers of American tanks were being shipped quickly to Iraq, and further troop deployments were on the agenda.

Any Anglo-American Coalition decision to try to take Fallujah at all costs, would mean destroying the city and liquidating its population. Kimmit’s threats were backed up by statements from President Bush himself, who said everything necessary would be deployed to take the city. UN Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who had criticized the assault on Fallujah earlier in April, appeared on American television on April 25, after the new siege began, and called it collective punishment. “When you surround a city, bomb a city, when people cannot go to hospital, what name do you have for that? And if you have enemies there, this is exactly what they want you to do, to alienate more people, so that more people support them, rather than you.”

Conflict around Najaf escalated at the same time. Warnings proliferated against invading the city and harming the holy shrine of Ali. Brahimi warned of disaster in the event of a military attack on Najaf. “This is a city with a lot of history. . . . Sending the tanks hauling into a place like this is not the right thing to do, and I think the Americans know that

extremely well.” Every leading figure of neighboring Iran has issued similar warnings—most recently, President Mohammed Khatami. As one diplomat from the region told *EIR*, the U.S. forces have no understanding of the Shi’ite mentality. Among Americans, a soldier killed tends to increase public opinion’s criticism of the war. But for Shi’ite Muslims especially, one dead mobilizes ten more to join the fight, beginning with the immediate members of his family.

Regarding the Coalition’s planned transfer of “limited sovereignty” to “the Iraqis” on June 30, the occupying powers find themselves in a similar dilemma. As a result of international pressure—epitomized by those coalition partners who have voted against the occupation with the feet of their departing troops—the United States has been forced to seek help from the UN. Thus, the mission of Brahimi, which has yielded a preliminary approach to setting up an interim government. In a statement to the Security Council on April 27, Brahimi said he would quickly resume talks with Iraqis to reach agreement by the end of May, on the composition of an interim Iraqi government to take over on June 30. This “Caretaker Government” would lead Iraq until elections, scheduled for January 2005.

In Brahimi’s view, the Caretaker Government, selected by the Iraqi people, would be led by a Prime Minister; a President would serve as Head of State, with two Vice-Presidents. Its “sole purpose will be to tend to the day-to-day administration” of Iraq, and it should “refrain . . . from entering into long-term commitments,” he said. Brahimi also suggested the establishment of a Consultative Assembly or Council, a representative body which would advise this government. He floated the idea of convening a National Conference, consisting of at least 1,000 people, in July, to “engage in a genuine national dialogue” on Iraq’s challenges. “In our view,” he said, “the Conference should be convened not by the UN or any other external body, but by an Iraqi Preparatory Committee, which should be established as soon as possible.” The Conference would discuss the security situation, the forthcoming elections, and the Transitional Administrative Law. The National Conference “will appoint a Consultative Council, which will be available to provide advice to the Government,” added Brahimi. “The Council would conduct plenary debates to convey the preoccupations of the people to the Government, and it would form Committees, which would receive reports from Ministers.”

Brahimi’s approach is better than anything proposed by Paul Bremer or Washington; however, it is still full of snags. Who are “the Iraqi people” who are to choose the government? Without elections, the choice will not be legitimate; this has been stated categorically by Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani, the highest Shi’ite authority. Then, is it to be sovereign? Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the U.S. Senate on April 23 that the sovereignty of the government Brahimi was trying to organize, would be strictly limited by the Coalition. Sen. Chuck Hagel (R.-Neb.) asked U.S. Am-



*The LaRouche Doctrine, an immediate exit strategy for U.S. Coalition forces from Iraq which can build stability in the region, is being debated throughout Southwest Asia. Dr. Ahmed al-Kubaisi (left, being interviewed) is a respected Iraqi Sunni scholar and political leader who endorsed the LaRouche Doctrine on April 27.*

bassador-nominee John Negroponte on April 27: What powers should the interim government have? “If a country doesn’t have the sovereignty to make national security decisions for itself, and military commitments, then I’m not sure I would define it as a sovereign government.”

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says the new government should sign a status agreement with the United States, allowing the American military to stay on indefinitely and protect Iraq. But how can an Iraqi government legally sign such an agreement if it is neither democratically elected nor sovereign? The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, illegal and unjustified under international law, cannot be “legalized” by such maneuvers. The longer the disastrous occupation continues, the worse will military, as well as political-social-economic, conditions become. The United States must admit its wrongs, and hand over complete responsibility for a political settlement to the United Nations, the only authority recognized by international law to undertake such a task. As the LaRouche Doctrine makes clear, the U.S. military presence must be terminated, and responsibility for defense and security handed over to Iraqi institutions which are trained and qualified to do the job.

The international debate over his policy which LaRouche called for is in full swing. Leading Arab newspapers like *Al-Arab*, are publishing the LaRouche Doctrine; *Islam Online* ran a one-hour chat session with LaRouche on April 29, on his proposal and personal leadership. LaRouche’s interview with Hussein Askary is to be broadcast on major Arabic and Farsi television networks, and is being circulated internationally as a DVD. His international webcast on April 30 marked the time to transform the debate into U.S. policy.

# Former Diplomats Warn: Blair, Bush To Fail

by Mary and Mark Burdman

Fifty-two former ambassadors and other high-level former senior diplomatic officials of the United Kingdom, have written a harshly critical open letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair, to express their “deepening concern” about the policies Blair is following in “the Arab-Israeli problem,” and in Iraq, “in close co-operation with the United States.” The ambassadors warn that “there is no case for supporting policies which are doomed to failure.”

At the same time, leaders of the British military are also openly expressing their opposition to the way U.S. forces are running the war. On April 21, in a most unusual step, General Sir Michael Jackson, the Chief of General Staff, told the Commons Defence Committee: “We must be able to fight with the Americans. That does not mean we must be able to fight *as* the Americans. That the British approach to post-conflict [Iraq] is doctrinally different to the U.S., is a fact of life.”

In Parliament April 28, Blair defended the repeated heavy U.S. bombardments of Fallujah, claiming this was a matter of having to “fire back,” and that U.S. soldiers were not killing civilians. Blair had also given a joint press conference with President Bush in Washington April 16, to express his approval of the agreement by Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, to tear up the “Road Map” for peace. The former ambassadors then decided to write their open letter, deeming Blair’s move an “abandonment of principle.” Blair seems to have endorsed an agreement which is “one-sided and illegal, and which will cost yet more Israeli and Palestinian blood,” the ambassadors wrote.

“We feel the time has come to make our anxieties public, in the hope that they will be addressed in Parliament and will lead to a fundamental reassessment,” wrote the ambassadors April 26.

Efforts to play down the letter’s impact, did not wash. Blair’s own former foreign secretary Robin Cook wrote on April 28: “By the standards of diplomatic communiques, [the] statement is off the Richter scale.”

A day earlier, Sir Crispin Tickell, U.K. ambassador to the UN during the 1990 first anti-Iraq war, wrote a second open letter, saying that he had “never seen such a level of worry and despair among those who have been involved in the diplomatic field, ever before.” It took organizer Oliver Miles, a former ambassador to Libya, only two days to get the signatures, Tickell wrote. “If this continues all we can look forward

to is unending war.”

The letter’s signers include former ambassadors to Iraq, Israel, Russia, Greece, and the United Nations, former High Commissioners to Commonwealth nations, governors, and senior international officials.

“Worse was to come,” in the “new” Bush-Sharon policies. Their dismay, the former officials wrote, was heightened by Blair’s “abandonment of principle, . . . at a time when rightly or wrongly, we are portrayed throughout the Arab and Muslim world as partners in an illegal and brutal occupation in Iraq.”

“All those with experience of the area predicted that the occupation of Iraq by the Coalition forces would meet serious and stubborn resistance. . . . The military actions of the Coalition forces must be guided by political objectives and by the requirements of the Iraq theatre itself, not by criteria remote from them,” the ambassadors wrote.

Britain has an interest to work “as closely as possible with the United States,” they wrote, and “in exerting real influence as a loyal ally.” Yet, the former officials conclude, “If [exerting such influence] is unacceptable or unwelcome, there is no case for supporting policies which are doomed to failure.”

In addition, some 108 Members of Parliament have signed a motion by Richard Burden, chairman of the All Party Britain-Palestine Parliamentary Group, which expresses “strong concerns” about George Bush’s support for Ariel Sharon.

## Broad Opposition to Blair

The British military is getting more worried as the bloody U.S. tactics in Fallujah and elsewhere are only increasing the Iraqi opposition. The U.S.-led “coalition” is weakening as Spanish and other troops withdraw, and it is clear Britain will be under heavy pressure to send in more soldiers, as Foreign Secretary Jack Straw acknowledged on BBC radio April 22. More troops, “are said to be at an advanced stage.” There are now some 7,700 British servicemen in Iraq, and another 1,100 in the region, and some 1,700 could be sent in.

Richard Norton-Taylor, *The Guardian*’s security affairs editor, wrote on April 20 that the British in Iraq are “accomplices in the quagmire,” and this is causing “deep unease” in Whitehall. There is “no sign” of Blair’s supposed “decisive influence” on the Bush Administration.

Another indication of growing unease in London, was the appearance April 24 of a nasty article on the figure termed “the White House Svengali”—Vice President Dick Cheney. “To measure the influence Dick Cheney wields within the White House, it is worth asking whether the United States would have gone to war in Iraq if he had not been Vice-President,” wrote journalist Roland Watson.

“Would there have been war without him? Mr Cheney was undoubtedly one of the two people central to the construction and execution of Mr Bush’s case, without whose support the President would have found it much harder to go to war. The other was Tony Blair.”

# Turmoil On Southwest Asia's Northeast Flank

by Rachel Douglas

Southwest Asia is to be recognized as bounded by four principal states, whose appropriate cooperation is indispensable for creating a zone of stability among the nations and peoples of the region as a whole. These are Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Egypt. The security of the northeast corner of the region so defined, depends on protecting its flank, by ensuring non-interference from outside interests, that by the exclusion of meddling outside parties from intrusion into current discussions on cooperation among Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran.

—Lyndon LaRouche, in “Southwest Asia: The LaRouche Doctrine” (EIR, April 30).

LaRouche put a point on the matter in his April 24 interview with Hussein Askary (page 6): “If someone is to destabilize Transcaucasia, including the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia and Iran, then you could not possibly maintain a secure Middle East security policy.”

## Who Meddles, and How

The three nation-states of the Transcaucasus are Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia; these republics in the Soviet Union became independent in 1991. Armenia and Georgia are ancient nations, with independent Christian churches dating to the 4th Century. Azerbaijan, on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, is inhabited by traditionally Shi'ite Muslim Azeris, who also populate northern Iran. Georgia and Azerbaijan border on the Russian North Caucasus (including Chechnya); Azerbaijan and Armenia border on Iran; Armenia and Georgia have borders with Turkey; and Georgia has a coastline on the Black Sea. Armenia and Azerbaijan went to war in the 1990s over Nagorno-Karabakh, a traditionally Armenian district (but also containing places of importance in Azeri culture), assigned to Azerbaijan by the Soviets. Karabakh is now controlled by Armenia, but without a lasting juridical settlement of the territorial dispute. (See map, page 9).

In 2003, the leadership of Azerbaijan and Georgia changed. The long-time Soviet intelligence operative and President of Azerbaijan, Heidar Aliyev, died, but not before promoting his son, Ilham Aliyev, to the Presidency in a tightly controlled election process. In Georgia, ex-Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia since the early 1990s, was overthrown in the so-called “Roses Revolution” by Michael Saakashvili, a graduate of Columbia University Law School, and recipient of substantial monies from

the Open Society Institute of George Soros (see Roman Besonov, “Georgia: Soros, Stalin, and a Gallon of Wine,” *EIR*, Dec. 5, 2003).

This Spring, Armenian President Robert Kocharian faces a serious challenge to his power from an alliance of opposition parties, who charge him with corruption and vote-stealing in the Presidential election of 2003. A large opposition demonstration in Yerevan was ended by force on April 13, but anti-Kocharian marches of thousands of people resumed after that.

The patterns of foreign involvement in Transcaucasia, including the explosive “meddling” of which LaRouche warns, are several. Russia, of course, has a long and special relationship with each of these southern neighbors, dating from the Soviet period and earlier. When the typical “clan” mode of doing business and politics in the Transcaucasus intersects the interests, including criminal economic ones, of Russia's *nouveaux riches* and their foreign partners, the result can be an aggravation of clan warfare and further immiseration of the population.

But the greater part of dangerous meddling comes from the West, in the form of: 1) courtship of, especially, Georgia and Azerbaijan into military training, basing of NATO forces, and other other relations that Moscow views as potentially adversarial; 2) economic exploitation, such as looting by international energy-finance sharks involved in privatizing the area's power grids, and the petroleum multinationals' drive to control the export of Caspian Sea oil through Azerbaijan and Georgia (the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline); 3) political destabilizations under the banner of promoting “democratization,” which often coincide with the indicated military-strategic and economic priorities of Western government or private interests. The measuring rod of “how far along the transition to a democratic system these countries are” is used constantly by U.S. government-funded think-tank analysts, but is worse than irrelevant to the betterment of conditions for people in the region, or its stability.

## The North-South Corridor

The special relations of the late Heidar Aliyev's Soviet-era intelligence circles with British SIS had a visible impact on the foreign and economic policy postures of Azerbaijan in the 1990s. In particular, British Petroleum has shaped decisions taken on Baku oil throughout the post-Soviet period. Meanwhile, during the Azerbaijan-Armenia armed conflict over Karabakh, Armenia drew closer to Iran, seeking a friend in its large southern neighbor, through diplomacy and trade.

In recent months, however, the younger Aliyev has taken steps to chart a more independent policy. Especially dramatic are his government's contacts with Iran. When Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh visited Baku in January, for example, his discussions with President Aliyev and others focussed on the North-South Eurasian Transport Corridor, a project initiated by Russia, Iran, and India. Its route currently runs through Iran by rail, then transport by boat across the Caspian to Russian ports. If Azerbaijan and other

Transcaucasus countries became involved, this would become the kind of mutual-interest economic endeavor promoted in “Southwest Asia: The LaRouche Doctrine.” Moreover, Azerbaijan and Iran began attempts to reconcile their positions on sovereignty over the Caspian Sea and its sea-floor resources; as two out of the five Caspian littoral countries, they have been on opposite sides of the years-long, stalled negotiations over its status. And, the two sides discussed ways to un-deadlock the Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute over Karabakh.

On April 28, Presidents Kocharian and Aliyev met in Warsaw, where they were attending the European Economic Summit, to discuss approaches to further negotiations on Karabakh. But Kocharian remains preoccupied with the street demonstrations against him, which he denounced on April 25 as “treason.” Talks between the regime and opposition coalition leaders broke off on April 27. Council of Europe Secretary-General Walter Schwimmer then proposed, that the CoE come in to sponsor such talks. The Armenian weekly *Iravunk* reports that Kocharian’s Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly have publicly threatened to join the opposition camp.

The “Roses Revolution” has been cited as an exemplary “velvet,” or non-violent, regime change—a model to be followed in Armenia and, perhaps, Ukraine. But Georgia has not stabilized under Saakashvili. The new President has under-

taken balanced diplomacy with the great powers, visiting both Moscow and Washington since his inauguration. At the same time, he is viewed as a dangerous hothead even by some other members of his coalition. In particular, Saakashvili has been in confrontations with Aslan Abashidze, leader of the autonomous republic of Ajaria, who continues to insist that last year’s election victory by Saakashvili’s National Movement was fraudulent.

### Turkey’s Treaty Commitment

Earlier this year the showdown between them led to a blockade of the Black Sea port of Batumi, Ajaria’s capital, and armed conflict loomed. Russian mediation, by Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and shadowy businessman Grigori Luchansky, and the Foreign Ministry, cooled it out for now. However, Ajaria’s Parliament declared a state of emergency on April 24, in response to a Georgian national Parliament resolution that called for disarming the militias in Ajaria. Saakashvili said that his regime would “not allow the country to be disintegrated,” addressing a parade of Georgian troops who had just finished a U.S. military training program.

Ajaria’s autonomous status within Georgia was enshrined in the 1921 Treaty of Kars between Turkey and Russia, which gave Ajaria to Russia, but reserved for Turkey the right of intervention, should that autonomy be threatened. Turkish officials have cited that clause several times in recent weeks.

## Georgians Tell EIR: ‘LaRouche Concept’ Is Needed

*Three politically active Georgian intellectuals spoke with EIR in February 2004 at the Academy of National and Social Relations, in Tbilisi. Prof. Grigori Zhvania, Prof. Vakhtang Gogvadze and Valeri Kvaratskhelia, editor of Kalkhi (The People) magazine and former press secretary for ex-President Eduard Shevardnadze, are officers of the Academy. The interview was conducted by Dr. Vladimir Kilasonia, Schiller Institute representative in Georgia.*

**Dr. Kilasonia:** Mr. Gogvadze, as chairman of the Georgian-Russian Friendship Society and former Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia (1992-1995), how do you assess current relations between Georgia and Russia?

**Prof. Gogvadze:** Why hide the truth? I have dedicated the Society to something that doesn’t exist, insofar as there has been no real friendship between Russia and Georgia for the past ten years. Such aggravated, tense relations between our fraternal peoples have not been seen before in history. This is the doing of American politicians, who have driven a wedge between our countries. This unnatural state of affairs will pass. So, the Georgian-Russian

Friendship Society exists for the near-term future. In the meantime, we are preparing the ideological basis for the spiritual rebirth and development of our ties. The key to saving Georgia is in the global interests of the United States and Russia, just as, 400 years ago, our fate was determined by relations among the [Turkish] sultan, the [Persian] shah and the Kalmyks, on the one side, and Russia on the other.

**Prof. Zhvania:** We are planning a conference at our Academy, on the theme of “The Role of Russia and the USA in Deciding Georgia’s Fateful Problems.” In this connection, the concept of my young friend (seven years younger than I am) Lyndon LaRouche will serve as a positive, constructive element. Our American friend Lyndon LaRouche should know that he is loved and highly valued in Georgia! And if the American people were to follow LaRouche’s concept, America would gain, as would our little Georgia, and the entire world.

**Kilasonia:** Mr. Kvaratskhelia, your popular newspaper *2000* has disseminated and popularized Mr. LaRouche’s ideas. We appreciate this.

**Valeri Kvaratskhelia:** Thank you for the “thank you,” but, to tell you the truth, we are more grateful to *him*, since such people ennoble the impression one has about a country. If it were not for Americans of the quality of this humanist, we would be infected with Americanophobia.

# Australian LaRouche Forces Battle Against a Synarchist Police State

by Allen Douglas

The Liberal Party government of Prime Minister John Howard has in recent years transformed Australia, juridically, into a near-replica of Nazi Germany. Police state laws have been passed, of a magnitude and at a tempo far surpassing any nominal concern with “terrorism,” while dissidents in the nation’s intelligence agencies have been purged. Concentration camps in the desert have been established—although only illegal immigrants have thus far been interned—and police have carried out dead-of-night raids against members of the nation’s substantial Muslim population. A climate of fear is setting in, resembling the “Red Scares” era in the United States of the late 1940s and early 1950s, under synarchist puppet President Harry S Truman. The near-term target of this apparatus are the associates of Lyndon LaRouche in the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), Australia’s fastest-growing political party.

At the apex of this police state sits Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II, who is also head of state of Australia. An arm of her ruling Privy Council—the Anti-Defamation Commission of B’nai B’rith of Australia (ADC)—has repeatedly called for the CEC to be banned from Federal politics. On March 4, with no forenotice and no debate, Australia’s Parliament granted Attorney General Philip Ruddock the power to do just that, by allowing him to ban any organization, solely at his own discretion.

ADC Chairman Sir Zelman Cowen has led the charge to ban the CEC. He is a senior Privy Councillor (as are two of his ADC colleagues). He is also a former Governor-General (which personage wields the Queen’s unbridled powers as Australian head of state), and supposedly a world expert in “constitutional law.” As Cowen’s writings reveal, he is a bitter enemy of the U.S. republican political system, specifically the institution of the Presidency. Like the rest of Her Majesty’s Privy Council, he also hates and fears today’s exemplar of that system, U.S. Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The CEC led the resistance to the police state laws over the past few years, forcing the worst of them to be revised or held up, until the country’s other “major” party, the Australian Labor Party (ALP), recently caved in and endorsed them under its new leader, Mont Pelerin Society asset Mark Latham.

But in mid-April the CEC unleashed a new flank in this battle: a 50-page special report, “Defeat the Synarchists-Fight



*With new, draconian “emergency powers” laws being demanded regularly by the Howard government and passed by Parliament, Sir Zelman Cowen, chairman of the Anti-Defamation Commission and a senior member of Her Majesty’s Privy Council, has demanded the use of these powers to ban LaRouche’s Citizens Electoral Council.*

for a National Bank.” The report is the lead of the CEC’s April 2004 *New Citizen* newspaper, printed in 125,000 copies. It “names the names” of those pushing fascism in Australia today, as well as in the 1930s, and their international synarchist sponsors. Based upon archival records and other original research, the report documents how the corporations and financiers who founded Howard’s Liberal Party in the early 1940s, had a decade earlier financed mass fascist armies who intended to seize power if necessary, to stop the old, pro-national banking ALP from organizing an FDR-style economic recovery. Moreover, the report shows, some of the same corporations and families—such as that of synarchist press baron Rupert Murdoch—who sponsored fascism in the 1930s, are sponsoring the push for fascism today, through the local arms of the Crown’s Mont Pelerin Society, which own the leaders of both the Liberal and Labor parties.

This history is almost completely unknown in Australia. The circulation of an initial 125,000 copies, in a nation of only 20,000,000, launched an election campaign in which the CEC is running over 90 candidates nationwide for Federal parliament. It is bound to cause an uproar.

The paper is dedicated to Dr. Jim Cairns, one of the most courageous leaders of the “old Labor Party” (the ALP before its takeover by the Mont Pelerin Society). Cairns was Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer in the 1972-75 government of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. The Queen sacked that government, through her Governor General. She acted to stop



*Australia's future—members of the Australian LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Melbourne in March. The Citizens Electoral Council and the LYM are the fastest-growing political movement in Australia. LaRouche is a named enemy of the Queen's Privy Council, which has used its powers to outlaw movements and even to dismiss Australian Federal or state governments whose policies it feared.*

Whitlam, Cairns, and their associates from “buying back the farm” from Her Majesty’s minerals cartel (she is the largest private shareholder in Rio Tinto Zinc, for instance), and from directing credit to develop the vast continent as Whitlam intended.

Decades later, Cairns collaborated closely with the CEC in the fight against the fascist police state laws, until his death last October.

### **Laws Against Liberty and Law and Order**

The full catalogue of the new police state laws fills an entire page of the *New Citizen*. In addition to the banning power noted above, those laws allow:

- The Australian armed forces to shoot and kill Australian citizens, and declare martial law almost at will;
- Australia’s FBI, the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), to pick up people as young as 16, and hold them incommunicado for seven days (in some cases, indefinitely). Detainees will have no right to remain silent, or they may be sentenced to jail for 5 years. The onus is on those detained to prove that they are *not* guilty—a reversal of the most basic principle of law. *Anyone* may be picked up, not just those suspected of having committed, or planning to commit a terrorist act.
  - an extraordinary range of wire-tapping and espionage against Australian citizens, unthinkable even three years ago.
  - the arrest and fining of individuals for vaguely-defined “thought crimes” under the rubric of “racial vilification.” This is already having a chilling effect on political debate.

These are only a few highlights, and they are only the beginning. With each new terror bombing anywhere in the world, Howard’s government announces the urgent need for more legislation. After having passed what the media, and even a parliamentary committee led by Howard’s own party, called “the most draconian laws in Australian history,” Attorney General Ruddock used the March 11 Madrid train bombings as the pretext to propose still another law, to ban “consorting with terrorists,” under which “Police would have greatly increased powers to arrest suspected terrorists,” as reported in the *Herald Sun* the next day.

Further proposed laws followed in rapid succession. On March 17, Ruddock announced a draconian limitation of freedom of speech, under the guise of “uniform defamation laws.” Among other things, these would allow families to sue on behalf of deceased relatives; its purpose is clearly to stop the sort of research the CEC has just released. On March 23, he announced plans

to grant the police (in addition to ASIO) powers to bug and surveil people without warrants, and to detain people for 24 hours (up from the present four hours). On March 25, he proposed laws to intern “suspected foreign terrorists” indefinitely, without trial, Guantanamo Bay-style.

In an address to a Feb. 19, 2004 session of parliament, Ruddock proclaimed the new philosophy behind the Howard government’s “war on terrorism”: “The conventional criminal law/due process model [innocent until proven guilty, the right to a fair trial, etc.] is not only inadequate, but inappropriate.” Echoing U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, Ruddock raved, “Dealing with terrorists and the terrorist threat requires pre-emption and deterrence; our approach must be preventative as well as punitive. This approach of course, *flies in the face of a conventional law and order/prosecute and punish approach.*” (Emphasis added.)

In addition to the CEC, a few hardy souls have spoken out against the burgeoning police state. Australian Council of Civil Liberties president Terry O’Gorman told the *New Zealand Herald* of March 27, in an article entitled “Fear threatens freedom in Australia,” that “Laws are being progressively extended in a quite radical way that no other country is doing. Civil liberties as a result are being taken away.” State of New South Wales Council of Civil Liberties president Cameron Murphy told the *Herald* that the powers recently given to ASIO allowed it to operate “like the old Soviet KGB,” with powers beyond those of the U.S. FBI and Britain’s MI5; and that “These powers are absolutely the worst in Australia’s history in terms of allowing the violation of

people's basic rights and liberties." In fact, the Howard government's own Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission charged that ASIO's new powers were clearly in breach of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. "In fact," a Commission submission to parliament charged, "the powers in the ASIO bill are considerably wider than one would consider were necessary and appropriate for the gathering of intelligence with respect to a terrorist attack that may occur in Australia."

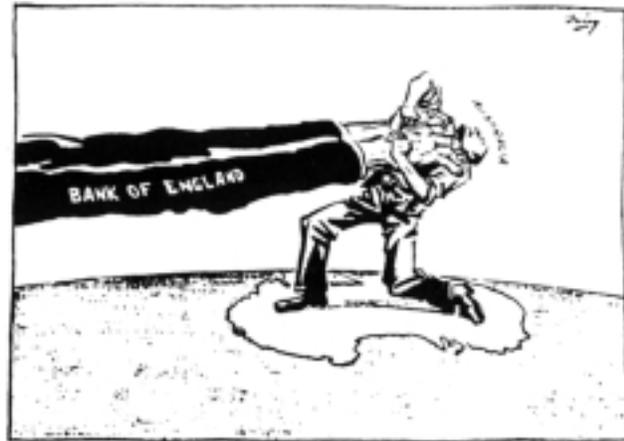
Indeed, even elements of the major Australian media have voiced concern, both at the legislation, and at the alarming fact that almost no one (except the CEC, which the media usually chooses to black out) is fighting it. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of April 13 noted, "Since 2001 the Federal Government has introduced 17 pieces of legislation which have restricted civil freedoms. In each case the reason has been to enhance the state's powers in the cause of fighting terrorism. Much of this legislation has passed unhindered except for some temporary resistance from minor parties in the Senate. . . . But who within the two major Australian political parties is raising his or her voice about the importance of balancing the perceived need for more draconian measures with the equally important preservation of civil liberties?" The Liberal Party has been cowed into silence, the paper observed, and "The Labor Left, the traditional campaigner against too much police power, is also strangely quiet." Referring to the fear already spreading in the country, the paper concludes, "The present climate makes it harder for liberal voices to be raised . . . but they must be."

### Purging the Intelligence Agencies

Like the U.S. Cheney-acs and the Blair mafia in the U.K., Australia's PM John Howard and his associates have not hesitated to lie, to bring Australia into lockstep with the Anglo-Americans in war and police-state policies. Nor have Howard and his gang hesitated to swing an iron fist when their lies have been exposed, as in three recent cases involving high-ranking figures in Australia's intelligence services.

The first was Andrew Wilkie, a former analyst at the Office of National Assessments (ONA), the nation's senior spy agency, which coordinates the intelligence from all other agencies to provide assessments directly to the prime minister. Wilkie charged last August that the government deliberately lied about Iraq's alleged WMD in order to "stay in step with Washington." After pointing out numerous examples of how words such as "perhaps" or "probable" were replaced by Howard's minions with "massive" or "mammoth," Wilkie charged, "Sometimes the exaggeration was so great it was clear dishonesty. I will go so far as to say the material was going straight from ONA to the Prime Minister's Office and the exaggeration was occurring in there. . . . The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, in particular, have a lot to answer for."

Wilkie was driven from the ONA, and the Howard gov-



A 1930 Labor Daily cartoon. The old, pro-national banking Australian Labor Party called its London-centered Synarchist enemy the "Money Power."

ernment mounted a vicious campaign, branding him "hysterical" and a "malcontent." Howard even claimed, ludicrously, that Wilkie "had virtually no access to the relevant intelligence."

Two similar cases have just broken. Lt. Col. Lance Collins, the Australian military's top intelligence officer in East Timor and a highly-respected figure, charged that Australia's intelligence system had failed not only in the Iraq WMD fiasco, but in a number of other cases going back a decade. The government's response was to charge him with leaking sensitive material. Collins' allegations were examined in an official Redress of Grievance (ROG) claim conducted by Capt. Martin Toohey, who found that they had "considerable veracity" and brought to mind "shades of the recent Dr. Kelly scandal in the United Kingdom and the Wilkie departure from ONA." Toohey charged that the Defence Intelligence Organization "distorts intelligence estimates to the extent those estimates are heavily driven by government policy. . . . In order words, DIO reports what the government wants to hear."

The government then released another report attempting to discredit Toohey, a move which he called "despicable and duplicitous." He joined Collins in his call for a Royal Commission (an inquiry with the widest powers) into the "putrefaction" of Australian intelligence, which Howard flatly rejected.

Collins' claims were also buttressed by Maj. Gen. Mike Smith, Australia's former deputy force commander in East Timor. The *Melbourne Age* of April 24 reported that Smith "said the spy agencies had been influenced by Government pressure, and that military personnel feared their careers would suffer if they gave frank and fearless advice."

Almost simultaneously with Collins' claims, a senior adviser to Australia's former Chief Defence Scientist Dr. Ian Chessell, the head of the Australian contingent in Hans Blix's



*Jim Cairns, who in recent years allied with LaRouche's CEC against the Howard government's drive for Hitler-style legislation. Three decades ago, Cairns was Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer in the pro-development Labor government of Gough Whitlam. Whitlam's government was peremptorily dismissed by the Queen through her Privy Council in 1972.*

WMD inspection team in Iraq, charged that she was sacked because she, too, disagreed with cooking the intelligence. Jane Errey said she refused to write briefings that claimed that Iraq had WMD. Errey was an engineer and analyst who had worked at the Department of Defence for nine years. She said "I felt like I was part of the propaganda machine. As a public servant I shouldn't be expected to write propaganda. . . . Anything that I was doing with respect to the war was making me uncomfortable. Then to have to brief the minister and fundamentally give him—even though I didn't write it—lines of propaganda that I didn't believe with respect to the war, was beyond what I was prepared to do. I wouldn't lie or mislead the public."

Wilkie, Collins, Toohey, and Errey have stuck to their guns (if not all to their jobs) under intense pressure from the government. The connection between the Goebbels-style "Big Lie" on intelligence matters and the fascist police state laws being passed, was acknowledged by Wilkie in a speech titled "The Lies of War and Australian Democracy" on April 22 in Melbourne to a 400-person audience. There, Wilkie, like Collins and Toohey, called for a Royal Commission into how intelligence was "politicized" by the Howard government to justify the Iraq war. In response to a question from a

member of the Australian LaRouche Youth Movement on the police state implications of the government's actions, Wilkie understatedly replied, "Slowly but surely, we are going into a police state. A little law here, a little change there; before you know it, you've arrived at a police state; and I don't think Australians see it coming. But it is coming slowly but surely."

### **The Struggle for Sovereignty**

In order to understand both the fascist coup-in-progress today, and the motives which in the 1930s drove the London-centered Synarchy to sponsor mass fascist armies in Australia, a brief look at the early history of Australia is indispensable. A more elaborated picture is contained in the above-cited *New Citizen* special report.

Britain colonized Australia in the wake of the most momentous event of the past 250 years—the American Revolution of 1776-1789. The British "First Fleet" arrived in Australia in 1788. That fleet and others to follow, bore mainly human cargo—some of the desperately poor of the British Isles who had been convicted for stealing food to survive, some common criminals, and, most importantly, many Irish, English, or Scots who had become infected with the "American virus," those who had formed study groups to read Tom Paine's *The Rights of Man*, for instance, of which a staggering million were sold in Britain. In the wake of Ireland's Great Rebellion of 1798 against Britain's tyrannical rule, political prisoners by the boatloads were dumped in Australia. By the 1840s-1850s, the great Australian republican, Rev. John Dunmore Lang, called upon his countrymen to establish a "United States of Australia," modeled almost precisely on the American republican Presidential system. Fearing Lang's enormous popularity, the British foisted the fraud of "responsible government" upon Australia—a typical Anglo-Dutch parliamentary system where real power is held by the financiers.

In the wake of the U.S. Civil War, a second wave of U.S.-inspired republican nationalism swept Australia, embodied particularly in its nascent labor movement. That movement's party took the American, as opposed to British spelling of "labor" to signify its aspirations, as the Australian Labor Party (ALP). Although Australia was cheated out of a republic and given "Federation under the Crown" in 1901, the battle for national sovereignty continued in the fight for a national bank, under the extraordinary leadership of American immigrant King O'Malley. In a 1909 speech motivating a national bank, O'Malley said that "We are legislating for the countless multitudes of future generations. We are in favour of protecting, not only the manufacturer, but also the man who works for him. We wish to protect the oppressed and downtrodden of the earth." He also proclaimed the inspiration for his noble scheme: "I am the [Alexander] Hamilton of Australia. He was the greatest financial man who ever walked the earth, and his plans have never been improved upon. The American experience should determine us to establish a national banking system which cannot be attacked."

O'Malley organized a majority of the young ALP in the Federal parliament in 1911 to adopt a national bank, which soon became law as the Commonwealth Bank. From that moment, through the Whitlam government's sacking of 1975, until today, the history of Australia has been a fight for who shall control the flow of credit—a national bank responsible to the people through parliament, or the Anglo-Dutch system of a privately-controlled “central bank.” It was to stop the ALP moves for a national bank in the early 1930s, that the Synarchy created fascist armies.

### **Labor Against the Synarchists**

After the death in 1923 of the patriot Denison Miller, O'Malley's hand-picked choice as the first head of the Commonwealth Bank, the City of London told the Anglophile Australian PM Stanley Melbourne Bruce that the bank's independence had to be ended, and the bank controlled by private financiers. And so Sir Robert Gibson, Bank of England governor Lord Montagu Norman's “man in Australia,” took over as its chairman.

In October 1929, the ALP Federal government of PM James Scullin came to power. Since the 1890s, Labor had had its own fairly effective understanding of the Synarchy, which it called the “Money Power.” Scullin Cabinet minister Frank Anstey, the mentor of Australia's legendary World War II Prime Minister John Curtin, described what the Scullin government was up against: “London is, so far, the web centre of international finance. In London are assembled the actual chiefs or the representatives of the great financial houses of the world. The Money Power is something more than Capitalism. These men constitute the Financial Oligarchy. No nation can be really free where this financial oligarchy is permitted to hold dominion, and no ‘democracy’ can be aught but a name that does not shake it from its throne.” Labor's enemy was, Anstey summarized, the “Black Masonic Plutocracy.”

Then, in October 1930, Labor took power in Australia's most populated state, New South Wales, under Premier Jack Lang. Lang, too, understood the international Synarchy. He described its plans for the world following the post-World War I Versailles Treaty: “Basically, it was a problem of banking. The Bank of England was to become the super Bankers' Bank. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was to be responsible for the local administration of Bank of England policy. It was to be the junior Bankers' Bank. The Bank of England took up the idea of Empire control most enthusiastically. It was even decided to aim at a World Bank, to be run by the League of Nations, which would direct the credit of the world. The grand idea was that one single Board of Directors would make the decisions which would determine the economic policy of the world. The bankers were to be the supreme rulers. Naturally, the Governor of the Bank of England expected to be at the apex of the system.”

In April 1930, the Scullin government introduced legislation to take control over the nation's credit, including taking

the Commonwealth Bank back from the synarchists, in order to finance major public infrastructure projects. The following year, NSW Premier Jack Lang declared a debt moratorium against the City of London, in order to feed the starving men, women, and children of his state. The synarchists went wild.

### **Menzies and the Fascist Armies**

As soon as Scullin came to power in 1929, Australia's major banks and corporations—almost all with intimate ties to London—sponsored the rise of mass “citizens' leagues,” as the civilian arms of more secretive fascist armies, which the banks and corporations also not only financed, but staffed with their own senior executives. There were three main fascist armies, each of which had at least 30,000 men: The Old Guard and the New Guard, both of which were based in NSW; and the League of National Security, based in Melbourne, Victoria, the headquarters of British finance. The Old Guard was financed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. (CSR), Australia's largest corporation, which also provided the Old Guard's CEO; and by Australia's oldest and largest bank, the Bank of New South Wales.

Whereas the Old and New Guards were state-based, the League of National Security planned to seized power nationally, if Labor could not be defeated otherwise. The nation's dominant financial power, the City of London-controlled and Melbourne-based Collins House group of the Baillieu family, provided the financial muscle (and some of its executives) for the League. All of these armies were fanatically pro-British.

The Scullin government was driven from power courtesy of “Red scares” orchestrated by the synarchist-owned media, led by the Baillieu/Collins House press dynasty, whose chief executive was Sir Keith Murdoch, father of Rupert Murdoch. Jack Lang was a tougher nut to crack. The fascist armies were only hours or days from marching on Sydney, capital of New South Wales, to drive Lang from office and seize power, an eventuality avoided only when King George V directed his NSW Governor, Sir Philip Game, to sack Lang. The head of the Old Guard, and the likely fascist ruler if the militias had seized power, was Sir Adrian Knox, son of the founder of CSR, former Chief Justice of the High Court, and Australia's ranking Privy Councillor.

A key figure in the early 1930s events was Melbourne lawyer Sir Robert Menzies. Menzies's personal finances were run by Sir Staniforth Ricketson, head of Australia's largest stock brokerage, and a puppet of Lord Glendyne of the House of Nivison in London, which floated all of Australia's government loans. At the height of the crisis around Scullin and Lang, Menzies proclaimed, regarding Scullin's and Lang's proposals to put “people before debt”: “If Australia were going to get through her troubles by abating or abandoning traditional British standards of honesty, of justice, of fair play, of resolute endeavour [i.e. changes in the credit system], it would be far better that every citizen within her boundaries should die of starvation within the next six months.”



*Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66, in his freemasonic regalia. The Synarchy promoted the Hitler-supporter Menzies to replace Churchill as British Prime Minister in 1940, in an attempt to ally Britain with Hitler.*

In 1935 and 1938, Menzies went to Nazi Germany for high-level meetings, and was guest of honor at a luncheon sponsored by Hitler's financial wizard, Hjalmar Schacht. In 1939, Menzies came to power when the incumbent prime minister and synarchist puppet "Honest Joe" Lyons died.

Menzies spent the first four months of 1941 out of Australia, most of the time in England, where he was a protagonist in an attempt to overthrow Churchill and replace him with an appeaser who would make a deal with Hitler. The plot was sponsored by City of London press magnate Lord Beaverbrook, whose two top choices to replace Churchill were former PM David Lloyd George, and Menzies himself. Lloyd George was a member of the pro-Nazi Cliveden Set of Lord and Lady Astor, which was intimately associated with the synarchist Lazard Frères banking house through Lady Astor's brother-in law, Lazard head Robert Brand. Brand and the Astors were also dominant figures in the pro-Hitler "Round Table" movement, many of whose Australian members were organizers of the citizens leagues and the fascist militias. Round Tabler Lloyd George enthusiastically boosted Hitler, and schemed constantly for a British deal with him. Menzies confided in his diary that he was willing to "abandon everything" and follow Lloyd George in his pro-Hitler schemes.

In 1944, as the *New Citizen* report documents, the same corporations and banks which had sponsored the early 1930s

fascist armies, founded the Liberal Party of Australia, the same which is pushing the fascist police state laws of today. Robert Menzies was their front man to run the new party.

## Postwar Fascism

The notorious appeaser Menzies and his party were replaced in 1941 by Labor, under Prime Minister John Curtin, a staunch opponent over the previous decade of the "Money Power." Curtin broke with Churchill's (and Menzies') plans to abandon Australia to the Japanese, and allied with President Roosevelt and U.S. General Douglas MacArthur to win the war in the Pacific, in which Australia played a crucial role through its expanding economy, its own fighting forces, and as a base from which MacArthur mounted his "island-hopping" counteroffensive in the Pacific.

Curtin died in July 1945, not long after his ally FDR. He was replaced by his treasurer, another staunch pro-national banking old Labor man, Ben Chifley. Curtin and Chifley had taken control of the nation's credit, and directed it to win the war, transforming a largely agricultural country into an industrial power almost overnight.

Chifley planned to continue directing credit for the common good. As Prime Minister, he oversaw the passage of legislation to re-establish a national bank, and to make the wartime credit controls permanent. He said in a speech tabling the legislation: "The intention of this legislation is to ensure that the banking system of this country shall work in the interests of the people as a whole. It has been planned in such a way as to ensure that final authority over the monetary policy of the country, shall rest with the government, which is responsible to the Parliament and to the people. No longer shall we leave control of the monetary system of this country in the hands of people with no special training, whose interests are personal and material and are associated with 'big business.' "

Chifley's legislation was overturned by the Privy Council in London. He moved to outflank that corrupt action by declaring the nationalization of all of Australia's banks.

The synarchists responded as they had to Scullin and Lang: They founded a 100,000 person fascist army in 1948, "The Association," as a regroupment of the Old Guard, the New Guard and the League of National Security. The Association was prepared to seize power if Chifley's nationalization were not overturned, or if he were not driven from power. With the aid of another hysterical "Red scare" press campaign and an appeal to populist fears that "Labor will steal your money" through nationalized banking, Chifley was driven from power in 1949, and replaced by Robert Menzies. Menzies immediately moved to establish concentration camps for his political enemies, under the powers of his "Communist Party Dissolution Bill." That bill was defeated in a national referendum. Menzies also called for a pre-emptive nuclear war against the Soviet Union, as did other leading synarchists of the era such as Lord Bertrand Russell.

Menzies ruled Australia until 1966. In 1972, Gough



*Eric Campbell, head of Australia's 1930s fascist New Guard. Current Prime Minister John Howard's father was probably a member, and some of the same corporations and banks which the New Guard it are behind the drive for a police state today. Inset: A member of the inner core of the 1930s New Guard, the Fascist Legion.*

Whitlam and the ALP came to power with plans to take back control of the country's mineral wealth from the private cartels, and to go outside the New York/City of London financial cartel to borrow billions of Arab petrodollars to develop a huge infrastructure grid for the continent. The key figure in those plans was Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister Jim Cairns, a dedicated opponent of what Cairns himself called the "Money Power."

In a June 2003 interview with the *New Citizen*, reprinted in its April 2004 issue, Cairns emphasized that "A national bank is of very great importance, the greatest of the institutions in the country." Asked to comment on the Privy Council's overturning of Chifley's national banking plans, he replied, "I think it destroyed the soul of the Labor Party, really, after Chifley. It was very important to the Labor Party, and the action of the Privy Council took away the meaning, the real meaning of Labor policy."

After the Queen sacked Whitlam in 1975, the Mont Pelerin Society took over the Labor Party, and purged any of the pro-development elements remaining in the Liberal Party, as documented in the *New Citizen* report. The key corporate and banking figures in this "Mont Pelerin Revolution," were some of the same ones—such as three Collins House progeny, the Western Mining Company, Rio Tinto, and ANZ bank—whose predecessors had supported the citi-

zens leagues/mass fascist armies in the 1930s. Some of the families were even the same. There was S. Baillieu Myer, of the Collins House Baillieu family which had intermarried with the Myer family of the great retail house, Myers, whose family had sponsored the 1930s fascist citizens leagues. And there was Rupert Murdoch, son of Baillieu protégé Sir Keith Murdoch, and himself a protégé in 1950s London of the fascist Lord Beaverbrook.

Some have asked whether current PM John Howard does not personally represent this continuity. Howard's family were rabid anglophiles (his middle name is "Winston," after Curtin's enemy), and his father Lyall, as a "returned serviceman" (WWI veteran) was of the age, the outlook and the social milieu to have been a member of Sydney's Old Guard, or its spin-off, the New Guard. He was bitterly anti-Lang, worked for the Old Guard-sponsoring Colonial Sugar Refining Co. most of his life, and came from an area of Sydney where the New Guard was particularly strong. His mortgage was held by James Macarthur Onslow, of one of Australia's leading oligarchical families, whose brother was a leader of the Old Guard. Most telling, another of Lyall Howard's sons, aca-

ademic Dr. Bob Howard, thinks that his father most likely was a New Guardsman.

### **The Return of National Banking: LaRouche's CEC**

The fierce national banking tradition which was the soul of old Labor is embodied today by LaRouche's associates in the CEC. In 1994, after extensive discussions with LaRouche, the CEC drafted a ready-to-enact bill for a new "Commonwealth National Credit Bank." With the circulation of millions of copies of this bill and related plans for great infrastructure projects for Australia, the CEC's influence exploded, particularly in the volatile rural sector. The Establishment was forced to create a populist countergang, the One Nation party of MP Pauline Hanson, which borrowed some of the CEC's policies, such as national banking, and which, for awhile, became highly influential in national politics. One Nation has now collapsed, while the CEC has continued to grow rapidly. Given that, and the CEC's association with the synarchist Privy Council's arch-enemy LaRouche, it is no surprise that Sir Zelman Cowen and his fellow Privy Councilors would like to ban LaRouche's associates. That task will be considerably more difficult as LaRouche's influence grows globally, and as this latest issue of the *New Citizen* is read throughout Australia.

# Can We Learn the Lessons From the Genocide in Rwanda?

by Uwe Friesecke

The world is commemorating the horrible end-phase of the war in Rwanda, ten years ago, when hundreds of thousands of Rwandans lost their lives. The United Nations, the Rwandan government, and many so-called experts have defined as genocide only the events between April and July of 1994, and insist that the discussion be limited to what happened inside the government-controlled area of Rwanda during that period. Certainly the extent of violence and brutality that human beings inflicted upon their fellow citizens, often their nearest neighbors, was unbelievable. The systematic slaughter of civilians who were selected for murder because of their group characteristics went beyond the limits of human comprehension. The killing of about 800,000 people within four months in Rwanda is only rivaled by the mass killings of the civilian population of Cambodia between 1975 and 1978. It clearly was one of the worst human catastrophes since World War II.

We should lament the fact that the four Western governments which could have intervened by military force in April 1994 to stop the killings—the United States, Britain, France, and Belgium—did not, even though they were fully aware of the consequences. We should also ask, what lessons the United Nations should learn from the experience of utter failure in 1994. But, unfortunately, so far, this discussion has served more to exculpate those whose actions *before* 1994 set the dynamic for genocide into motion, rather than clarifying the needed lessons to be learned. When Yoweri Museveni and Paul Kagame, the current Presidents of Ugandan and Rwanda, commemorated the dead from 1994 at a state ceremony in Kigali, Rwanda, on April 7, 2004, it was a cynical insult to the countless victims of the wars of the last 14 years in Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly called Zaire), and Uganda. because these two dictators carry part of the responsibility for it. The seemingly sincere confessions of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and of Western governments for their failure in 1994 are, unfortunately, covering up the fact that their guilt reaches much further than not having stopped the killing. All protestations to the contrary, neither the UN nor the Western governments have learned the lessons.

The Rwanda disaster happened as an integral part of a nasty Anglo-American neocolonial policy for the continent. The essence of this policy is, that conflicts can be manipulated to establish power structures in Africa, which continue the

looting of raw materials by Anglo-American companies, with French companies as junior partners. And from that point of view, conflicts in Africa are *necessary*, to prevent African governments from using the riches of their countries for the development and economic well-being of their people. The tragedies of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo clearly show, how Western governments regularly disregard principles of international law, if they conflict with the realization of their own interests of power.

Ironically, it was the London *Times*, which, on April 7, admitted to the guilt of the Anglo-American establishment. “We rarely hear about the West’s more recent sins of commission,” wrote Mick Hume. “Paul Kagame, the Rwandan President, has accused France of helping to prepare the genocide by supporting the Hutu-dominated regime. Rather less is said about American and British support for the other side in Rwanda’s civil war—Kagame’s Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front. The RPF was based in and backed by Uganda, the main Anglo-American proxy in the region. Rwandan rebels in the Ugandan military received training from the British. Kagame attended a U.S. army and staff college in Kansas.” The commentary even blamed the international financial institutions for their role: “By 1994, Western interference—and a harsh World Bank ‘adjustment’ programme—had helped to turn Rwanda into a tinderbox.”

The genocide of 1994 in Rwanda was the culmination of a process of reorganization of the power structures in East/Central Africa during the 1990s, a policy of “regime change”—even at the price of genocide. This policy had been pushed since the 1980s by one faction of the Anglo-American establishment. It succeeded, and brought governments to power which are, to this day, dependent on the Anglo-Americans. The dictatorships in Kampala (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda), as well as the fragile regime combinations in Bujumbura (Burundi) and Kinshasa (Congo), keep the raw materials-rich region under control for unlimited looting of gold, strategic metals such as coltan, as well as diamonds and timber. The claim by those regimes and their backers at the UN and in Western governments, that they have brought democracy, good governance, and economic development to their countries, is a crude joke. Everywhere the population continues to suffer from increased poverty and violence, as is most dramatically the case in Museveni’s Northern Uganda. In



*Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (left) and Rwandan President Paul Kagame: Their recent commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda was a cynical insult to the victims, since these men, and their Anglo-American sponsors, bear a large part of the blame.*

Rwanda, the old oligarchy, which had ruled the country up until 1959, has returned from exile and established an iron grip over the country, and, blessed by the UN and the international community, silenced any opposition. As the London *Times* also pointed out, Kagame's government has skillfully manipulated the memory of the 1994 genocide to its own advantage. It, in particular, managed to avoid being held responsible for the well-documented crimes that Rwandan troops committed later on, in the 1998-99 war in Congo.

### **British- and U.S.-Sponsored Wars**

Typical of the one-sided experts in the Rwanda genocide debate is Alison Des Forges, senior advisor to Human Rights Watch, New York. At a seminar at the beginning of March 2004 at the Protestant Academy in Loccum, Germany, she blamed the U.S. and British governments for not having intervened in April 1994, but she denied their responsibility for the origin of the genocide. She declared that they would have to answer many questions, but not to the charge of genocide. That charge would only apply to the perpetrators on the side of the Rwandan government in 1994, which was led by President Juvenal Habyarimana. The reality of what happened is thereby obscured, and those who are politically guilty at the higher level of strategic policy are not being called to account.

Through documents recently released from the U.S. National Security Archive and through various testimonies such as that from Canada's Lt.-Gen. Romeo Dallaire, who was UN force commander in Kigali in 1994, the U.S. and the British governments all the way through 1993 and 1994 were well informed about the escalation of violence in Rwanda. Dallaire's calls for help were always rejected. Germany's Gen. Manfred Eisele, who, in 1994, was Assistant Secretary General to Kofi Annan, then the Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations at the UN, confirmed at the Loccum seminar,

that a military intervention would have been possible in April 1994 to stop the killings. Later on, with Operation Hope to help refugees in Goma, Zaire, the U.S. military gave an example of how fast a military intervention can be organized.

But, according to Eisele, in April 1994 neither the UN, nor the governments in the Security Council, had the political will to decide on such a military intervention. Besides the small, ill-equipped UN force (UNAMIR) in Rwanda, there were U.S. troops in neighboring Burundi, French troops in Rwanda and nearby Central African Republic, Belgian troops in Rwanda, and British troops in Uganda. Some of them were used to evacuate Western citizens from Rwanda when the killing escalated, but to use these available troops to beef up the UNAMIR force, as was demanded by General Dallaire, was not on the agenda. Only Nigeria presented a draft resolution to the Security Council on April 13, 1994 to strengthen UNAMIR. This was strongly rejected by Belgium, Britain, and the United States. On April 21, the Council voted to *reduce* UNAMIR's strength to 270 soldiers instead. At the same time, the Council voted to double the strength of the UN force in Bosnia.

The actions of the U.S. and British governments in the Security Council show that it was not neglect or unfortunate circumstances that led to the fateful decision to withdraw UNAMIR, but rather was conscious policy. The Anglo-American governments were simply determined to change the regime in Kigali and bring Kagame's RPF to power. To reach that strategic aim was regarded as more important than to stop the mass killings. Consequently, a military intervention was excluded, and by July 1994 between 500,000 and 800,000 Rwandans were dead.

To bring the RPF to power had been Anglo-American strategy since the beginning of the war in 1990. It guided the British and U.S. diplomatic approach to the peace negotia-



*Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire, in 1994. As many as 1 million Rwandans fled to Zaire within five days, to escape the massacres by both Hutus and Tutsis that followed the death of President Habyarimana—and that left some 800,000 people dead, in one of the most hideous human catastrophes since World War II.*

tions in Arusha, Tanzania in 1993, where the Habyarimana regime was blackmailed to accept suicidal provisions in favor of the RPF. And it motivated the covert military support the RPF received from the United States and Britain.

### **Violation of the UN Charter**

In October 1990, the RPF invaded Rwanda from Uganda, first under the leadership of Fred Rwigyema, and then of Kagame, who, for that purpose, had returned from a military training course at Fort Leavenworth, U.S.A. In reality, the RPF was an integral part of Museveni's Ugandan army. The Ugandan government in turn could do nothing without the consent of the British and American governments. The Museveni-promoted attack by the RPF on Rwanda was by all standards an act of aggression against a legitimate government. It clearly violated the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations. But Security Council permanent members the United States and Britain did nothing to condemn or stop the RPF war. On the contrary, after its initial defeat by the Rwandan army, the RPF was able to regroup and emerge much strengthened with manpower and equipment, in January 1991, for a new and lasting invasion of Rwanda.

Article 1 of the United Nations Charter states:

“The Purposes of the United Nations are:

“1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace; . . .”

Article 33 states:

“The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.”

The RPF leadership claimed that they invaded Rwanda to settle the issue of refugees, and to change the Habyarimana government, because it was, in the opinion of the RPF, dictatorial. Obviously both reasons given, were no justification for war—especially since the Rwandan government in 1990 had already agreed to substantial compromises. A joint Rwandan-Ugandan commission had, with the help of the UN High Commission on Refugees, developed different options to reintegrate the refugees into Rwandan society, and President Habyarimana was willing to change

the one-party state. So, the dispute between the Rwandan government and the large exile community was on its way to finding what the UN Charter's Article 33 called “a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation.”

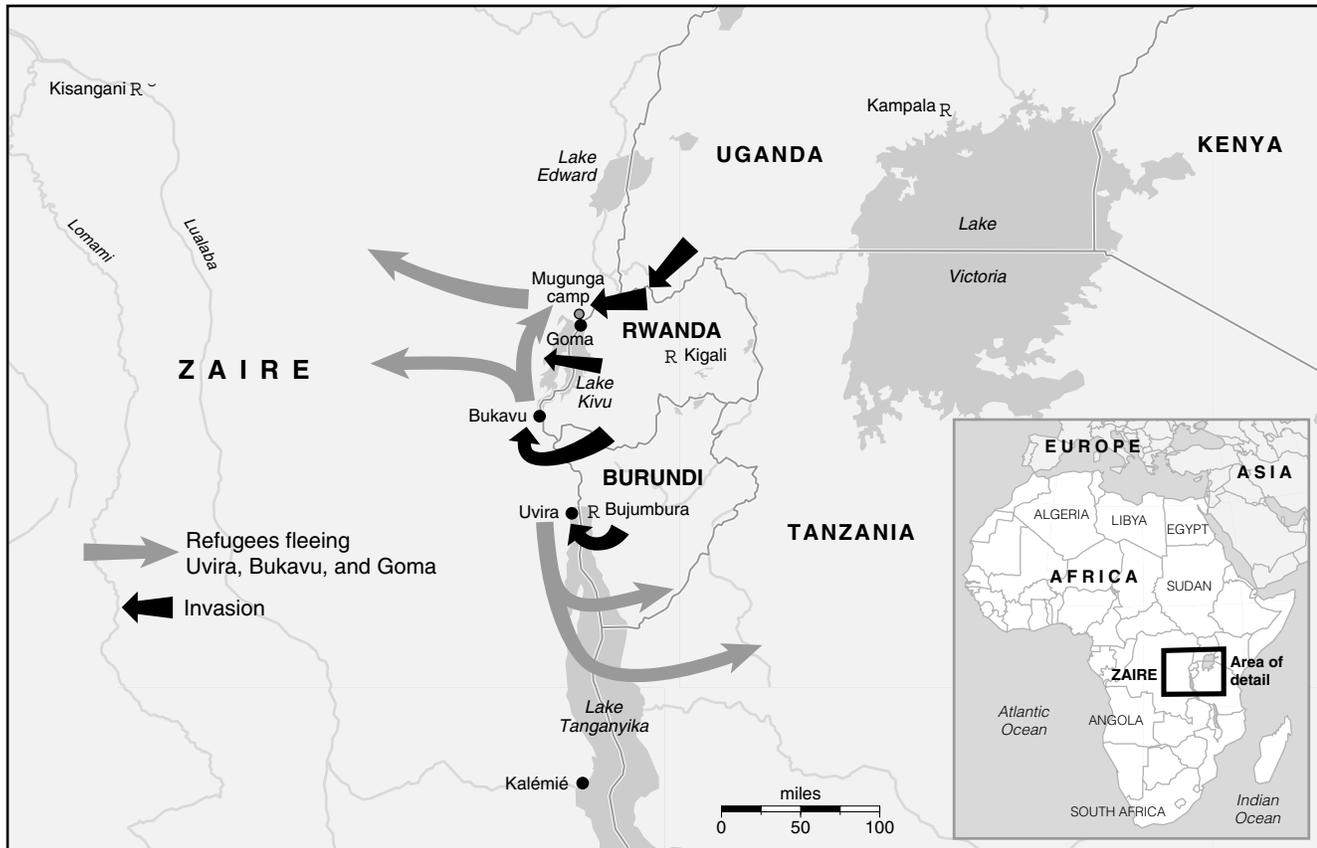
But despite the clear language of the UN Charter, the United States and Britain not only helped the RPF to start the war, but later on they legitimized the aggressor, the RPF, by giving it equal status with the Rwandan government in the Arusha negotiations.

The line of argument used by the RPF to justify war against Rwanda in 1990 resembles the arguments the G.W. Bush Administration made to justify war against Iraq. In both cases, the war was a violation of international law and the UN Charter. In Iraq, after the alleged existence of weapons of mass destruction proved to be a fraud, the only reason remaining was that Saddam Hussein's regime was dictatorial and oppressive. If such reasoning were accepted as justification for war, the world would plunge into never-ending wars. But, if it is politically expedient for the Anglo-American powers, the argument is used, no matter what the consequences are.

It may be no accident, that the origins of the RPF strategy to “solve” the Rwanda refugee problem by war, go back to the time of the senior Bush Administration in 1988, when the U.S.-government-funded Committee for Refugees, headed by Roger Winter, helped organize an RPF congress in Washington, where the strategy of war, not just to solve the refugee crisis, but for the RPF leadership to come to power in Kigali, was adopted.

Since that time, circles of the U.S. and British governments were organizing actively for the RPF, partly directly and partly through the government and military of Uganda. As the report of French judge Jean Louis Bruguière indicates

## Anglo-American-Backed Invasion of Zaire in 1996



(*EIR*, March 26, 2004), this operational support for the RPF apparently continued all the way until the fateful shooting down of the plane on April 6, 1994, killing Presidents Habyarimana and Cyprien Ntaryamira (of Burundi). If the operation was planned by Kagame and Museveni, it immediately raises the question, what U.S. and British intelligence services knew about it. Were they actively involved? From their record in Africa since the 1960s, it would not be surprising at all.

### Genocide Continues

The genocide did not stop in Rwanda in July 1994, but continued in Congo in 1996, when Uganda and Rwanda organized a rebellion to bring Laurent Kabila to power in Kinshasa. Again U.S. and British government agencies participated, sometimes disguised as private groups. And both governments refused to intervene to save civilians from being murdered. Rwandan RPF troops in particular were chasing Rwandan refugees throughout Eastern Congo and killing them by the thousands. The UN knew it, the U.S. government knew it, and so did the British government. A U.S.-led mili-

tary intervention to save the refugees was prepared, but then called off, with the cynical excuse that clouds prevented air reconnaissance from locating the refugees. Hundreds of thousands died in Congo in 1996, because the West refused to intervene. But even the toppling of former U.S. asset Mobutu Sese Seko from power in Kinshasa was not the end; Rwanda and Uganda started another war of rebellion in Eastern Congo in 1998, to replace Laurent Kabila. (He was assassinated in January 2001, and replaced by his son Joseph.)

More than 3 million people died in these wars in the Congo, which were part of the Western strategy of power changes in the region. And that strategy included genocide on an even larger scale than what happened in Rwanda. In total, more than 5 million died.

Individual killers, of course, carry personal responsibility for the crimes they committed, such as in Rwanda in 1994. But first of all, such guilt was not limited to one side of the war, and secondly, the strategists of Western governments, who did not personally kill anybody in these African conflicts, but designed the policies which were then implemented and

caused the death of millions, must also be held responsible.

The Bruguière report establishes the RPF, under the direction of Paul Kagame, as the organizers of the shooting down of the presidential Falcon jet on April 6, 1994. In response, Kagame provocatively told journalists that he is not sorry for Habyarimana's death. He was also clearly willing to pay the price of the mass killings that ensued, against his own ethnic group, to gain power in Kigali.

The report of the French judge is not the first one to point to crimes of the RPF. But because of political pressure, other reports were suppressed, such as the Gersony report, which, in 1994, documented the massacres that the RPF committed against the civilian population during their march on Kigali. Also, the massacres of Rwandan refugees fleeing into Congo, by RPF troops in 1996-97, have been documented. Carla del Ponte, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 2003, had the material to hand down indictments against high officials of the RPF. But UN Secretary General Annan, under pressure from the U.S. government, forced her to resign from the ICTR.<sup>1</sup>

In response to the Bruguière report, the Association of Defense Lawyers at the ICTR has now demanded prosecution of members of the RPF, and extension of the ICTR's mandate to include the crimes committed in Congo.

## The Ideologists of Violence

The alliances for warfare between Museveni's military and Kagame's RPF, which in the end embroiled Central Africa from Sudan in the North to Angola in the South, and former Zaire in the West to Rwanda and Burundi in the East in genocidal warfare, was not limited to East-Central Africa. The same phenomenon occurred in West Africa, with the destruction of Liberia and Sierra Leone. After the U.S. government had helped to topple Liberian President William R. Tolbert in 1980, because of his desire for nonalignment, some French circles, through their former colony Ivory Coast were instrumental in building up Charles Taylor's so-called rebel movement. The leadership was recruited from a pool of Marxist radicals from West Africa, including Guinea, and who were trained in camps in Libya and Burkina Faso. Some of those radicals went to fight alongside Museveni in Uganda and rebel leader John Garang in Sudan.

Museveni himself, at the beginning of the 1980s, belonged to a group of revolutionary radicals in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, before he started his Libyan-supported guerrilla war in Uganda. There he met Fred Rigyema, later the first leader of the RPF; Garang, the leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army; Issays Afeworky, today's President of Eri-

trea; and Meles Zenawi, today's President of Ethiopia. Some have called this the Dar Es Salaam Kindergarten. But it was more a Dar Es Salaam-Ouagadougou-Tripoli network, whose revolutionary ideology was a brutal version of Frantz Fanon's theory of violence. Museveni and Taylor invented the phenomenon of the "child soldiers." This ideological background explains the unbelievable brutality which these rebel groups, including also the RUF in Sierra Leone, inflicted upon the civilian population, where violence was practiced for its own sake, as well as to gain power.

At the end of the 1980s, the British and U.S. governments proclaimed these so-called revolutionary leaders as the new leaders for Africa. Instead of Marxism, they, led by Museveni, adopted radical free-market economics, much to the liking of the New York and London financial institutions. Right after he took power in Uganda, President Museveni was visited by Britain's Secretary for Commonwealth Affairs Lynda Chalker, and has been praised ever since as a shining example of new African leadership. Except for Charles Taylor, most of the other radicals have, in the meantime, become the willing executioners of mostly Anglo-American neocolonial policy for Africa. Soon, they may put the last of their number, John Garang, into power in Khartoum. The wars that most of these leaders conducted fitted very well into the geopolitics designed for Africa in London, Washington, Paris, or Brussels.

## IMF Austerity Paved the Way to War

The guilt of Western governments arises not only from the fact that they were so deeply embroiled in the destructive warfare in Rwanda, and later also in Congo. Western economic policy must take full responsibility for having ruined Rwanda by 1993, so much that the country and its government simply disintegrated. In 1984, in the middle of a devastating drought, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank forced President Habyarimana to adopt Rwanda's first structural adjustment program, called "rigor and austerity." At the end of the 1980s, world market prices for coffee, Rwanda's main export crop, collapsed, reducing government earnings by 50%. But instead of giving the country some relief, the IMF demanded even harsher measures. In November 1990, after the RPF had attacked, the Rwandan franc was devalued by 40%, causing a drastic increase in inflation of consumer prices. In 1992, in the middle of the war, another 15% devaluation followed, driving prices for food and fuel even higher. The government had to retrench its civil service, which affected tens of thousands of families. And a yearly payment of about \$10 million to service the foreign debt, did the rest of the damage. Burdened by more than a million internal refugees, who had fled the advancing RPF troops, the country was plunged into despair.

In this respect it is also clear that no lessons have been learned. The IMF still insists that the Rwandan government follow its structural adjustment program and pay the debt, above all else.

The genocide in Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi during the

1. See also Lyndon H. LaRouche's commentary on the dangers of such supranational tribunals, "An Imperial Criminal Court," *EIR*, July 19, 2002. With reference to the establishment of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, LaRouche warned that "the thing to be feared more than either war or crimes against humanity, is the establishment of an imperial form of 'world rule of law' . . ."

## Chronology of War, Genocide

**August 1988:** U.S. government-funded Committee for Refugees helps organize Rwandan Patriotic Front (RFP) Congress in Washington, where strategy to bring RFP to power by war is adopted.

**October 1990:** RPF, headed by Paul Kagame (a Tutsi), invades Rwanda from Uganda with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's backing. RFP is largely the Ugandan army.

**August 1993:** Arusha Accords negotiated between the Rwandan government of President Juvenal Habyarimana (a Hutu) and the RPF under U.S.-British auspices. Accords grant RFP 50% of command and officer posts in the army, 40% of troops, seven Cabinet posts.

**September 1993:** UN sends peacekeeping force to Rwanda to oversee implementation of Arusha Accords.

**October 1993:** Attempted coup in Burundi with approval of Belgian intelligence and oversight of a Burundi Tutsi. President Melchior Ndadaye (a Hutu) and 100,000

Hutus are murdered by Tutsi-dominated military. More than 700,000 Hutus flee Burundi. World press ignores it.

**December 1993:** RPF moves 600 troops into Kigali, the Rwandan capital, under Arusha Accords.

**January 1994:** African strategists of British Ministry of Defence reportedly shift from Angola focus to Rwanda focus.

**April 6, 1994:** Plane carrying Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira is shot down by rockets. Mass killing of Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Rwandan government troops erupts in Kigali, spreads throughout country. RFP begins blitzkrieg.

**July 12, 1994:** One million Rwandans flee to Zaire.

**July 15, 1994:** RPF takes effective control of Rwanda.

**October 1996:** Ugandan-Rwandan-run rebellion in Zaire, with U.S. backing, to topple President Mobutu Sese Seko and bring Laurent Kabila to power.

**June 1997:** Kabila in power.

**August 1998:** Kabila breaks with Uganda and Rwanda. They launch a new war in eastern Congo to topple him. He is assassinated in January 2001, but his son Joseph succeeds him. Rwanda still working for his overthrow.

1990s marks one of the darkest chapters of global policy after World War II. Led by the Anglo-American powers, but not opposed by any other power, African people were condemned to go through another version of colonial oppression, called globalization. And to this day there are enough African leaders and governments who willingly become complicit in this policy. The aspirations of the independence movements of the 1950s and '60s have been crushed. The leaders of that noble struggle were removed from power or killed. Africa has been denied the inalienable right for development. Instead of helping to prevent conflicts in Africa, the West promoted conflicts. It therefore becomes absurd when the discussion today focusses primarily on strengthening the African institutions for peace-keeping. As useful a role as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) played in Sierra Leone or Liberia, those interventions cannot substitute for the lack of a policy to prevent conflicts from originating in the first place.

### The Alternative: Peace Through Development

Over the last ten years, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has led an international campaign against those in the Anglo-American establishment who are responsible for the genocidal policies in Africa. His Africa policy is a complete rejection of the neocolonialism which is so deeply embedded in London, Washington, Paris, and Brussels.

LaRouche and the Schiller Institute sponsored a seminar in April 1997 in Germany, titled "Peace Through Development in Africa's Great Lakes Region." The core of that policy

is a great infrastructure project, called Transaqua, which comprises the construction of a canal from Southern Kivu in Congo through Central Africa, to link up to the Chari River system, which feeds into Lake Chad at the northeast corner of Nigeria. The canal would divert 100,000 million cubic meters/year (5% of the total discharge of the Congo River) of fresh water from the Congo basin northwards to the Sahel area. The water would open up new land for irrigated agriculture, and, combined with new roads and railways, the entire Eastern Congo and Great Lakes region could be developed economically.

Transaqua was designed by an Italian engineering firm during the 1980s, and it was put on the agenda of the international economic and financial institutions. This could have become a vision for Peace Through Development for the entire region, and formed the economic basis for peacefully resolving the long-simmering refugee crisis in Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. But Western governments and the World Bank rejected Transaqua, and, instead, opted for war.

LaRouche has supported Transaqua as one key regional project for the development of the African continent as a whole. Large-scale infrastructure projects in Africa would be part of LaRouche's program for the establishment of a new, just world economic order. If the international community were serious about lessons learned from the Rwanda genocide, it would finally begin to discuss and implement this policy. In that way, the dead of Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi could be honored truthfully, and the surviving victims consoled, with the prospects of a bright future.

## ‘Habyarimana’s Killers Caused Rwanda Genocide’

*Honoré Ngbanda was formerly the Defense Minister of Zaire (now called the Democratic Republic of Congo), in the last days of the government of President Mobutu Sese Seko. He is the author of a book, *Ainsi sonne le glas, les derniers jours du Marechal Mubutu* (So comes the end, the last days of Marshal Mobutu), and was an eyewitness to the tragic events that led to the killing of at least 800,000 people in Rwanda in just a few weeks, following the crash of the plane carrying Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira. Mr. Ngbanda was interviewed by Christine Bierre and Karel Vereycken in Paris in late March 2004. The interview has been translated from French.*

**EIR:** M. Honoré Ngbanda, could you briefly introduce yourself?

**Ngbanda:** I’ve been an ambassador and several times a minister of my country, in particular Minister of Defense. In 1991, when the Zairean Army revolted and started looting, President Mobutu called upon me to get the troops back into the barracks. Afterwards, between the end of 1992 and 1997, I served as his special advisor on matters of security and international policy.

**EIR:** The timespan of your government responsibility coincides with the events following the fall of the Berlin Wall, that provoked major realignments in Africa. Today, people speak of the “balkanization” of the Democratic Republic of Congo [D.R.C.]. What were the causes?

**Ngbanda:** All of this fits a specific geopolitical logic that goes way back before the fall of the Wall, to the decolonization period. “Decolonization” was not exactly always a philanthropic undertaking, contrary to what is generally thought. The two superpowers that emerged after the Second World War wanted to impose their control on Africa and forced the old colonial powers to “decolonize.” The consequence was that the African countries were pushed into two camps: the Soviet camp or the American camp; the Warsaw Pact or NATO.

But that classification was just a cover for the sharing of economic resources, like those of Zaire, considered a scandalous reserve of raw materials and resources. We are the world’s first producer of uranium, of copper, of industrial and jewelry diamonds, and also the third-largest producer of gold. Forty-seven percent of Africa’s forests are located

in Congo, and we have the biggest water resources. Consequently, our potential is immense. The first war for the control of these resources went back to the early stages of our independence, when the Soviet Union and the United States confronted each other through Patrice Lumumba and Joseph Kasavubu. Later, the Katangese secession was a Belgian attempt to keep a hand on their mining facilities of the region. Today, as in the past, the balkanization of Congo corresponds to the logic of the same international vultures out to loot these resources.

**EIR:** Don’t you think that since that shift, the state institutions themselves were thrown out the window? We discovered the outrageous activities of companies such as Executive Outcomes,<sup>1</sup> which, under cover of protecting mining interests, created mini-states, equipped with private armies, schools, and hospital facilities, and took areas in the country which they call the “useful” Africa, as opposed to the rest, which they abandoned to chaos.

**Ngbanda:** I agree, but I would add the slight nuance that it is the Western countries that barricade themselves behind these so-called companies. The companies that signed the contracts with [Congo President] Laurent-Desiré Kabila in Lubumbashi—while he was not yet even in power—were completely in the hands of associates of the American President at that time, Bill Clinton! So, there was indeed the benediction of a state apparatus, which didn’t necessarily appear on the surface, but which was at work on the ground. One sees the same, if one looks at the origin of the weapons employed in the attack on Rwanda and Congo. These came from the stocks of weaponry abandoned by the U.S. after their rout in Somalia, weapons that were then transferred to an island in the middle of Lake Victoria in Uganda. And it is from there, and with the support of Great Britain and Belgium, that the destabilization of Zaire was prepared, to carve it up.

**EIR:** Starting from that analysis, you give a different coherence to the drama of the Great Lakes region.

**Ngbanda:** One has to remember the elementary conditions of the conflict. At that time, the United States and Great Britain adopted Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whom they wanted to build up as a leader for the whole region. Together, they had defined the obstacles to eliminate. First, two disturbing Presidents had to be taken care of: Mobutu and Habyarimana, to allow Museveni to shine with his halo and to play the role planned by these powers. It was also a skirmish between Great Britain and France, between English- and French-speaking countries. The Anglophone countries wanted to take leadership, with an English-speaking country as a base. Therefore, two obstacles had to be liquidated, Mobutu and Habyarimana. The suppression of Habyarimana had,

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1. “Executive Outcomes vs. the Nation-State,” *EIR*, Aug. 22, 1997.

however, grave consequences. The United States, Great Britain, Belgium, France, the African countries, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) of Gen. Paul Kagame—everybody, and I speak as a witness—was persuaded that killing Habyarimana would make the dike burst. Because he stood between an anvil and a hammer: On the one side, there was the very strong pressure from the Hutu extremists, who thought he was too accommodating toward the Tutsis. Especially, he was on his way to Arusha [in Tanzania], and on the verge of accepting that the Tutsis could be part of the government, something the extremists considered unacceptable. But he was the unique person capable of stopping them. The Hutu extremists also thought of the possibility of getting rid of Habyarimana, but not for the same reasons as the RPF: They wanted to liquidate all the Tutsis. And this was known to Kagame and the other Tutsi leaders.

Everybody, including the UN, knew that if Habyarimana fell, a hecatomb would take place. UN reports just confirmed that. And that is the essence of my argument, as I develop it in my book: Those who planned the assassination of Habyarimana carry the responsibility of the genocide. I heard Habyarimana asking that question of Mobutu, and he asked me the same thing when I discussed with him the nature of the threats he had received. He told me: “I don’t understand the West, these Americans who pretend to be interested in the fate of Rwanda: Why do they want my death, when my death will provoke a bloodbath?!”

**EIR:** When and where did this encounter with Habyarimana take place?

**Ngbanda:** On April 4, [1994], two days before his death, when he had come to Gbadolite to meet President Mobutu. Contrary to his habits, this visit was unannounced. I was in a meeting when I was informed that the Rwandan President was landing two hours later. He came, panicked, on a surprise visit. During the encounter, there were only two questions on the agenda. First and foremost, he knew he was threatened.

**EIR:** What were the indications of that?

**Ngbanda:** He had sources I don’t want to mention here today. Of course, like any chief of state, he had sources in the U.S. and in Europe that informed him. But I can mention the letter of the pilot of the Falcon-50 airplane, of which he had a photocopy that he showed us. The pilot indicated the danger of their travels, and pointed to the fact that the RPF



*The brutal cost of the Anglo-American-backed invasion of Zaire by Rwanda and Uganda: starving refugees in a camp south of Kisangani in Spring 1997.*

forces possessed surface-to-air missiles and had the intention of bringing down the plane. To avoid this, one had to come in flying at a very high or a very low altitude. Nobody knew the moment of their take-off from Kigali [Rwanda], or the hour of their return. Those were the fears before his last trip.

**EIR:** Why didn’t these security precautions save his life?

**Ngbanda:** That is effectively my domain. There was a difference. When they came to Gbadolite, he was the sole master of his itinerary. The take-off was a surprise; the landing was a surprise. But in Arusha, he couldn’t operate that way. There, everybody was informed; that was the protocol. When he took off, his hour of departure and landing were communicated. From there on, our security recommendations became inapplicable.

**EIR:** As far as I remember, it was said that President Mobutu strongly advised him not to take the plane.

**Ngbanda:** President Mobutu didn’t want to go to Arusha himself.

The second point on the agenda of the meeting at Gbadolite was Habyarimana’s request to Mobutu to accompany him to the summit meeting at Arusha. The whole international community was unfavorable to him; most chiefs of state invited to the summit were supportive of the cause of Museveni and the RPF of Kagame. Habyarimana desired the presence of Mobutu as a counterweight, to balance the Arusha agreements in his favor. President Mobutu accepted. But when Habyarimana was about to leave, it was I, as the official in charge of security, who told the President not to go. The conditions for a safe trip, to both Arusha and Kigali, were not guaranteed, for different reasons. (For the return trip, one has

to fly over Kigali.) I also told the President that in our security procedures, before the President travels somewhere, a team has to travel his route at least 48 hours in advance. It was April 4, and the conference took place on April 6. There wasn't time to do the advance security work on the ground. Considering all these elements, I told the President we didn't give him the green light to travel.

There was even a second element. In principle, I had to go with President Habyarimana to prepare the security measures. I had already designated the expert teams that had to precede us. If President Mobutu had decided to go anyway, it was agreed that I would return directly with Habyarimana to Kigali. So, I was programmed to be on that plane. But since everything was cancelled [by Mobutu], we stayed where we were. Habyarimana left on April 6, and, on the way home, it was his last trip. The threats were very clear. Many strange things happened in Arusha, but I'm still waiting for confirmation before going further. It was in any case from Arusha that the information was transmitted about his hour of arrival.

**EIR:** It has been often stated that the killing was prepared by Kagame and the RPF, but in collusion with the extremist Hutus. Is that true?

**Ngbanda:** I cannot subscribe to that argument. There could be no collaboration between the two extremes. The Hutu extremists wanted precisely Habyarimana's death in order to liquidate the Tutsis, and the Tutsis knew it. My hypothesis is the following. If this is confirmed, and many indications demonstrate it, if the Tutsis of the RPF planned and executed, even with the help of foreign Western powers, the killing of Habyarimana, we're dealing here, for me, with a form of political cynicism. They told themselves this genocide would benefit them politically. It was foreseeable.

**EIR:** The recent article of Stephen Smith [*Le Monde*, March 10] on the inquiry of French judge Jean Louis Bruguière,<sup>2</sup> seems to confirm that hypothesis, by the declaration of a bodyguard of Kagame who declared that the latter was ready to sacrifice the Tutsis of the interior, in order to take power.

**Ngbanda:** It is a totally logical hypothesis and plausible in regard to the realities as I know them. Why? Because there is a reality that the West doesn't perceive. The Arusha agreements were not going to profit Kagame, since they would result in the organizing of elections. It was out of the question for Kagame to win elections under the control of the international community, because of the very simple sociological conditions of the area. The Tutsis only represent a minority of about 9% of the population, while the Hutus represent 90%, and the remaining 1% are the Twa pygmies. A Hutu was not going to vote for a Tutsi. So Kagame had every reason to interrupt

the process, whatever the price. It is for that reason that the declaration of his bodyguard, amidst so many others that have spoken up, is perfectly logical. For me, it is the confirmation of this hypothesis.

**EIR:** A couple of days ago, the black box of the Falcon-50 was discovered, in a cupboard at the offices of the UN in New York, and it was transferred for analysis to the American National Transport Security Bureau (NTSB). Do you think this is the black box of the plane? And if I follow your argument, one gets the impression that the functioning of this institution was heavily contaminated by the interests you mentioned, and the UN became complicit in sabotaging the investigation of the instigators of the genocide.

**Ngbanda:** Let me answer by starting from another flank. Recently there was an accident of an airplane in Egypt. The plane fell into the ocean. We saw all the efforts mobilized by France to recover the two black boxes, in order to identify the exact causes that led to the death of more than 150 people. But in face of *hundreds of thousands of deaths*, and the assassination of two heads of state of member countries of the UN, whatever their size? Missiles shot down two heads of state and their deaths unleashed the hecatomb of hundreds of thousands of people! And is it considered normal, not to know where the black box is? Is it normal? That is the question. One can advance two hypotheses. Either the life of an African doesn't count, so nobody cares that they died; or, if one says the life of an African has the same value as the life of anybody else, then I ask myself, is this negligence or cover-up?

If one goes deeper into the question—and I don't want to accuse anybody, the facts scream for themselves. If one looks at all the noise that was raised to try to identify the cause of the genocide, yet there was this silence. What hurts me is the way this is presented, when we are told that the black box was found "by chance." Sincerely it makes me sick, because it shows contempt. . . .

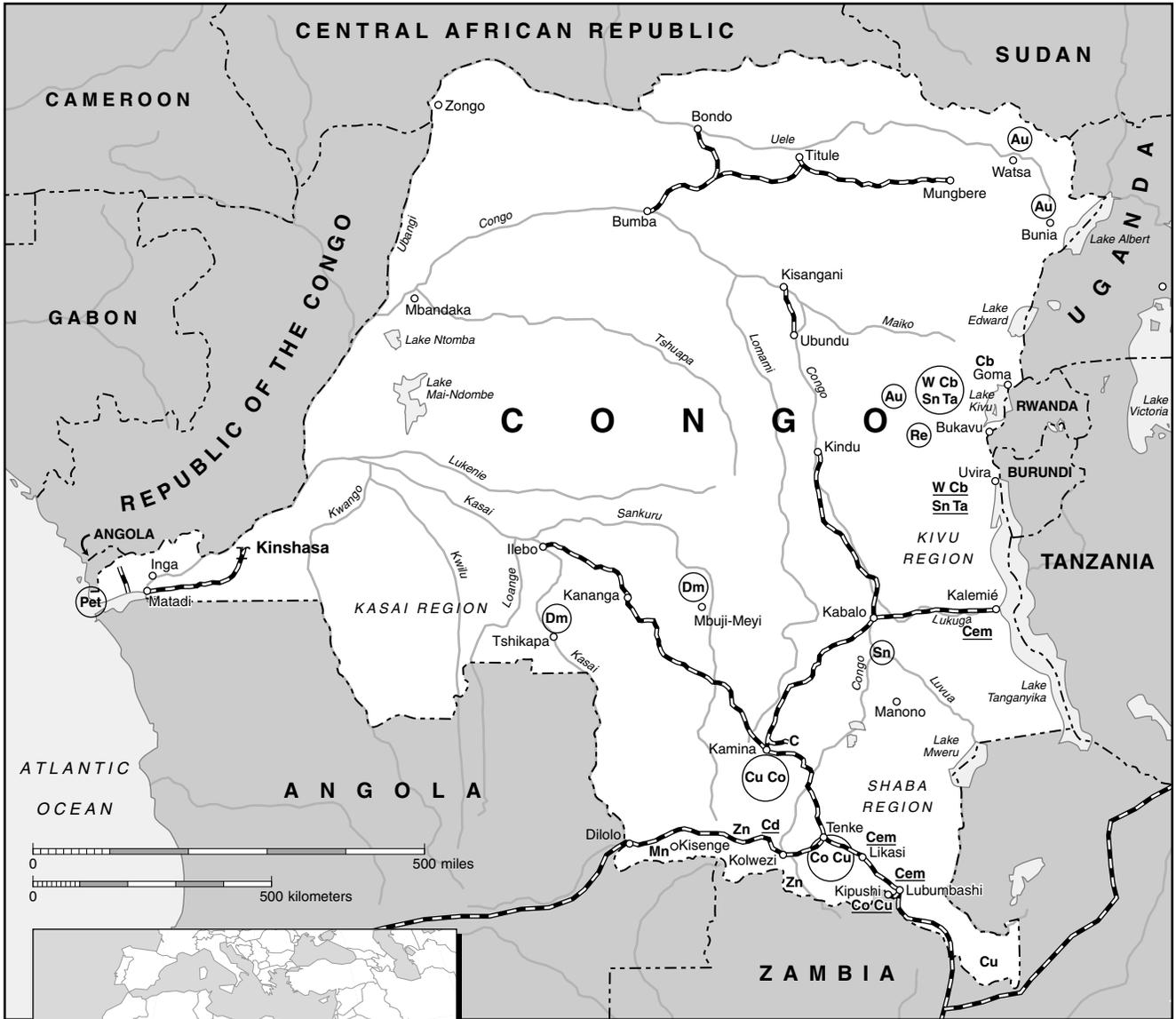
**EIR:** In your opinion, was Rwanda destabilized to provoke a domino effect on Zaire? Was it conceived as a double strike?

**Ngbanda:** As I write in my book, when President Mobutu heard of the death of Habyarimana, I stayed the night outside with him, reflecting, because it was he that learned the news by phone and came to tell me. He stated something indicative: "They got him, and the fact they got him was an Indian sign. *They're going to destroy the region.*" This man had vision. You can say anything you want about Mobutu, but he was a visionary; he possessed a capacity for projection and synthesis that was a gift to him. And when he said that, I understood. I realized that he comprehended that this was the beginning of the destabilization of the whole region. And that is what happened.

**EIR:** The rivalry between France and the English-speaking countries in Africa dates back a long time. But here, the deci-

2. "Rwanda's Kagame Accused of Causing 1994 Genocide," *EIR*, March 26, 2004. See also: "French Judge Blames Kagame for 1994 Deaths," in *International Intelligence*, *EIR*, March 19, 2004.

# Congo's Strategic Resources



Symbol	Resource	
Au	Gold	
C	Coal	
Cb	Columbium (niobium)	
Cd	Cadmium	
Cem	Cement	
Co	Cobalt	
Cu	Copper	
Dm	Diamond	
Mn	Manganese	
Pet	Petroleum	
Re	Rhenium	
Sn	Tin	
Ta	Tantalum	
W	Tungsten	
Zn	Zinc	
○	Group of producing mines or wells	
<u>Symbol</u>	Underline symbol indicates plant	
—+—	Railway	



*Victims of seemingly endless wars: Rwandan refugees in Goma, Zaire in 1997. Mr. Ngbanda sees the problem with U.S. policy in Africa today, in the fact that “there is no policy in the White House, nor at the State Department; it doesn’t exist.”*

sion to destabilize a region in such a way that it would blow up and provoke the death of thousands of people is terrifying. How do you explain that the Anglo-Americans took such a decision at that point? And how do you explain that they went that far?

**Ngbanda:** I think the responsibilities need to be situated at different levels. I believe that the responsibility for the killing of Habyarimana and its consequences cannot be perceived identically when speaking about Kagame and the RPF, Museveni, and the others. I know how the Americans operate, and I’ve followed that evolution. The U.S. gives the orientation, but those that were directing the operation were Museveni and Kagame. They were the work-masters on the ground. It was they that planned with the Americans. Everything was planned! For the Americans, at such a date, such an objective had to be achieved. But to know how to get there, was the dirty work left to the Africans. And I believe they were somewhat surprised by the magnitude of what happened.

**EIR:** You mean [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs] Susan Rice and [Britain’s] Baroness Caroline Cox?

**Ngbanda:** Yes, it was they who were with Museveni.

**EIR:** Do you see any difference between the policies of the U.S. and of Britain?

**Ngbanda:** It was a scheme of the U.S. to control the raw materials of the region, by controlling the Horn of Africa by the use of Uganda. There was another determining element in the U.S. interest in Uganda, and that was the rise to power of the extremist Hassan al-Turabi in Sudan, who was perceived as a threat. That was the reason that brought the Americans to move their bases, especially after the failure in Somalia. They needed a leverage point to control the Horn of Africa, from Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, to Egypt. And then, from there on, extend toward Central Africa to control the raw materials. For the British, it was in first instance the secular Franco-British rivalry, which has merely changed form since Fashoda.<sup>3</sup> Kagame, who came out of American training schools, transformed Rwanda into an English-speaking country, and tried to do the same thing in Zaire, where it failed. But there existed, as they say, a community of interests.

**EIR:** Afterwards, Laurent-Desiré Kabila entered Zaire, and the Mobutu regime was dismantled. Once Kabila was installed in power, he ended up pushing back the Rwandans, and concentrated on some kind of national force, before entering into an alliance with Angola and Zimbabwe [in August 1998]. Is that alliance a reconstitution?

**Ngbanda:** That’s a very good question. It is rather a change of partner. Kabila was co-opted by Museveni, since he was nothing more than a gold and diamond dealer. He was never a real warrior; he never controlled any type of army. Those who researched the case, even Che Guevara, said so: He is a real mafioso. The Americans knew it; he had taken U.S. citizens hostage and held them for ransom. He was given the money, and he released them. They have a file on him. I told Susan Rice: “Have you forgotten that this man is registered in your files as a terrorist?”

But Laurent-Desiré Kabila, when he met Museveni, was instigated to be the head of the Ugandan/Rwandan army to destabilize Zaire. He made all kinds of deals. First with the Americans, he made a deal for the manganese and uranium mines, and a large part of the copper mines. Second, with Kagame, he had to deliver a good part of the Congolese national territory to Rwanda. This was called the Agreement of Lemeru (Oct. 23, 1996). Certain mines from the eastern part of the nation and certain quinquina plantations and plants were supposed to be handed over to Kagame. To Museveni, he had promised, nearly for nothing, without taxes, the agricultural region of the eastern area that faces Uganda. This

3. The British faced down the French at Fashoda, Sudan, in 1898, without firing a shot. This confrontation between two colonial armies changed the game being played by the great powers in Europe, eventually leading to World War I.

is the Zairean coffee-producing region, which happens to grow one of the best coffees of the world. Those were all the deals they concluded with Kabila, and why they supported him and his army to take over the government. And so he took power.

But Kabila was a real mafioso, and understood, by the way he was being managed, that he was going to lose. First, he was unacceptable to the Congolese, since he was identified as the one who brought in the occupiers. They started putting the heat on him. The Angolans also had serious misgivings. So what did he do? He broke the deals. He dropped the deal with Rwanda; he gave up the deal with Uganda; and also broke the deal with the U.S. That's where he signed his own death sentence. Because the Gecamines mines [Générale des Carrières et des Mines] which he had promised to companies from Kansas, were given to Mugabe. The affiliates of Gecamines which he had promised to the Belgians and the Americans, were also given to Mugabe, through his intermediary, his associate Billy Rautenbach, a white South African, about whom the press wrote a lot. It was at that point that the Americans, the Ugandans, and the Rwandans understood they had made an error.

In the meantime, Kabila relied on national forces, and that is where I join in what you said. And it is also the reason they didn't want to give him time. They said, we'll attack him and destabilize him. They made the error of not soliciting the appreciation and formal agreement of Angola, which led to the situation where, when Rwandan paratroopers arrived in the south of Kinshasa [capital of Congo], at the base of Mbaza-Ngungu, and wanted to start their advance, to bring in the troops from Kigali and Kampala, the Angolan Air Force intervened on the second day, because the Angolan troops were already in Kinshasa and about to take the airport. And the night right before they were to take over the airport, the Angolan Air Force intervened at the demand of Laurent-Desiré Kabila, and everything was turned around.

Now, with this, the second offensive of the war started, and it is at that point that they told themselves: If things go this way, we will start a second offensive. And that offensive took the form of a second rebellion, with the RCD [Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy, a political-military organization] in Goma. But because of the rivalry and differences that appeared between Kagame and Museveni—Kagame no longer wanted to accept the diktats of Museveni—the two no longer agreed on the dividends on the ground in Congo. You saw their confrontations, as in Kisangani, where the two armies violently fought each other. It was all about the redistribution of the economic and mining profits of their undertaking, and they couldn't agree on that. . . .

**EIR:** What about the fact that Angola and Zimbabwe came to help Kabila? Was that an African operation, or did it involve French or international support?

**Ngbanda:** No, Zimbabwe intervened to save Kabila, be-

cause there exists a personal friendship between Kabila and [Zimbabwe President Robert] Mugabe. Don't forget that both lean toward Marxism, and knew each other from the guerilla period.

**EIR:** Mugabe also had many reasons to fight the British and the Americans. What about the role of Angola?

**Ngbanda:** When Angola intervened, it was at the demand of the United States, because a strong logistical capacity was needed to go as far as Kinshasa. Uganda couldn't support such an effort beyond 2,000 kilometers, and Rwanda simply doesn't have such a capacity. And that is where the U.S. called on [Angolan President José Eduardo] dos Santos, who after all, had some quarrels to settle with Mobutu, involving Mobutu's support for [rebel leader Jonas] Savimbi of UNITA. So for dos Santos, it was the occasion to fight his enemy, because Savimbi was still alive at that moment. By bringing down the Mobutu regime, UNITA's support for its rebellion in Angola out of Congo was shut down. That strategy seems to have paid off, since after the fall of Mobutu, UNITA didn't survive for long. Angola's support for Kabila was conditioned by that objective. As they say, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." They supported Kabila, because they opposed Mobutu, who was their enemy.

**EIR:** But it was the United States that supported the second intervention by Angola?

**Ngbanda:** No, the second time, it was not the U.S.A. But Angola was obliged to do so, since it feared that, by liquidating Laurent-Desiré Kabila that way, things would return to the previous situation, and somebody close to Mobutu would take power. They feared that, since they had helped Kabila, who would have just disappeared, it would not be possible to reach agreement with the people close to Mobutu. It's very complex.

**EIR:** Did you see any change of policy since the arrival of the neo-conservatives of the G.W. Bush Administration?

**Ngbanda:** What is at stake for Africa from the American side, in my opinion, is the absence of an Africa policy. *There is no Africa policy in the White House, nor at the State Department; it doesn't exist.* If somebody tells you there is an Africa policy of the U.S., they don't know the U.S. What does exist in the United States, are calculations to occupy strategic points according to economic and strategic interests, and that's it. There is no policy. Which means that whether Democrats or Republicans govern the U.S., it doesn't make a difference.

**EIR:** Certain neo-conservatives have shown their interest in African oil reserves, in the context of a perspective of a major conflict in the Persian Gulf or Saudi Arabia.

**Ngbanda:** You are right, but that thesis exists more in the minds of the strategists of the Pentagon and the Israelis than in those of the CIA.

## Enron, Parmalat, Shell Oil: Who Will Be Next?

by Lothar Komp

“Shell shock” has hit the British Isles. The almost 100-year-old British-Dutch oil giant, Royal Dutch Shell, with 115,000 workers worldwide and an annual turnover of 35 billion euros, has had to acknowledge, in a series of reports, that it has pulled the wool over the eyes of its shareholders and creditors for years.

About one-fourth of the oil and gas reserves which have been reported in Shell’s books, have existed only in the fantasy of the members of the board. And each barrel of estimated reserves represents an imputed income stream for the company in the future, which influences the stock value of an oil concern even today, and at the same time serves as collateral for credits and other financial transactions.

Already back in January, Shell Chairman of the Board Sir Philip Watts was sent into the desert, after the company’s first admission: that it had vastly overestimated its own oil and gas reserves. The chief of exploration for Shell, Walter van de Vijver, was also fired at that time. At the end of March and again on April 19, Shell had to correct its reserves downward again. With the third such event, finance director Judy Boynton lost her job.

But the real shocker, which also came on April 19, was something else: The American law firm Davis Polk and Wardwell published excerpts from the 463-page report, concerning the background to Shell’s faked reserve estimates, which Shell’s new leadership had commissioned in January. And even the few excerpts of this report which were made public, hit the British media like a bombshell. So great was the shock, that even the continuing sex scandals of Britain’s leading soccer idol, David Beckham, had to be pushed back to the inside pages for a few days. It became clear, that the Shell board of directors had had full knowledge that the figures were faked, for at least two years.

### ‘Sick and Tired of Lying’

A series of e-mails between the exploration department head and the company’s chief executive were cited in the report. In November 2003, Walter van de Vijver sent an e-mail to chairman Philip Watts, saying: “I am becoming sick and tired about lying about the extent of our reserves issues and the downward revisions that need to be done because of far too aggressive/optimistic bookings.”

Other documents show that van de Vijver already in February 2002 was fully aware that Shell’s reserve estimates were far too high. It has also been revealed that top executives at Shell had destroyed certain documents in an attempt to cover up the fraud.

But appearances had to be kept up. According to the report, Shell’s executive was playing for time. They hoped that somehow, sometime, a miracle would occur to provide all those missing reserves. As is now known, the amount of new explorations of oil and gas reserves per year at Shell, in Angola and elsewhere, had fallen to only 61% of annual production in recent years. Up to the last minute, chairman Watts wanted to keep this secret from the firm’s financiers. On May 28, 2002, he had written to van de Vijver, to do whatever was necessary—obviously including faking the figures—to come up with an exploration/production ratio of at least 100% in Shell’s official reports.

The dimensions of Shell’s fraud, even after those of Enron, Parmalat, etc., are enormous. The faked oil and gas reserves, according to the latest tally—further corrections are not to be excluded—amount to 4.5 billion barrels. If one assumes, for a rough estimate, that the fraud only concerns oil reserves, and not production, and takes \$35 per barrel as the basis for calculating Shell’s “accounting errors,” then this yields a sum of a good \$150 billion. By comparison, the cur-



*Nothing but empty liquidity out there? Shell Oil's reserves fakery, only as exposed in the first three "corrective" reports, amounts to 4.5 billion barrels of claimed oil reserves in the North Sea and elsewhere, which don't exist. These admissions of speculative fakery undoubtedly have had more effect on oil and gas spot prices staying very high, than any announced production targets of OPEC.*

rent total market value of Shell shares, which imploded at the beginning of the year, is 140 billion euros.

The rating agencies have already reacted by downgrading Shell. American shareholders' groups have already presented a class action suit. American attorneys are preparing charges against Shell, for criminal machinations.

### **Empty Promises, Not Production**

Whatever the further destiny of Royal Dutch Shell might be, the significance of the "British Enron" goes beyond the destiny of the company itself, in two ways.

First, the incident at Shell is a symptom and a symbol of the condition of the worldwide financial and economic system: As a result of insufficient real economic re-investments, the real value of operating, productive capacities in the "formerly industrialized" countries is being burned out. Financial values are promises on future income, which at least in part must be paid for through real economic activity. As soon as it becomes apparent, however, that a large portion of the financial values are only "empty promises," then a financial collapse, of a firm or a financial system, is inevitable. In the meantime, one can buy time, through the central banks, which print money and pump it into the financial markets—and through companies adopting the practice of falsifying their books.

On the other hand, Shell is no more a unique case than were Enron, WorldCom, or Parmalat. Hundreds of big companies, not least in the financial sector, are presently in a precarious state, which is at least as bad as Shell's. It is just that no one has noticed it yet.

One indicator for the alarming situation of financial mar-

kets, is the developments in the now-huge field of financial speculation known as credit derivatives contracts.

The dimensions of the worldwide credit derivatives market have exploded in the last years. In the *Le Figaro* "Economy" report on April 21, economics editor Muriel Motte noted that credit derivatives markets—in particular the contracts called "credit defaults swaps" (CDS)—are actually the best indicators for coming corporate collapses.

When a bank lends money to a company at high risk, and wishes to protect itself from that risk, it buys a CDS from an insurance company or a hedge fund—a product which guarantees the bank full reimbursement in the case of default. Therefore, investors take a close look at these sophisticated financial instruments "in the search for advanced indicators of coming financial catastrophes," *Le Figaro* wrote. In the recent period, due to the increasing indebtedness of companies, this market has "exploded," stated Motte, citing estimates that it represents more than \$3.5 trillion today.

It's this "highly liquid" market which signals the great bankruptcies ahead of time, as was the case with Parmalat and Enron. There was clearly a scramble for credit derivatives swaps in the weeks prior to the failure of those large companies. Motte underlined the fact that at this point, 350-400 European corporations already have default swaps attached to their debt.

It is all too well known that numerous companies can achieve the promised increase in quarterly gains only if they massage their figures, through the usual criminal accounting methods. Other companies, including the so-called "industrials" on the market indices, have in the past made a significant part of their profits through speculative earnings on the side,

through purely financial transactions. Since, however, the growth of various financial bubbles has begun to flag—now even the huge U.S. and British housing-market bubbles are hitting their limits—these profits suddenly are no longer there.

No one knows who will be the next, of what one former U.S. administration official recently referred to as “several LTCMs waiting to happen at once” (referring to the Long Term Capital Management hedge fund failure of 1998, which nearly caused a systemic meltdown). But it will probably soon be found out.

## Derivatives Time Bomb

It is certainly no coincidence that the German Bundesbank, precisely at this point in time, published a special study on credit derivatives. Thus, in its monthly report for April 2004, the Bundesbank included a 20-page feature headlined “Instruments for credit risk transfer: its use by German banks and aspects of financial stability.”

First, the Bundesbank welcomes the use of credit derivatives and the securitization of credit risks through special “Asset-Backed Securities,” as in this way, existing risks, at least in theory, are divided up to be borne on many shoulders. Unfortunately, in practice, things look a bit different, as the Bundesbank report showed.

What are credit derivatives? The Bundesbank explains:

“Through the offer of credit, a creditor runs the risk that the debtor may not be able to fulfill the future obligations from the financing. The creditor can insure himself against the effects of such an event, in that he, for example, signs an insurance contract and takes the position of a buyer of insurance. The contract removes the credit risk from the original financing and transfers it to a third party, the insurance seller.”

The predominant type of credit derivatives are the credit default swaps referred to by the *Le Figaro* survey. They relate, usually, to the debt obligation of a single company. If that company cannot pay back the credit covered by the CDS, then the insurance seller has to jump in and take over the full amount of the loan. Otherwise, the insurance provider makes a profit in the form of a risk premium, which the insurance buyer (the lender) pays him.

One could also say, a credit derivative is a bet between a loaning bank and an investor, a bet on the outcome of a credit deal.

Actually, one should have expected most of the credit derivatives providers to be insurance companies, funds, or investors who take over credit risks from banks against premiums; naturally in the hope that everything works out well. However, according to the study by the Bundesbank, this is not the case. It reports that in fact, four-fifths of all credit derivatives in which German banks are involved, are contracts between two banks.

In all, it is a total volume of 566 billion euros. Only 263 billion euros are related to contracts in which German banks have transferred their credit risks to a counterparty. The remaining 303 billion euros are in contracts, where German banks have actually taken over additional credit risks from other banks, usually abroad.

What the Bundesbank is particularly worried about is the high concentration of German credit derivative business, held by a small group of financial institutions. “According to the inquiry of the Bundesbank, for example, the four biggest banks account for about 78% of all the positions in credit derivatives of the banks involved in the poll.”

The situation is similar throughout the world. Already, a “sudden change in behavior of one of the biggest intermediary banks,” for whatever reason, could “move the market significantly. Any losses which ensue, could force single market players to sell securities in order to fulfill the payment obligations of others. Due to this selling pressure, the disturbance could spill over to other financial markets and other market actors. The high concentration, which also characterizes other derivatives markets, is unfavorable from the standpoint of financial stability.” It increases the “systematic damage potential” of disturbances in a single market, the report concludes.

The Bundesbank hopes that the banks will accompany their derivatives trade with adequate “risk management.” Otherwise, the report says, credit derivatives could “endanger financial stability.”

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# Business Briefs

## *Oil and Gas*

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### **Greenspan: Energy Prices To Stay High**

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In a speech before the Georgetown CSIS on April 27, Federal Reserve Chairman Sir Alan Greenspan said that “the dramatic rise in six-year forward futures prices for crude oil and natural gas over the past few years . . . can be viewed as effective long-term supply prices,” and that if those prices are sustained, “it could alter the magnitude and manner in which the U.S. consumes energy.” The major factor in rising oil and natural gas prices is trading in the spot and futures markets, and this market mechanism—built up in the 1970s by ex-fugitive Marc Rich—is likely now the main determinant of consumer energy prices. The price rise would force changes, or reductions, in consumption, and could prompt some gas-intensive industries, such as petrochemicals and fertilizer manufacturing, to move facilities to parts of the world where natural gas and labor are cheaper.

## *Mortgage Market*

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### **Chicago Foreclosures Up, New Applicants Drop**

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With relaxed loan qualification standards as well as rising long-term unemployment, the number of homes entering foreclosure in the Chicago metro area, for example, is extremely high. “We’re seeing an average of 508 new filings per week for the month of March and the first two weeks of April,” said foreclosures.com president Alexis McGee. “That’s almost double the normal historic baseline of 260 per week for the six Chicago metro counties.”

In California, mortgage defaults show that many homeowners are in “financial distress.” In eight of nine San Francisco Bay Area counties, 4,654 default notices were filed in the first three months of 2004; and in Los Angeles, 1,872 in March alone, according to the April 27 *San Jose Business Journal*.

Mortgage market troubles are deepening nationally. New home mortgage applications dropped for the fifth consecutive week,

as higher interest rates began to take hold. For the week ending April 16, the Mortgage Bankers Association’s Market Composite Index of loan applications fell to 744.5, a 33% fall from an index level of 1117.1 for the week ending March 12. For the same period, refinancings collapsed by 49%.

## *Steel*

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### **Predator ISG Largest U.S. Steel Producer**

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The approval by a bankruptcy judge of the ISG takeover of bankrupt West Virginia-based Weirton Steel was reported April 23 in the *Charlotte Observer*. This makes ISG the largest steel producer in the United States. ISG, created only three years ago by the Rothchild-connected “turn-around” expert Wilbur Ross, has achieved this status entirely by picking up bankrupt steel companies (LTV, Bethlehem, ACME) at bargain basement prices and then running them on a non-union model with elimination of work rules and the introduction of productivity incentives and bonuses, lay-offs, elimination of health care benefits, and reduction of pension benefits. The remaining Weirton workers who have been through round after round of lay-offs and wage reductions over the past ten years, just approved a five-year contract with ISG and have more of the same coming.

## *Unemployment*

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### **Jobless, With Exhausted Benefits, To Increase**

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The number of unemployed workers who will have exhausted their jobless benefits will rise to nearly 1.5 million by April 30, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. According to its analysis, the number of Americans exhausting their regular state unemployment benefits in March without qualifying for any additional Federal unemployment assistance, surpassed the record high that was set only in January. In March, about 354,000 more jobless workers used up their regular benefits without being

able to receive additional Federal aid—the highest monthly level ever, according to Labor Department statistics going back to 1971. Moreover, since Dec. 20, 2003 a whopping 1.47 million unemployed workers will have exhausted their state jobless benefits by the end of April—without receiving extra aid. The April 2 Bureau of Labor Statistics report, which claimed a recovery was underway, showed a worsening of both the number and proportion of long-term unemployed workers. The number of Americans out of work at least 27 weeks, rose to 1.988 million in March, at the same time that a purported 308,000 jobs were created. The proportion of the unemployed who are “long-term unemployed” increased to 23.9%, the largest ratio in more than 20 years.

Congress failed to renew the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program, when it lapsed on Dec. 20. This would have provided up to 13 weeks of Federally funded benefits to jobless workers who have run out of state-funded benefits.

## *Foreign Reserves*

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### **China Diversifying Foreign Reserves**

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China, the second-largest buyer of U.S. Treasury securities, is changing the portfolio of investments in its foreign currency reserves to include more European and Asian bonds, due to worries over dollar weakness. Guo Shuqing, head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, told the April 23 *Financial Times* that Beijing had recently purchased more European (including Italian) government bonds, and was looking at buying Asian bonds. China’s purchases of U.S. Treasuries are a key source of financing for the surging U.S. budget deficit.

“As China’s foreign exchange reserves grow continuously, we are actively studying opening up new areas of investment in order to spread risk and increase returns,” said Guo, also a deputy governor of the People’s Bank of China, the central bank. He indicated that while U.S. dollar-denominated debt would still be the biggest part of China’s foreign currency reserves, the diversification was triggered by considerations of currency strength and capital market conditions.

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## Lessons of Chernobyl: Nuclear Power Is Safe

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*A nuclear scientist looks back at the notorious April 1986 accident and its effects, with particular reference to thyroid cancer. A report by Zbigniew Jaworowski, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.*

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The Chernobyl catastrophe was a dramatic personal experience for me—a difficult exam, which I am not sure that I passed. For many people engaged in radiological protection—although not all—it was a watershed that changed their view on the paradigm on which the present safety regulations are based, the holy mantra of LNT. LNT is the *linear no-threshold* assumption, according to which even the lowest, near-zero doses of radiation may cause cancer and genetic harm. For the general public, the Chernobyl accident might serve as a yardstick for comparison of radiation risks from natural and man-made sources. It also sheds light on how easily the global community may leave the realm of rationality, facing an imaginary emergency.

The LNT assumption is in direct contradiction to a vast sea of data on the beneficial effects of low doses of radiation. In 1980, as a chairman of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), I tried to convince its members that we should not ignore, but rather peruse and assess these data, which had been published in the scientific literature since the end of the 19th Century. But everyone on the Committee was against it. In each of the next seven years I repeated my proposal, but to no avail.

Finally, the accident at Chernobyl appeared to be an eye opener: Two years after the accident, in 1988, the Committee saw the light and decided to study *radiation hormesis*, that is, the adaptive and beneficial effects of low levels of radiation. Six years of the Committee's work, and many hot discussions later, Annex B, titled "Adaptive Responses to Radiation in Cells and Organisms," appeared in the UNSCEAR 1994 Re-

port—14 years after my original proposal.

This Annex started a virtual revolution in research related to radiation protection. However, because of many vested interests and a conservative reluctance to change the international and national regulations, there is still a long way to go.

The LNT/hormesis controversy is not limited to radiation. It poses problems for practically all noxious physical, chemical, and biological agents which we meet in life.<sup>1</sup> Ionizing radiation was discovered relatively recently—at the end of the 19th Century—but, like these other biological and chemical agents, it has been with us since time immemorial.

### The Radiation Shock

The Chernobyl accident was a radiation event unique in human history, but not in the history of the biosphere. There is evidence of a number of episodes of greater radiation levels during the evolution of life on Earth, for example, as a result of supernovae. In terms of human losses, it was a minor event as compared with many other man-made catastrophes. But, in political, economic, social and psychological terms, its impact was enormous. Let's look at what happened.

At about 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 28, 1986, at the entrance of the Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection (CLOR) in Warsaw, I was greeted by my assistant with a statement: "Look, at 7:00 we received a telex from Mikolajki monitoring station saying that the radioactivity of air is there 550,000 times higher than a day before. I found a similar increase in the air filter from our station in the backyard, and the pavement in front of the institute is highly radioactive."



*The damaged Chernobyl plant in 1992. The accident led to the first in-depth study of the long-term effects of low-level nuclear radiation, carried out by UNSCEAR.*

Soon, to our relief, we found that the isotopic composition of radioactive dust was not from a nuclear explosion, but rather from a nuclear reactor. Reports that flowed in successively from our 140 monitoring stations suggested that a radioactive cloud over Poland travelled westwards, and that it had arrived from the Soviet Union; but it was only at about 6:00 p.m. that we learned from BBC radio that its source was in Chernobyl.

This was a terrible psychological shock. The air over the whole country was filled with the radioactive material, at levels hundreds of thousands times higher than anything we experienced in the past, even in 1963, a record year of fallout from nuclear test explosions. It is curious that all my attention was concentrated on this enormous increase in air radioactivity, although I knew that on this first day of “Chernobyl in Poland,” the dose rate of external radiation penetrating our bodies reached 30 picorads per hour, or 2.6 millisievert (mSv) per year—that is, only higher by a factor of three than the day before. This higher dose rate was still *four times lower* than the dose rate I would experience visiting places in Norway, where the natural external radiation (up to 11.3 mSv/year) from the mountains there is higher than that over the Central European plain. The higher dose was also some *50 times lower* than in Ramsar, an Iranian resort, where the annual radiation dose reaches about 250 mSv per year; or more than *300 times lower* than at the Brazilian beaches (790 mSv per year) or in southwest France (up to 870 mSv per year). *No adverse health effects have ever been reported among the people living in areas with high natural background radiation.*

### **The Cost of Ad Hoc Remedies**

But in 1986, the impact of a dramatic increase in atmospheric radioactivity dominated my thinking and everybody else’s thinking. This state of mind led to immediate serious consequences in Poland, in the Soviet Union, throughout Europe, and later across the globe.

First, there were different hectic actions, such as the ad hoc coining of different principles and emergency countermeasures, the sense and quality of which lagged far behind the excellent, existing measuring techniques and monitoring systems. An example of this was the radionuclide concentration limits (the derived intervention levels) implemented a few days after the accident by various countries and international organizations, which varied amongst themselves by a factor of up to 50,000. The rationale behind some of these limits was not at all scientific, but reflected the emotional state of the decisionmakers, and also political and mercantile factors.

For example, Sweden allowed for 30 times more radioactivity in imported vegetables than in the domestic ones, and Israel imposed lower limits for radioactivity in food imported from Eastern Europe than from Western Europe. The limit of cesium-137 concentration in meat, of 6 becquerels per kilogram (Bq/kg) was accepted in the Philippines, but in Norway the limit was set at 6,000 Bq/kg.

The monetary costs of such restrictions were estimated in Norway. At first, the cesium-137 limit for meat was set there at 600 Bq/kg. From a health physics point of view, this standard is meaningless, because consumption of 1 kilogram of such meat would correspond to a total dose of 0.0078 mSv—in other words, negligible. If someone were to eat 0.25 kg of this meat every day for one year, his internal radiation dose would reach only 0.7 mSv, still negligible.

This limit was often surpassed in mutton, however; and the farmers received compensation for destroying that meat, and for the special fodder they were forced to feed the sheep for months before slaughtering. Such a low limit could have destroyed the living of the Lapps, whose economy depends on reindeer, an animal whose special food chain is based on lichens. Because of this food chain, the reindeer meat in 1986 contained high concentrations of cesium-137, reaching up to 40,000 Bq/kg.



Contrary to the scare stories about a nuclear wasteland, the region around Chernobyl most “contaminated” with radiation, is now a magnificent nature preserve, with abundant flora and fauna.

In November 1986, the Norwegian authorities introduced a limit of 6,000 Bq/kg for reindeer meat and game. The ordinary Norwegian diet includes only about 0.6 kilograms of reindeer meat per year, and thus this limit was aimed to protect Norwegians against a radiation dose of 0.047 mSv/year! In 1994, the costs of this “protection” were evaluated: They reached over \$51 million.

Sweden was no better. When the farmers near Stockholm discovered that the Chernobyl accident had contaminated the milk of their cows with cesium-137 above the limit of 300 Bq per liter imposed by Swedish authorities, they wrote to them and asked if their milk could be diluted with uncontaminated milk from other regions, until the limit were attained; for instance, by mixing 1 liter of contaminated milk with 10 liters of clean milk. To the farmers’ surprise, the government’s answer was no; the milk was to be discarded. This was a strange policy, as it had always been possible to use this dilution method for other pollutants in foodstuffs, just as we dilute the polluting fumes from fireplaces or ovens with the atmospheric air.

The Swedish authorities explained that although one could reduce the individual risk by diluting the milk, such dilution would increase the number of consumers, and thus the risk would remain the same, but be spread over a larger population.<sup>3</sup> This was a dogmatic application of the LNT assumption, and of its offspring, the concept of the “collective dose” (that is, reaching terrifyingly great numbers of “man-sieverts,” by multiplying tiny, innocuous individual radiation doses by a large number of exposed people).

In an earlier paper, I demonstrated clearly the lack of sense, and negative consequences, both of this assumption and of the concept.<sup>4</sup> This dogmatic application of this faulty assumption meant that the costs of the Chernobyl accident probably exceed \$100 billion in Western Europe.<sup>5</sup>

## Unnecessary Evacuations

The most nonsensical action, however, was the evacuation of 336,000 people from the regions of the former Soviet Union where, during the years 1986-1995, the Chernobyl fallout increased the average natural radiation dose by 0.8 to 1.4 mSv per year; that is, by about 30% to 50%.<sup>6</sup> (The average natural radiation there is about 2.5 mSv per year.) The evacuation was based on radiation limits recommended by the International Commission for Radiological Protection (ICRP) in the “event of major radiation accidents,” and on its recommendations for protection of the general population.

Note that these recommended limits were *tens to hundreds of times lower* than the natural doses of radiation in many countries. In the asphalt-paved streets of the “ghost town” of Pripyat, near Chernobyl, from which about 50,000 people were relocated, and where nobody can enter without special permission, the total external gamma radiation dose rate measured by a Polish team in May 2001 was 0.9 mSv per year; that is, the same as in Warsaw, and five times *lower* than at the Grand Central Station in New York City.

The evacuation led to development of mass psychosomatic disturbances, great economical losses, and traumatic social consequences. Obviously, the ICRP will never accept responsibility for the disastrous effects of this dogmatic application of its armchair lucubrations, which has caused the present system of “radiation protection” to become a “health hazard.”<sup>3</sup>

## The Lessons of Thyroid Prophylaxis

In Poland, upon my instigation, the government administered, within three days’ time, a single dose of stable iodine to about 18.5 million people, in order to save the population from effects of exposure to iodine-131. This was the greatest prophylactic action in the history of medicine performed in

such short a time. My medical colleagues and the Ministry of Health were rightly proud of the ingenious and innovative way they implemented this countermeasure. Recently, several countries, including the United States, took steps to follow our course of action in case of a nuclear accident.

However, now I see our action as nonsensical. We endeavored to save Polish children from developing thyroid cancers by protecting them from a radiation dose of 50 mSv to the thyroid gland.<sup>7</sup> At this dose, the ICRP recommended implementation of stable iodine prophylaxis. But in studies of more than 34,000 Swedish patients whose thyroid glands received radiation doses reaching up to 40,000 mSv from iodine-131, *there was no statistically significant increase in thyroid cancers* in adults or children, who had not already been thought to have cancer before treatment with iodine-131. In fact, an opposite effect was observed: There was a 38% *decrease* in thyroid cancer incidence as compared with the non-irradiated population.<sup>8, 9</sup>

In a much smaller British study of 7,417 adult hyperthyroid patients, whose thyroids received average radiation doses from iodine-131 reaching 300,000 mSv, there was a 17% deficit in incidence of all studied cancers.<sup>10</sup>

Without the stable iodine prophylaxis and milk restrictions that we instituted, the maximum thyroid dose would have reached about 1,000 mSv in about 5% of Polish children.<sup>7</sup> All that I would now expect from this dose is a *zero effect*.

Fourteen years after the Chernobyl accident, in the highly contaminated areas of the former Soviet Union, there has been no reported increase in incidence in solid cancers or leukemia, except for thyroid cancers. In its *2000 Report*, UNSCEAR stated that the “population need not live in fear of serious health consequences,” and “generally positive prospects for the future health of most individuals should prevail.”<sup>16</sup> There have been no epidemics of cancers in the Northern Hemisphere, as so direly predicted, from the LNT assumption, to reach tens and hundreds of thousands, or even millions of cases.

The number of 1,800 new thyroid cancers registered among the children from Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine should be viewed in respect to the extremely high occurrence of “occult” thyroid cancers in normal populations.<sup>11-14</sup> These cancers, which do not present adverse clinical effects, are detected *post mortem*, or by ultrasonography examinations. Their incidence ranges from 5% in Colombia, to 9% in Poland, 13% in the United States, and 35% in Finland.<sup>12</sup> In Finland, occult thyroid cancers appear in 2.4% of children 0-15 years old.<sup>11</sup>

In Minsk, Belarus, the normal incidence of occult thyroid cancers is 9.3%.<sup>15</sup> The greatest incidence of so-called “Chernobyl” thyroid cancers in children under 15 years old, was 0.027%, registered in 1994 in the Bryansk region of Russia. Note that this is less by a factor of about 90, than the

normal incidence of occult thyroid cancers among Finnish children. The “Chernobyl” thyroid cancers are of the same type and are similarly invasive, as the occult cancers.<sup>13</sup>

The first increase of these cancers was registered in 1987, in the Bryansk region of Russia, one year after the accident. Since 1995, the number of registered cancers has tended to decline. This is not in agreement with what we know about radiation-induced thyroid cancers, the latency time of which is about 5 years after irradiation, and the risk of which increases until 15-29 years after radiation exposure.<sup>6</sup>

In the United States, the incidence rate of thyroid tumors detected between 1974 and 1979, during a screening program, was 21 times higher than before the screening,<sup>16</sup> an increase similar to that observed in three former Soviet countries. I believe that the increased registration of thyroid cancers in contaminated parts of these countries is a classical screening effect.

### Actual Radiation Deaths

There were 28 fatalities caused by very high doses of radiation to rescue workers and employees of the power station, and 3 deaths in this group as a result of other reasons. Among 237 members of the reactor staff and emergency workers, who were initially examined for signs of acute radiation sickness, this diagnosis was confirmed in 134 patients. From among these patients, 11 died, as of 1998. The causes of death were as follows: three cases of coronary heart disease, two cases of myelodysplastic syndrome, two cases of liver cirrhosis, and one death each of lung gangrene, lung tuberculosis, and fat embolism. One patient, who was classified with Grade II acute radiation sickness (acute radiation dose of 2.2 to 4.1 Gray) died from acute myeloid leukemia.

A substantial increase in the incidence of leukemia among recovery operation workers was predicted, but the evidence for a measurable radiation effect on this incidence is somewhat mixed. The average standardized incidence ratio (SIR) for leukemia ranged—among these workers for Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine—from 0.94 to 7.76; but the problem is that a similar increase was found for chronic lymphatic leukemia, a subtype deemed not to be induced by radiation exposure. Contribution of a screening or diagnostic bias to these excesses cannot be excluded. The SIR for all cancers combined, in the recovery operation workers, ranged from 0.70 to 1.02 in Belarus; from 0.91 to 1.01 in Russia; and from 1.05 to 1.11 in Ukraine.

In the general population of the contaminated regions of Belarus, the SIR for leukemia was 0.46 to 0.62 (that is, 46-62% of the incidence level characterizing the whole population of Belarus); 0.93 to 0.99 in Russia; and 1.05 to 1.43 in Ukraine. In the general population of contaminated regions, the SIR for all cancers combined ranged from 0.30 to 0.69 in Belarus, from 0.89 to 0.98 in Russia, and from 0.80 to 0.82 in Ukraine.



*Children in Poland taking stable iodine in a Lugo solution, after the Chernobyl accident in 1986, to prevent their thyroids from absorbing radioactive iodine. The author, who was involved in this precaution, points out that it turned out to be unnecessary.*

Hence, the incidence of all cancers in the contaminated regions appears to have been lower than it would have been in a similar but unirradiated group.

The only real adverse health consequence of the Chernobyl catastrophe, among about 5 million people living in the contaminated regions, is the epidemics of psychosomatic diseases.<sup>6</sup> These diseases were not caused by irradiation with Chernobyl fallout, but by radiophobia, induced by years of propaganda before and after the accident, and aggravated by improper administrative decisions. As a result of these decisions, several million people in three countries have “been labeled as, and perceive themselves as, actual or potential victims of Chernobyl.”<sup>17</sup> This was the main factor behind the economic losses caused by the Chernobyl catastrophe, which were estimated for Ukraine to reach \$148 billion until 2000, and \$235 billion until 2016 for Belarus.<sup>17</sup>

### **Victims of LNT Dogma**

In 1986, most of my professional colleagues and I, the authorities, and the public in Poland and elsewhere, were pre-conditioned for irrational reactions. Victims of the LNT dogma, we all wished to protect people even against the lowest, near-zero doses of ionizing radiation. The dogma influenced the behavior of everyone, leading to a mass psychosis. In fact, with the efficient help of media and national and international authorities, Chernobyl quickly evolved into the greatest psychological catastrophe in history.<sup>2</sup> It seems that

professionals, international and national institutions, and the system of radiological protection, did not meet the challenge of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

The following main lessons can be deduced from this accident.

(1) Ionizing radiation killed only a few, occupationally-exposed people. Because of the rapid decay of short-lived radionuclides, the Chernobyl fallout did *not* expose the general population to harmful radiation doses. On April 26, 1986, in the area covered by the dangerous radiation, near the burning reactor, the radiation dose rate reached 1 Gray per hour. (After one year, it decreased by a factor of about 3,000.) This area was limited to two patches, totalling together about 0.5 square kilometer, in an uninhabited location, and extending a distance of 1.8 kilometers from the burning nuclear reactor.

Several hundred meters outside the 1 Gray isoline, the dose rate dropped by 2 orders of magnitude, to a level of 0.01-0.001 Gray per hour. This is a completely different situation from the aftermath of a surface explosion of a 10 megaton nuclear bomb; in that case, the 1-Gray-per-hour isoline can reach a distance of 440 kilometers, and the lethal fallout can cover tens of thousands of square kilometers, and endanger the lives of millions of people.

(2) The reported excess of thyroid cancers in children and adults who were exposed to Chernobyl fallout is not consistent with the knowledge of the effects of medical use of iodine-131. The report of an “excess” appears to be an effect of medical screening, and consists only of a small fraction of the normal occult thyroid cancer incidence that occurs in populations unexposed to iodine-131.

(3) Radionuclides were injected high into the stratosphere, at least up to 15 kilometers altitude, which made possible their long-distance migration in the entire Northern Hemisphere, and a penetration over the Equator down to the South Pole.<sup>18</sup> With unique, extremely sophisticated radiation-monitoring systems in place in all developed countries, even the most tiny debris from the Chernobyl reactor was easily detected all over the world. No such system exists for any other potentially harmful environmental agent. Ironically, this excellent radiological monitoring capability ignited the mass anxiety, with disastrous consequences in the former Soviet Union, and the strangulation of nuclear energy

development elsewhere.

(4) Psychosomatic disorders and screening effects were the only detectable health consequences among the general population. Fighting the panic and mass hysteria could be regarded as the most important countermeasure to protect the public against the effects of a similar accident, should it occur again.

(5) This was the worst possible catastrophe: of a badly constructed nuclear reactor; with a complete meltdown of the reactor core; followed by ten days of completely free emission of radionuclides into the atmosphere. Nothing worse could happen. It resulted in a comparatively minute occupational death toll—about half the death toll of each weekend's traffic accidents in Poland, and tens or hundreds of times lower than the number of deaths caused by many other industrial catastrophes. It is unlikely that any fatalities were caused by radiation among the general population.

In centuries to come, the Chernobyl catastrophe will be seen as a proof that nuclear power is a safe means of energy production.

*Prof. Zbigniew Jaworowski is the chairman of the Scientific Council of the Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection in Warsaw. A multidisciplinary scientist, he has studied pollution with radionuclides and heavy metals, and he has served as chairman of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.*

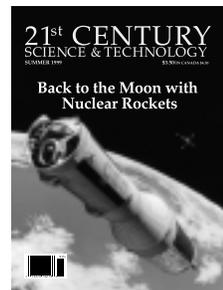
*A version of this article will appear in the Australian Radiation Protection Society Newsletter 2004, and in a compendium of papers about the environment and human health to be published by the International Policy Network.*

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## Pennsylvania Primary Inspires Fight To Bring In LaRouche

by Phil Valenti and Nancy Spannaus

The City of Philadelphia was polarized and politicized as never before, going into the April 27 Democratic Presidential primary, around the key strategic issues of how to get out of the Iraq war and the economic depression. More than 60 members of the LaRouche Youth Movement organized door to door, with the LaRouche Doctrine on Southwest Asia, and 250,000 copies of a pamphlet on LaRouche's intervention in Harrisburg circulated in the state. Pennsylvanians were bombarded intensely with a radio ad campaign featuring LaRouche's solutions. The depth of the organizing effort was reflected in the massive circulation, and viewing, of a DVD of LaRouche's famous January 2004 "Talladega" speech on the Immortality of Martin Luther King, which conveyed LaRouche's own King-like quality of leadership.

While the population was engaged by the LaRouche in dialogue over the crucial leadership role of the candidate, the endorsement of LaRouche for President by Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James (D-Phila) directly challenged the Democratic Party's corrupt decision to try to exclude the only FDR Democrat from the political process. James' refusal to back down an inch from his support of LaRouche, in the face of intense harassment and threats of dire political consequences, defined a standard of political courage required to defeat the fascist apparatus represented by Dick Cheney and his dummy George W. Bush in November, and to rebuild the Democratic Party out of the pathetic "me-tooism" now controlling the Kerry campaign.

Yet, in contrast to the on-the-ground dominance of the LaRouche campaign in Philadelphia, unofficial results credit LaRouche with about 22,000 votes statewide, or 2.8%, and 4,500 votes in Philadelphia, or 3.5%, with some city wards and many divisions reporting from 10% up to 43% for LaRouche. In at least one division, LaRouche even out-pollled Kerry.



*LaRouche Youth rallied near Philadelphia's City Hall on April 14; their non-stop mobilization in April produced LaRouche votes of 10-40% in districts of the Philadelphia area. Counterorganizing operatives and the major media, held his statewide vote to 3%, but the momentum to bring LaRouche in, to counteract the stumbling Kerry candidacy, is growing.*

## Who's On the Ballot?

Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche will be on the ballot in 11 primaries over the next six weeks, as the campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination enters its final phase before the party's July 26-29 National Convention in Boston. LaRouche will be on the Democratic primary ballot in Indiana on May 4; Nebraska and West Virginia on May 11; Arkansas, Oregon, and Kentucky on May 18; Idaho on May 25; Alabama and South Dakota on June 1; and Montana and New Jersey on June 8.

Here are each of those state's ballots:

### **Indiana, May 4**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark

### **Nebraska, May 11**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Sharpton

### **West Virginia, May 11**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman

### **Arkansas, May 18**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman

### **Kentucky, May 18**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman, Sharpton

### **Oregon, May 18**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

### **Idaho, May 25**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Sharpton

### **Alabama, June 1**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

### **South Dakota, June 1**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

### **Montana, June 8**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

### **New Jersey, June 8**

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, George H. Ballard

## Democratic Failure

The candidate made the following statement on the vote on election night: "This [result] is an hysterical effort coming from the highest level of the Establishment, which bridges both parties, to prevent any significant vote for me, anywhere. . . . This is coming especially from the Democratic Party, from supporters of Kerry, but also from the common opponents of both Kerry and me. This is coming from the top, and they are all united in saying that I will be excluded from the count by all means, and at all costs.

"The only thing that will crack this—and it will crack it big—is the financial collapse. This will demoralize them, and it will break their back. . . . Don't worry about the vote. Count it, but don't worry about it. The enemy is doing everything possible, every trick in the book, to discourage the vote. And this will probably continue, until the actual—and presently imminent—collapse of the financial system takes place."

Representative James, who had taken a prominent role in mobilizing the vote, called for the mobilization to continue: "Democrats need to continue to use the vehicle and momentum of the LaRouche campaign, to get the attention of the Democratic National Committee, by sending the message to vote for LaRouche."

Representative James, a 16-year veteran of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives—running for his ninth con-

secutive term this year—had campaigned directly in defiance of the Democratic National Committee, blasting it for "continuing to take many of its leading constituency groups for granted. . . . Our concerns, at this point, are not being adequately represented by the Kerry campaign. We must remedy this problem, so that we can mobilize a massive turnout of the Democratic Party base, and remove the Bush/Cheney Administration from power this November," James emphasized.

Indeed, the result of the Democratic Party proceeding with its election campaign while excluding LaRouche, is already showing itself to be a nightmare for the party. Presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry continues to flounder, even as support for President Bush and his disastrous war collapses, in a stunning remake of the losing Gore campaign, or perhaps even that of 1984 loser Walter Mondale. Democratic leaders around the country, not to mention people in other nations, are appalled at Kerry's ability to blow his advantages, by refusing to take on Bush on the war or the economy.

Unless Kerry and the DNC abandon their policy of excluding LaRouche, this disaster is likely only going to get worse. Democrats will stay away from the polls in disgust, at a time when only a mobilization of the broad base of the party among the "forgotten men and women" could bring about a



Pennsylvania State Representative James addresses a campaign meeting April 15 in Philadelphia. His public endorsement and ads for LaRouche drew heavy attacks on him, but energized voters in the city to “make your votes count” by voting for LaRouche.

victory. This abstention has already been foreshadowed in this primary season, as the percentage of Democratic voters participating has steadily collapsed since the early primaries. Rather than building up “excitement” among the voters, John Kerry is following the prescriptions as to how to put them to sleep.

The LaRouche campaign’s combined thrust of international policy intervention, on the one side, and mass organizing through the Youth Movement, on the other, is the only antidote to this recipe for defeat.

### The Fight in Philadelphia

The primary campaign in Philadelphia was dominated by the intervention of the LaRouche Youth, and Rep. James’s machine. James’s appeal to Democratic voters to “Send a message: stop taking our votes for granted!” was broadcast almost daily in the last two weeks of the campaign on several radio stations through paid political announcements by LaRouche in 2004. The impact on listeners of James’s enthusiastic call to “make your vote count! Join me in voting for Democrat Lyndon LaRouche,” was second only to that of LaRouche’s own statements, especially one calling Bush “the dumbest President on record.”

James’s message immediately provoked a lively debate in the African-American community, with radio talk-show hosts either saluting James’s boldness, or spreading false rumors about his imminent “expulsion” from the Democratic Party.

As dozens of Democratic committeemen and women, and some ward leaders, began seriously considering James’s call to turn out at least 15% of the vote for LaRouche in the Second Congressional District—in order to send LaRouche delegates to the Democratic national convention, intensive arm-twisting, pressure, and threats escalated behind the scenes. The

anti-LaRouche Establishment’s headaches were multiplied by the campaign’s outreach to hundreds of African-American churches in the city, many of which welcomed LaRouche campaign representatives to make announcements from the pulpit. LaRouche’s leadership role in the Democratic Party was recognized by several insurgent Democratic candidates for the State Legislature, who asked to join Representative James on LaRouche’s “slate.”

Days before the election, the media attacks began, with a long article in the throwaway weekly *Philadelphia City Paper*, widely circulated in the Center City area. After praising James as a “rock-solid ‘man of the people,’ ” author Daryl Gale said he was shocked by James’ endorsement of LaRouche, but he went on to report James’s explanation as “reasoned, well-thought-out and, in typical James style, a thumb in the eye to the powers that be.”

### Phila. Inquirer Throws Dung

Next came the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which weighed in with an attack appearing on its Commentary page on April 23. With malicious and reckless disregard for truth, writer Mitch Sommers lied about LaRouche, and questioned James’s “political judgment.”

“Someone needs to tell Harold James,” Sommers wrote, “that, for all the good he’s done, he crossed a line. I hope voters consider that when they go to the polls.”

Sommers was more frank in messages he posted on the State Political Report website April 14. “If Rep. James doesn’t know who [LaRouche] is, he’s a moron,” wrote Sommers. “And if he does know, he’s either racist scum or this year’s leading entry for the 2004 Tin Foil Hat award. Either way, I hope [House Democratic Leader] Bill DeWeese bitch-slaps him into oblivion.” DeWeese didn’t cooperate, and Sommers’ *Inquirer* article quoted DeWeese characterizing James as a “Prometheus from Philadelphia,” and “a lovely human being.”

After throwing Sommers’ lying nonsense at its readers, like dung tossed at a bride coming out of church, *The Inquirer* was forced to publish James’s defiant reply on primary day, April 27, under the headline “Stand by LaRouche.” The cowardly *Inquirer* cut out the last three sentences of James’s letter, so we include the last paragraph here (the entire text can be found on the [larouchein2004](http://larouchein2004.com) website).

“I find the tone of Mr. Sommers’ commentary to be quite offensive, if not racist. Am I, as an African-American man and political leader, supposed to be too ignorant or uninformed to be able to see through the many lies and slanders that have been circulated about Mr. LaRouche? There were many journalists and commentators who attacked and distorted the character and beliefs of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s, based upon malicious lies circulated by the racist J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. Fortunately for America, not everyone was intimidated by those lies then. Let us not be intimidated by lies about LaRouche now, or by attacks on my political judgment.”

# California Moves Against Diebold Touch-Screen Voting Machines

by Edward Spannaus

In a major blow against the touch-screen voting swindle—a scam which many fear will be used to steal the November Presidential election—California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley on April 30 barred the use of Diebold touch-screen voting machines in four counties, and asked the state’s Attorney General to pursue criminal and civil proceedings against Diebold, citing its “fraudulent actions.” Shelley also decertified all touchscreen systems in the state until additional security measures are put in place. Diebold has older-style machines installed in ten other counties, which must now either be modified to provide a paper trail, or must meet 23 security standards before they can be used in November.

On April 22, the California Voting Systems and Procedures Panel (VSPP), by a unanimous 8-0 vote, had recommended that the Secretary of State ban the use of the 15,000 Diebold touch-screen voting machines in the four counties for the Nov. 2 Presidential elections. The panel also recommended pursuing civil and criminal charges against Diebold, for violating California election laws.

“We will not tolerate the deceitful conduct of Diebold,” Shelley said. He also vowed that “there will be a paper trail for every single vote cast in the state of California, and it will happen on my watch.”

Last November, the state found out that Diebold had installed uncertified software, without notifying state and county officials. Right before the March 2 primary, Diebold made a last-minute installation of a peripheral device called a “smart-card encoder,” which malfunctioned and caused several hundred precincts to fail to open on time, disenfranchising voters who were turned away.

The VSPP chairman, Undersecretary of State Mark Kyle, said that Diebold had been deceptive about its foreknowledge of problems with the encoders before the March primary. He also accused the company of “bait-and-switch” tactics in trying to pass off uncertified software, as if it had been certified.

A staff report prepared in the Secretary of State’s Office found that Diebold had failed to obtain Federal certification; that it had repeatedly misrepresented the facts, concerning its compliance with Federal testing, to state and county officials; and that during the primary election, Diebold’s machines “failed on a massive scale, resulting in the potential disenfranchisement of voters.”

The report went so far as to conclude that Diebold’s mis-

conduct and misrepresentation “jeopardized the outcome of the March Primary.”

Assistant Secretary of State Marc Carrell said that the decertification amounts to a freeze of Diebold’s business in California, and he called this “a huge embarrassment” for the company, because now, whenever it tries to sell its voting systems to other states and localities, it will have to defend its conduct in California.

A series of legal memoranda obtained by California newspapers, including the *Oakland Tribune*, showed that Diebold lawyers had warned company officers already last Fall, that they should prepare for legal action. They stated that the company had broken California election law by supplying uncertified voting systems to counties, which were then used in the November elections, and that it had also breached its contract with Alameda County. The lawyers noted that the Secretary of State is required to report any violations of law to the state Attorney General and perhaps also to local District Attorneys.

Diebold’s lawyers—in the Los Angeles office of the Cleveland-based Jones Day law firm—drew up a legal budget for Diebold, which included the following items:

- Preliminary legal analysis of potential criminal violations and theories (\$25-40,000);
- White-collar criminal law attorney pre-grand jury investigative advice (\$5-10,000/month);
- A comprehensive position paper which would provide the basis for “persuading prosecuting authorities not to bring criminal charges,” plus press releases, etc. “This is recommended given the exposure. . .” (\$150-250,000).

After the California ruling, Diebold Chairman Walden O’Dell, a major Bush-Cheney contributor and fundraiser, pretended that the company will not be hurt by the California actions, because “whatever goes on in California is separate from what goes on in other states.” However, in the week after the news from the April 22 California actions went out, Diebold stock fell about 8%.

## ‘Paper Is Coming . . .’

At a further meeting of the VSPP on April 28, the panel considered decertification of *all other electronic voting machines*. The panel stopped short of that drastic step, but it did recommend the following measures:

- All voters should have the option of voting on a paper ballot in November;

## Missouri Legislators Want Only Paper Ballots

Legislation to ban all electronic and machine voting, and to use only paper ballots, was recently introduced on April 20 into the Missouri House of Representatives by Rep. Juanita Walton and Rep. James Whorton. The bill also requires that every voter be given a receipt recording his vote. The key section of House Bill No. 1744 reads as follows:

“After August 28, 2004, all elections conducted in this state shall use only paper ballots, and no voting shall be done by ballot card, electronic voting system, marking device, or any machine, nor shall any vote be counted electronically or by any machine. All such ballots shall be counted in accordance with the procedures established for counting paper ballots. . . . Each voter shall be provided with a copy of the voter’s complete ballot for the voter to retain as a voting record.”

A hearing on H.B. 1744 is scheduled to be conducted by the House Committee on Elections on May 5 in Jefferson City.

- New security procedures must be put in place for the November elections, which include vendors submitting their source code to the state, so that it can be placed in escrow;

- No new electronic voting equipment can be purchased before November, unless the equipment produces a voter-verified paper trail, in which the voter can verify his vote before it is submitted.

“Paper is coming to California,” said one VSPP member. “It not a question of if, but a question of when.”

### Risking an Election-Day Meltdown?

The VSPP ruling was hot news among opponents of e-voting across the country, and it also sparked some editorial calls for decertification of Diebold machines.

The *San Jose Mercury News* wrote in an editorial: “The public apology by the president of Diebold Election Systems isn’t enough. His company’s promises and excuses for failure ring hollow. . . . In misleading state election officials, the touch-screen voting company destroyed its credibility and damaged voter confidence in elections. Diebold’s conduct justifies the immediate decertification of the latest electronic voting system used in San Diego, Solano, Kern and San Joaquin counties.”

A *New York Times* editorial said that “there are compelling reasons for [Secretary of State Kevin] Shelley to decertify some, and perhaps all,” of the Diebold voting machines in

California. The *Times* cited the widespread malfunctioning of Diebold machines on March, and noted: “It is not hard to program a computer to steal an election,” and that this is why certification by Federal and state monitors is required. The *Times* suggested that Shelley should not only ban Diebold machines, but that he should bar all machines that do not produce a paper trail. “To do otherwise is to risk Election Day meltdowns, and another presidential election in which voters lack faith in the outcome.”

The drive to establish voter-verified paper trails is picking up steam in many states, and also in Congress, where there are a number of bills pending. Two hearings on voting technology are scheduled in Washington during May. The first is a May 5 all-day hearing on electronic voting to be conducted by the new Federal Election Assistance Commission—whose start-up was sabotaged for months by the Bush Administration. The second is a hearing on voting technology to be held on May 12 by the House Government Reform Committee’s Subcommittee on Technology.

However, California legislators have told *EIR* that a paper-trail system would not have prevented *any* of the problems that occurred with Diebold machines on March 2, because the major problem was that the machines didn’t work at all. Forty percent of the precincts opened late in San Diego County, and 20% in Alameda County, because the vote-card encoders didn’t work. A paper trail would have had no effect on this massive disenfranchisement of voters.

One major problem with “paper trails” is that there is no way that the retrofitting of touch-screen machines with printers could be accomplished in time for the November elections. A bigger problem, as computer experts have advised *EIR*, is that the attachment of printers to voting machines adds another element of complexity which is prone to malfunctioning and failure, as anyone familiar with computer printers knows. Such a system which is used only once or twice a year is going to be even more problematic.

### LaRouche: Ban All Computer Voting

Democratic candidate Lyndon LaRouche is calling for banning *all* computerized voting systems, and going to a total paper ballot system, as an emergency measure for the November 2004 elections. LaRouche emphasizes that the speed and complexity of computers creates an inherently dangerous and fraud-prone situation, because only a handful of people even know how the machines work. Worse, sometimes the only people in the know are private contractors; even the local officials responsible for running the elections are in the dark.

To those who argue that returning to paper ballots would be slow and inefficient, LaRouche says that this is all the better: The more people involved, the more impediments there are to carrying out vote fraud. The Democratic candidate stresses that a process in which citizens can observe what is going on, is the best way to prevent vote fraud and the stealing of an election.

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# National News

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## Sen. Lautenberg Slams ‘Chicken-hawk’ Cheney

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), an octogenarian World War II veteran, created pandemonium on the floor of the U.S. Senate on April 27, when he called Vice President Dick Cheney “the lead chicken-hawk” in the country. “We know who the chicken-hawks are,” he said. “They talk tough on national defense and military issues and cast aspersions on others, but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL from courage.”

Lautenberg defined a chicken-hawk as “having the shriek of a hawk, but the backbone of a chicken, and now the chicken-hawks are squawking about Senator Kerry. The lead chicken-hawk against Senator Kerry is the Vice President.” He went on to report how Cheney claimed he had “other priorities” during the Vietnam War, so that he could not go to war.

To drive the point home, Lautenberg pulled out a large cartoon of a chicken in a military uniform. (It is now posted on the Senator’s website, [www.lautenberg.senate.gov/chickenhawk.html](http://www.lautenberg.senate.gov/chickenhawk.html), along with a video clip of his speech.)

According to radio reports, all hell broke out in response to the intervention, with Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) jumping to Cheney’s rescue.

Next to the chicken-hawk on Lautenberg’s site, is the definition: *Chicken-hawk*—n.—A person enthusiastic about war, provided someone else fights it; particularly when that enthusiasm is undimmed by personal experience with war; most emphatically when that lack of experience came in spite of ample opportunity in that person’s youth.”

Lyndon LaRouche began his attack on Cheney and the chicken-hawks in the pages of *EIR* in August 2002.

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## Village Voice: Dems Need New Candidate

*Village Voice* columnist James Ridgeway’s April 27 column was titled, “John Kerry

Must Go—Note to Democrats: it’s not too late to draft someone, anyone, else.”

“With the air gushing out of John Kerry’s balloon,” he wrote, “it may be only a matter of time until political insiders in Washington face the dread reality that the junior senator from Massachusetts doesn’t have what it takes to win and has got to go. As arrogant and out of it as the Democratic political establishment is, even these pols know the party’s got to have someone to run against George Bush. They can’t exactly expect the president to self-destruct into thin air.”

Noting the “issues” over Kerry’s wealth, his medals and ribbons, “his uninspiring record in the Senate (yes war, no war), and wishy-washy efforts to mimic Bill Clinton’s triangulation gimmickry,” Ridgeway said that Kerry is sinking day by day. “The pros all know that the candidate who starts each morning by having to explain himself is a goner.

“What to do? Look for the Dem biggies, whoever they are these days, to sit down with the rich and arrogant presumptive nominee and try to persuade him to take a hike. Then they can return to business as usual resurrecting John Edwards, who is still hanging around, or staging an open convention in Boston, or both.

“If things proceed as they are, the dim-bulb Dem leaders are going to be very sorry they screwed Howard Dean.”

The leftist Ridgeway apparently cannot bring himself to mention the LaRouche option.

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## Columnist Kristof Wants Turnaround in Iraq

Nicholas Kristof, writing in the *New York Times* on April 28, called for emergency changes in U.S. policy toward Southwest Asia. Kristof is reportedly a friend of former President George H.W. Bush.

“I’ve been quiet on Iraq lately because it’s so tempting—but rather unhelpful—to rant one more time about President Bush’s folly in launching this war. It’s far harder to figure out what to do now that he’s gotten us chest-deep in the mire. I’m not certain that we can make a success out of Iraq, and the

question John Kerry posed in 1971 is still a fair one: ‘How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?’ . . . Yet rushing out would be a mistake. If we give up on Iraq, it will collapse into civil war.”

His proposals include:

- Temporarily increase troop strength by 25,000.

- Stick to the June 30 transition and give Iraqis full sovereignty. Limited sovereignty risks inflaming Iraqi nationalism.

- Don’t rush in to attack Fallujah or Najaf. We made Shi’ite extremist Moqtadar al-Sadr a hero by closing his newspaper; “our best hope for destroying him is to leave him alone.”

- “Dump Ahmad Chalabi and other carpetbaggers. They are American stooges who undermine the legitimacy of any government they are in. . . . Dawa and SCIRI [Shi’ite parties] want a stable Iraq even more than we do.”

- “Disentangle ourselves from Ariel Sharon, that bloodstained figure embraced by President Bush as ‘a man of peace.’ . . . Mr. Bush squandered our legitimacy in Iraq when he and Mr. Sharon chummily gave away Palestinian rights this month.”

- Bring back the most professional and least political Baathist generals.

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## Senator Levin Says, Dump Ahmed Chalabi

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich) delivered a speech on the Senate floor on April 29, in which he stated that with the upsurge of violence in Iraq, the President has offered only two options: to stay the course, or to cut and run. The Senator sees a third option: to correct the course we are on in Iraq.

Levin pointed out that the Administration has decided to retain more troops in Iraq—although the same Administration had disparaged Gen. Eric Shinseki, then Army Chief of Staff, when he foretold the need for more troops for occupation period.

Levin strongly supported the reversal of the de-Baathification policy. “I hope that this revision will include the removal of Ahmed Chalabi as head of the de-Baathification program as well,” he said. “He is the wrong person for the job for a lot of reasons.”

### Mutual Blaming for Senate Gridlock

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), during his weekly press briefing on April 27, came out swinging against the inaction of the Senate in the face of growing job losses across many formerly industrial states. "We need policies and tools that will help us address this extraordinary problem before it gets worse," he said. Daschle noted that in the last four legislative weeks, the Senate has had exactly 11 votes. He sarcastically called that "heavy lifting" for the Senate; but "we'll never get anywhere on the economy and in dealing with the huge impact of the jobs themselves, the loss of jobs, unless we do better with our legislative record."

Daschle's remarks followed a week in which Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on asbestos litigation legislation, which Majority Leader Bill Frist (D-Tenn.) then shelved in favor of taking up an Internet taxation bill on which the two sides cannot agree either. Daschle also complained that Frist had shelved the JOBS bill, consideration of which, under an agreement reached a couple of weeks ago, the Senate was supposed to resume after its Easter recess. The main point of contention on that bill had been an amendment by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) to repeal the Labor Department's new overtime pay rules.

Republicans, in response, blamed the Democrats for the lack of action. Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) promoted the Internet tax bill, which would extend a moratorium on taxation of Internet access, as a way to create "opportunities for jobs, for commerce, for education" to allow "innovation and creativity to grow." He added that "The other side will carry on with misleading statements and mischaracter-

izations that this is somehow a tax break for telecommunications companies." Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Penn.), standing beside Allen, insisted that the Internet bill is another attempt by the Republicans "to address some of the important issues facing our economy." He also said, contrary to Daschle's charge, that the JOBS bill would, indeed, be coming to the floor as per the agreement.

### Bipartisan Drug Reimportation Plan Introduced

On April 21, a group of Senators from both parties, led by Byron Dorgan (D-S.D.) introduced a new plan to allow the re-importation of prescription drugs from Canada. The logic of the plan is that if Americans are allowed to buy cheaper drugs from Canada, that will put downward pressure on the prices the pharmaceutical companies charge in America. "We pay here in the United States the highest prices in the world," Dorgan told a press conference. He charged that those prices "are simply imposed by the pharmaceutical industry."

When asked, why not simply regulate prices, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), a co-sponsor of Dorgan's plan, agreed that the pharmaceutical industry does take advantage of government-sponsored research and government incentives to do its own research. "So we, as taxpayers, help subsidize" the industry. But rather than regulate, "We are using market forces of competition" to drive down prices," she said. "This is a free market, open competition approach that relies on free trade . . . to bring the price down."

The bill's supporters have vowed to do everything possible to bring it

to a vote this year. In a floor speech, Dorgan invited other Senators to co-sponsor. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who, along with Olympia Snowe (R-Maine.), joined the Democrats to support the bill, called it "must pass" legislation. "I believe that we need to force a vote on it as quickly as possible," he said at the press conference. "And I believe that we can show . . . that the pharmaceutical companies can't dictate the legislative agenda" in the Congress. The bill's supporters are counting on the fact that this is an election year, to build support for the measure.

### House Votes 'Relief' for Activated Reservists

One of the hardships faced by many activated members of the National Guard and the reserves is that their military pay is often much less than the pay of the civilian jobs they left behind. Estimates are that 30-40% of reservists face loss of pay when they are activated. A number of pieces of legislation have been introduced in the Congress to address that pay gap, but so far the only one to be acted on is a bill to exempt reservists from paying a penalty when financial hardship forces their families to dip into their retirement accounts. That bill, though denounced by many Democrats as pitiful, passed the House by voice vote on April 21.

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) denounced the bill for failing to compensate reservists for being forced to jeopardize the future welfare of their families. He noted that they suffer loss of income, many do not get their jobs back, and families lose health benefits. Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) told the

House that the bill “is well beneath the least we should do” for activated reservists. He promoted his own bill that would give employers a tax credit for making up the difference between a reservist’s military pay and his civilian pay. The Democrats are also touting legislation by Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) that would require the Federal government to fill the pay gap for reservists who are Federal employees. Lantos’ office said 29 states and about 500 private sector employers make up the pay difference now. The Pentagon reportedly opposes Lantos’ bill, however, on the grounds that it would result in an inequity between the pay of activated reservists and their active-duty counterparts, thereby causing morale problems.

## **D**emocrats Still Unsatisfied With Overtime Rules

The Labor Department issued revised rules governing overtime pay on April 20, which Labor Secretary Elaine Chao claimed will “guarantee and strengthen overtime rights for more American workers than ever before.” The earlier version of the rules, released last year, had generated a storm of controversy, with organized labor warning that they would deny overtime pay to 8 million workers currently eligible for it, and led to numerous attempts on Capitol Hill to prevent the Bush Administration from implementing them. The Labor Department says the revised rules raise the annual salary floor, for workers guaranteed overtime pay, from \$8,060 to \$23,660. The new rules also guarantee that police, firefighters and other public safety and emergency workers are guaranteed overtime pay.

Democrats who had been fighting the new rules the hardest still express dissatisfaction. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Ia.) said that the revised rule “takes some steps toward fixing the Administration’s worst PR problems, but it is clear that workers who currently receive overtime pay now will lose it under this regulation.” He said that his amendment to the JOBS bill, to repeal any regulations that restrict overtime eligibility “is now especially urgent and necessary.”

On the House side, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), in a scathing statement, said that the revised rule, while not denying overtime to as many workers as the previous version, “will still cut overtime for workers who are entitled to it under current law,” and probably several times more than the 107,000 claimed by the Administration. The new rule exempts so-called “team leaders” from overtime eligibility, defining this as any employee who leads other employees to complete a major project. “It appears the Administration may have significantly broadened the administrative exemption by eliminating the requirement that the exercise of independent judgment be customary and regular, as opposed to occasional,” Miller said.

## **B**ush Iraq Policy Chastised in Senate

In hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 20, former Clinton National Security Adviser Sandy Berger endorsed the proposal by Sen. Joseph Biden, the senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, that President Bush call for an immediate summit with European, Arab, and Asian friends, to say “We need your help” on Iraq.

In opening the hearings, committee chairman Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) chastised the White House for not sending requested witnesses from the Defense Department. Biden (D-Del.) then made a lengthy and combative statement, posing the strategic danger of the Iraq situation and the Administration’s failure to face it. He seconded Lugar’s complaint, saying, “I think it’s outrageous the Administration has not provided every witness we have asked for. . . . Someone should have them read the Constitution of the United States of America, and understand that Article II—there is a legislative body. We do not work for the President. I serve with the President.” Later, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Cal.) prefaced her remarks with a comment to Chairman Lugar: “I consider your holding these hearings somewhat an act of bravery considering what a hard time you seem to be having getting people from the Administration.”

Senator Biden pointed to failed promises. Noting that Richard Perle would testify next, he listed some of the promises: We would be greeted with open arms; there would be enough oil revenues to pay for everything; there would be an Iraqi army to stand up immediately, etc. Biden said this is bigger than Vietnam, and more is at stake. Reviewing the events of the past week, he said that these are not “flare-ups” which will pass quickly. “These forces are caught between hostile Iraqi populations . . . and an increasingly skeptical American public whose support we badly, badly, badly need.”

Biden called for a three-point program of very mixed value: 1) send more troops; 2) bring together all the major powers with a stake in Iraq; 3) the President should ask the UN to bless the agreement.

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## Editorial

### *'Bush's April 2,' One Month On*

Following a month of April in which his war policy was an unfolding of disasters, and his attempts to explain it more incoherent with each week, the dumbest President in the history of the United States lost nothing to his “presumptive Democratic opponent.” The basic reason for this astonishing development was that the President, back on April 2, claimed an economic recovery based on a faked employment report, and the Democratic National Committee and Sen. John Kerry have not challenged that fraud, so that some Americans are foolishly lending credence to it. Such stupidity could be more disastrous even than “staying the course in Iraq.”

*EIR*, in its April 9 issue, backed up Lyndon LaRouche’s immediate assessment, that the jobs “recovery” report was just as faked as Bush’s infamous aircraft-carrier speech a year ago, when he announced our troubles with Iraq were over. (So have been other reports that followed it in April, been faked). LaRouche warned that Dumbya’s Administration’s crowing about it, would make a crash—starting on the bond markets—more likely than not before the Democratic National Convention, and not postponable to Election Day.

We stand by that assessment now. Long-term bond market interest rates have gone up nearly a full percentage point in a month; mortgage rates have suddenly risen the same amount, to over 6%; mortgage applications in the United States have fallen significantly in April, not to mention refinancings, which have dried up. And mortgage foreclosures have been zooming up since prior to April 2. The consumer credit bubble’s cash-flow crutch on which the American economy has been standing, is being kicked out—and that’s before the Federal Reserve has even started raising bank interest rates. And inflation is now visibly and clearly raging in the U.S. economy at all levels; the average household’s real wage income is falling substantially even by official Fed and Labor Department statistics, while that same household’s debt is growing at a rate of 11-12% per year.

Meanwhile, far greater increases in effective inter-

est rates have overwhelmed indebted Third World countries during April, including the biggest debtors, raising the specter of new defaults. And in the financial sector, the threat, as one former administration’s official put it recently, is not just that another system-threatening failure like the 1998 LTCM bankruptcy will occur now, but that several such “LTCM’s” will hit at the same time.

More important than the financial blowout threat itself, is the absolute lack of any political response to it, other than by Lyndon LaRouche’s Presidential campaign. Three million American jobs were eliminated from early 2001 to the end of 2003—a collapse of depth and duration comparable to the administration of Herbert Hoover—despite a hyperinflationary policy of money-supply pumping, and the annual inflow of \$500 billion or more of fund from the rest of the world. Time for a new FDR, obviously. Yet when Dumbya stupidly declared “recovery” and Alan Greenspan demanded a *deflationary* policy—interest rate increases and cuts in Federal spending and entitlements—Kerry and the Democratic leadership said, “Me too.” On April 29, for example, in another “major economic policy speech,” Kerry proposed to spend \$200 million over four years to revive industry and create jobs! Lyndon LaRouche, the candidate FDR’s legacy, proposes \$6 trillion in “Super-TVA” Federal credits to create jobs, restore revenue, revive industry; Kerry calls \$200 million enough.

Kerry’s other speeches since April 2 have been about cutting Federal spending and giving out “middle-class tax cuts.” This moves foolish Americans to believe Bush’s disastrous “recovery” fraud, and more intelligent ones to disgust with the Democratic Party.

The underlying reality of the financial-economic breakdown collapse, which our dumbest President only hastened when he shouted “recovery” and sent the bond markets plunging, is what the Democrats, including most Kerry advisors, want to ignore. But they will not be able to avoid bringing LaRouche in, when it hits.