

London's bitter quarrels with President Clinton

by Nancy Spannaus

"Relations between Washington and London have hit a rough patch. Not since the Suez crisis in 1956 have the two countries been at such odds for an extended period of time, diplomats on both sides of the ocean say."

That was the evaluation of John Darnton, a journalist writing in the Oct. 27 *New York Times*. The theme he struck was one which *EIR* and its founding editor Lyndon LaRouche have been discussing since December 1993, when the British-directed Hollinger Corp. began the barrage of Whitewater scandals against President William Clinton. Throughout all of 1994, the conflict between the U.S. and British governments has been a recurring theme, sometimes taking dramatic proportions as in the cases of Ireland and the Balkan war, and at other times simmering on the back burner.

The U.S.-British falling out would be less remarkable if it were not for the official existence of the "Anglo-American special relationship," which reestablished itself after the open break at the time of the Suez Canal crisis. At that time, President Dwight D. Eisenhower threatened military action if the British and French persisted in backing up Israel's attack on the Suez Canal. Since then, aided by the prominence in foreign policy circles of confessed British agents like Henry Kissinger and his protégés, British and American interests have been presented as identical. Although there was certainly intelligence warfare going on *sub rosa*, the official convergence of views and activities grew to the point of obscenity in the relationship between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President George Bush.

On June 11, 1994 in Berlin, Germany, President Clinton came within a hair of officially abrogating that special relationship. Speaking at a press conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the President paid tribute to the "truly unique" relationship between the United States and Germany. When challenged by British reporters as to whether he was relegating the U.S. special relationship with Great Britain to the background, the President said that "there is a way in which the United States and Germany have a more immediate and tangible concern," especially in face of the questions of the economic development of Russia and the East. Reading between the lines, the British press declared that the U.S. President had ended the special relationship.

But the substance of the break between the Clinton administration and London does not lie in statements of formal allegiance, or other diplomatic niceties. What has been going on over the course of the Clinton presidency has been a growing tendency of the United States to break from the dominant British geopolitics of the post-World War II period, which has resulted in increasingly open clashes on foreign policy. Although there has appeared no coherent Clinton foreign policy doctrine, the President's tendency toward respect for national sovereignty, and a perspective of using economic cooperation to resolve intractable conflicts, has set him on a course which challenges the combination of crisis management and one-world government dictatorship which London and the British-dominated United Nations have asserted.

We review below the most salient areas of conflict between London and the Clinton administration.

The Balkans

There has been no more consistent area of clash between the Clinton administration and Great Britain than over the war in former Yugoslavia. Although he backed off his campaign commitment to break from George Bush's policy of appeasement of the Serbian aggressors, President Clinton has frequently reiterated his own view that the United Nations arms embargo against the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be lifted, and that that government be permitted to regain control of its territory which has been seized from it by force. Yet at every point when the President threatened to act upon this commitment at the United Nations or unilaterally, he encountered the withering opposition of the British Foreign Office or British spokesmen acting under the umbrella of the U.N.

The triggers for the clashes are too many to enumerate here. They range from the Serbian strangulation of Sarajevo, to the destruction of protected areas like Srebrenica, to the recent atrocities by the Serbs in the area of the so-called protected city of Bihac. Every time the Clinton administration would make a move toward more aggressive NATO air strikes, the British or their generals in the U.N. Protection Forces would object. Every discussion of lifting the arms

embargo would be sidetracked by British threats to pull out of the area altogether, or by other unspecified threats to the Bosnian government.

President Clinton has taken the correct position that the Serbian aggression is not a civil war, and that the Bosnians have the sovereign right to defend themselves. The British, who have organized the French and the Russians (who have their own historical, longstanding ties with the Serbs) to their position, have objected that this is a centuries-old conflict that will have to exhaust itself. Even after the Bosnian government agreed to postpone its request for a lifting of the arms embargo for six months, putting it off until next spring, the British government declared that it was unwilling to permit a vote in the U.N. Security Council.

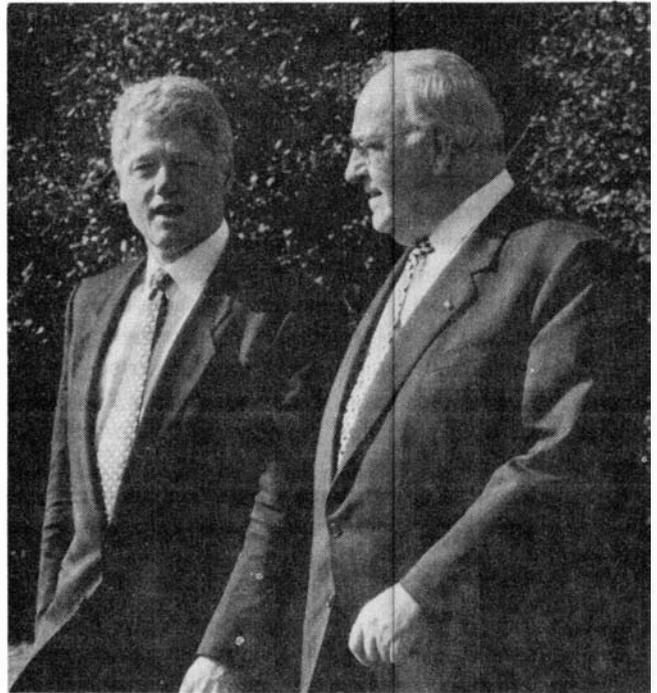
Thus, President Clinton has attempted to work around them, by forging the military alliance between the Croats and the Bosnians, and now by formally ceasing the naval enforcement of the arms embargo against the Bosnians. It remains an uneasy truce, however, as the Serbian aggressors continue their genocidal war.

Ireland

Perhaps nothing has irritated Her Majesty's government more, however, than President Clinton's personal intervention to bring about peace negotiations between the warring parties in Britain's backyard, Ireland. As in the case of Bosnia, the Clinton team had been involved in the Irish situation before he was elected President, promising, in this case, to appoint a special envoy on the Northern Ireland problem. But the fireworks didn't begin until after his election. The first affront was Clinton's appointment of Sen. Ted Kennedy's sister Jean as ambassador to Dublin; the second, was the appointment of a former foreign policy aide to Kennedy as a member of the National Security Council (NSC).

Throughout Clinton's first year in office, there was also discussion of bringing Gerry Adams, head of the Sinn Fein, the civilian arm of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), to the United States for discussions. Requests were turned down, but the situation changed in January-February 1994. Despite personal lobbying by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd against granting a visa for Adams, President Clinton ensured that it happened. The press described the visit as the occasion for a "major rift in U.S.-British relations."

But President Clinton didn't stop. The first 48-hour visit of Adams was followed by the granting of a visa to a Northern Ireland Unionist leader and another Irish Republican leader, Joe Cahill, who was previously barred. The first major result was the declaration by the IRA of its unilateral cease-fire on Aug. 31. The British government remained in a rage, and made public the internal divisions in the Clinton administration between the NSC, which has supported Clinton's Irish policy, and the State Department, which has sided more closely with the British. Adams was granted another visa in October, over British objections.



President Clinton's announcement of a "unique" partnership with Germany during his visit there in July 1994, sent the British press sputtering that the "special relationship" with Britain was ended.

Middle East peace

While you won't catch the British government making statements against the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, there is no question but that London has committed itself to sabotaging that September 1993 breakthrough. All you have to do is to look at London's hands and feet, and the strings through which London controls various players on the ground, to see that this is the case.

The editorial in the Oct. 31 London *Financial Times* came the closest to expressing London's cynical opposition. Writing on the Casablanca conference on economic development and the perspective of statesmen like Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has stressed the need for massive economic development to ensure that the peace succeed, the *Financial Times* editorial said: "Participants would do well to remember that the region is far from being able to beat swords into ploughshares, as the more visionary Israeli leaders suggest," and, "in fact, it is still in urgent search of the political solutions that are an essential precondition for development."

To the contrary, the very premise of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, as signed under the sponsorship of President Clinton in September 1993, was that economic development was a precondition for lasting peace. The protocols of the agreement, and statements by Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat and Peres in particular, have underscored this point. The main problem has come with the

behavior of the World Bank, which has held up promised funding for the new Palestinian entity until certain conditionalities were met.

President Clinton has indicated support for a new Mideast Development Bank outside the World Bank. London has put its backing behind the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) approach.

London's attempt to destabilize the peace has also taken the form of deployment of its terrorist assets, both on the Israeli and Arab sides. The Hebron massacre of Feb. 25, 1994 was carried out by Jewish Defense League-linked extremists whose intelligence control traces back to the Quatuor Coronati freemasonic lodge in London. On the Arab side, the terrorist wing of Hamas is known to be the spawn of British intelligence circles.

The Clinton administration's efforts to cool out conflicts within Algeria, Sudan, and Yemen have also met with British opposition.

Asia

The crises in both Korea and China have provided the occasion for conflict between the Clinton administration and London in Asia. In both cases, the Clinton administration has taken the approach of defending the right to national sovereignty, and of encouraging economic development as a way toward stability. This has been most surprising in the Korea crisis, where the traditionally anti-nuclear Democratic administration came to an agreement on Aug. 12 which would preserve North Korea's sovereign right to rely on nuclear energy, by providing new light-water nuclear reactors in return for shutting down Soviet-type nuclear plants.

London and its one-worldist cothinkers at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) did their best to create the crisis between the world community, especially the United States, and North Korea in the spring of this year, with the issuance of numerous reports on the alleged nuclear threat by the North. Clinton administration spokesmen, who had been in negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program for more than a year, were forced to constantly disavow the IAEA's "intelligence." London think-tanks such as the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Jane's *Defense Weekly* pumped out "analyses" which called for a U.S. military confrontation with North Korea over its refusal to abide by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

President Clinton derailed the British-U.N. scenario by sending former President Jimmy Carter to negotiate directly with North Korean President Kim Il-sung in Pyongyang on June 16-18. The negotiations which were set up at that time, although delayed by the intervening death of the North Korean head of state, eventually resulted in the signing of a treaty on the nuclear redevelopment of North Korea on Oct. 21.

Less of a "hotspot," but equally significant in terms of conflict between U.S. and British policy has been China. In the on-the-ground situation, the British have a lot to play

with in China, since they still hold Hongkong, and have historically deep connections with Chinese finance and the Communist Party itself. Their perspective on handling the situation was revealed in part in a March 1994 study published by the IISS. The 64-page study, written by IISS Asia expert Gerald Segal, forecast the likely outcome of a crisis which would lead to the breakup of China. Sources in China itself have also reported their observation that the British are committed to a policy of dividing China into at least three parts.

In contrast, the Clinton administration has sought to shift the policy of economic looting which is leading to devolution in China, and replace it with a new relationship in which "economic security" would be ensured. The major move in this direction which Clinton took was sending Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown to China at the end of August. Brown announced at a press conference on Aug. 30 that President Clinton "has sent substantive signals that we regard China as a commercial ally and a partner—that China's long history is deserving of respect; and China has responded." Brown took two dozen corporate leaders to China to discuss major infrastructure projects, and declared that Clinton "has junked a 12-year tradition of laissez-faire government" in order to win contracts for the United States to help build these projects.

An alternative strategy

No review of the quarrels between London and the Clinton administration would be complete without mentioning East-West relations. Despite statements by Vice President Al Gore and State Department official Strobe Talbott in the winter of 1993-94 about the disastrous effect of IMF policy on the Russian economy, the Clinton administration has not abandoned IMF policy toward Russia. But the President's predilection for making bilateral deals based on joint economic interests (as in the Middle East and Korea), instead of depending upon global institutions, has London and its minions in constant fear that he may dump their policy to loot Russia.

Clinton's endorsement of the East-West infrastructure program put forward by European Commission President Jacques Delors, back in July, also represents a threat to the British approach to Europe's future. The Delors plan is not dead, although spokesmen for London and free-market economics are attempting to kill it by ruling out the use of state credit for the needed infrastructure projects.

Whether President Clinton ultimately decides to dump the IMF, the most aggressive of U.N. "one-world government" agencies, may well determine whether his war with London will be successful. It will determine whether he can rally support at home, and abroad, for the principle of national sovereignty based on growth and economic development—the very essence of the American System ideas which London's rulers are determined to crush.