

development of members by expanding multilateral cooperation in various fields, as well as through political consultation. He said the group, which represents almost 800 million people, should encourage cooperation among the private sectors and central banks of member countries, and should launch joint ventures in third countries.

The union, as presented at the Istanbul meeting, is, however, not to be considered a closed body, concentrated on the internal economic needs of the member countries only. As both Erbakan and Velayati underlined, the D-8 is to be a negotiating vehicle in relations with other organizations. “[The] principle of cooperation instead of exploitation would guide us to work for a favorable international environment,” he said, according to reports in the Persian press. The D-8, as a new economic pole, is to form organized relations with groups like the G-7 (Western industrial nations plus Japan), because, according to the report issued by the Iranian press agency IRNA, “without cooperation with other economic groups, there would be no chance of progress.” The *Zeitung* understood this to signify that the D-8, as interlocutor of the G-7, would “represent the rights of the developing countries in Asia and Africa, which are identical to the Islamic world. In the name of these developing countries, the D-8 should even co-determine the birth of a new world order.” As LaRouche put it, the D-8 initiators are essentially announcing to the G-7, “Okay, we have our clout, we have our club, you have your club. Let’s get together, and, now, renegotiate the deal.”

Erbakan’s idea for such an Islamic union is not new. According to the *Zeitung*, “The vision of a Muslim union had been proposed at the beginning of the 1960s by the Turk Erbakan and the Indonesian B.J. Habibi, at the Aachen University in Germany.” Habibi is known today as the “architect of the booming Indonesian economy.” Reportedly, the two hatched the idea of such a union, in recognition of the fact that “the underdevelopment of many countries was the result of Western imperialism and the world order which had been proposed by the U.S.A., Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R. after the Yalta conference of 1945.” Erbakan has been quoted recently to the effect that the West created “artificial tensions in the Islamic world, in order to dominate it.”

It was Erbakan’s accession to the prime minister position in Turkey, which brought the vision closer to realization. For his first trip abroad, Erbakan broke with tradition, which would have him visit a power in the West, and travelled to Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia—all the countries which have since become D-8 members. During that tour last summer, the Turkish prime minister held detailed consultations with his interlocutors on the new formation.

Although this design was not publicized at the time, what did make news was the groundbreaking agreement Erbakan signed on his first stop, in Teheran, on Aug. 10-11, 1996 (see *EIR*, Aug. 23, 1996). The agreements involved gas, transportation, and electricity deals, which enhanced the infrastruc-

ture links between Turkey and Iran. Erbakan stressed that this signalled a cooperative effort between Ankara and Teheran—which the British geopoliticians had been pitting against one another in a contrived “race for influence” over the Central Asian republics. At the center of the August agreements was a \$20 billion deal, over 23 years, for Iranian and Turkmen gas supplies to Turkey, via a pipeline to be built by 1997, along with Iranian electricity supplies and an extension of rail connections.

Foreign sabotage, domestic opposition

Plenty of obstacles have been placed in the way of this Iranian-Turkish cooperation, but both governments seem determined to see their grand design through. The most obvious obstacle has been the sanctions policy adopted by the United States against Iran, which threatens to punish third parties for economic relations with Teheran. Responding to questions on such hostility, Velayati said, “Iran and Turkey have common history, religion, and traditions, and the Western countries’ views toward Teheran-Ankara relations are not the same. For example, the European states welcomed development of cooperation between the two countries.” During a visit to Turkey in December, to sign seven economic agreements, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told journalists that

EIR on the Internet

EIR News Service has announced the launching of a new World Wide Web site, www.larouchepub.com. The site will include a repository of some of Lyndon LaRouche’s writings, which were kept at his Presidential campaign’s website, which has now shut down.

Once it is fully operational, the new website will contain many new features, including:

- Table of Contents and selected articles from the latest issue of *EIR*.
- A search engine, allowing visitors to search the entire website for keywords and phrases.
- Links to all other LaRouche-related Internet sites, including a transcription of LaRouche’s interviews with the weekly “EIR Talks” radio broadcast.
- On-line subscriptions to *EIR*, *New Federalist*, and other items, with secure, encrypted credit card transactions.
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