

# National News

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## Brits plan their own U.S. channels for cable TV

Not content with rinsing public radio and television networks with British bilge, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) intends to establish its own cable channels in the United States. According to the Jan. 27 London *Financial Times*, the BBC will funnel at least two channels through its link to John Mallone's Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI), the largest U.S. cable operator. The BBC plans to devote one channel to "entertainment," and the other to so-called "factual" programming.

Mallone, whose TCI has been linked to the Bank of Credit and Commerce International's notorious money-laundering crimes, relies on the BBC for material for his new eco-fascist "Animal Planet" channel.

Recently, Mallone has found himself cash short; but he told the *Financial Times* he was sure this would not hinder his joint venture with the BBC—which would mark the first time a foreign government had direct control of a U.S. broadcasting operation.

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## Byron Foundation plots with U.S. Confederates

The British Lord Byron Foundation will hold a conference in Chicago at the end of February, combining the forces of the Thatcherite "Greater Serbia" mob with neo-Confederate Southern secessionists in the United States, *EIR* has learned. Scheduled to run from Feb. 28-March 2, the meeting will also include Republican Party advisers and Russian "pan-Orthodox" policymakers.

The Lord Byron Foundation is named for the degenerate 19th-century romanticist, who served as the model for the fictional prototype of the vampire Count Dracula. Byron was otherwise devoted to plotting separatist and secessionist bloodbaths—from the Balkans to the Middle East—as a leading agent of British intelligence services. The foundation held its first major international

event one year ago in Moscow, in cooperation with the Russian Academy of Sciences' division responsible for "Balkanistics."

The Lord Byron Foundation's two leading eminences, the Sun Myung Moon-linked Sir Alfred Sherman, and Cambridge University's Michael Stenton, are both scheduled to speak, as are James Jatras, an adviser to the Senate Republican Policy Committee; Prof. Yelena Guskova, from the Balkans unit of the Russian Academy of Sciences; and Confederacy propagandist Thomas Fleming of *Chronicles* magazine.

Fleming was lionized in a London *Sunday Times* magazine feature on Jan. 19, as a leader of today's Southern Confederates who "claim recognition as a separate race—British." Fleming and Michael Hill, who teaches British history at the University of Alabama, co-authored the "New Dixie Manifesto" in 1995. Together they run the Southern League, and are full of admiration for the separatist Northern League in Italy. Hill's view of the United States couldn't be clearer: "Our culture is clearly British, more so than any other part of America. We are a distinct nation. There will be a southern people, long after the American empire."

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## Bush's role in cocaine plague aired on L.A. TV

A Jan. 30 local news feature on Fox-TV in Los Angeles, put the spotlight again on George Bush for his role in bringing the crack-cocaine plague to the United States. The coverage was built around interviews with former Drug Enforcement Administration agent Celerino Castillo, who served in Central America during the 1980s Contra resupply operations; and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), who has pressed for Congressional hearings on U.S. government involvement with Contra drug-traffickers.

Castillo told interviewers that he has evidence of U.S. involvement in cocaine trafficking, but that no one has called him to testify about it—even though he took more than 3,000 photos of alleged CIA-Contra drug operations. The reporter added, "Castillo says knowledge of the alleged CIA-

Contra drug link not only involved the CIA and the DEA, but also the number-two man at the White House, Vice President George Bush. Castillo says he met then-Vice President Bush in January 1986 at the U.S. ambassador's residence in El Salvador."

While displaying a photo of Bush and Castillo together, the report noted that "Castillo says he mentioned the Contra drug-running to Bush, but that the Vice President declined to respond. Bush, who also served as CIA director in the '70s, has said he was unaware of any CIA-Contra drug connection."

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## Statesmen tell Clinton: abandon NATO expansion

Vladimir Petrov, a professor emeritus at George Washington University, and George Kennan, the original "Mr. X" author of the Cold War doctrine of containment, both published signed commentaries on Feb. 5 opposing NATO expansion. One day earlier, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had warned, in a *Washington Post* interview, that NATO expansion would benefit hard-line anti-Western factions inside Russia.

Kennan was very blunt about the magnitude of the error he feels that NATO is committing by going ahead with expansion eastward. "Something of the highest importance is at stake here," he wrote. "And perhaps it is not too late to advance a view that, I believe, is not only mine alone but is shared by a number of others with extensive and in most instances more recent experience in Russian matters. The view, bluntly stated, is that expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-Cold War era. Such a decision may be expected to inflame the nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies in Russian opinion; to have an adverse effect on the development of Russian democracy; to restore the atmosphere of the Cold War to East-West relations, and to impel Russian foreign policy in directions decidedly not to our liking." Kennan stressed the added danger of expansion, coming at a time when Russia's "Executive power is in a state of high uncertainty and near-paralysis."

## Briefly

Dr. Petrov started his column by distinguishing himself from Strobe Talbott, Madeleine Albright, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Henry Kissinger, all of whom heartily endorse NATO enlargement. He singled out Kissinger: "We have heard all sorts of seductive arguments from NATO advocates. Kissinger believes that the extended NATO will define the easternmost border of our civilization. . . . The advocates promise that NATO will contain Russian imperialism if it ever materializes after recovering from the Chechnya war." He urged, "For God's sake, stop pretending that bringing into NATO impoverished states of Eastern Europe would somehow make the United States a safer place to live." After tearing apart all of the conventional arguments for NATO expansion, Petrov observed: "One unspoken reason exists for preserving NATO; the fear that as Europe progresses toward integration, our influence there would diminish. The Euro currency would challenge the almighty dollar. The sprawling NATO bureaucracy might wither away unless some new task breathes new life into the institution."

In January, *Aviation Week* published an editorial also denouncing NATO expansion as an expensive, dangerous, and needless exercise.

### Decay of drinking water supply gets press notice

The ongoing collapse and contamination of the nation's drinking-water supply has drawn the belated attention of some of the U.S. media, more than a decade after Lyndon LaRouche warned that the crisis was already at hand. A Sunday feature in the science and health section of the Feb. 2 *Washington Times* was headlined, "Don't Drink the Water—America's Once-Healthy Tap Runs Dry."

The feature, by a Hearst Newspaper reporter, cites estimates by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, that 940,000 people become ill each year from contaminated tap water, and that 900 of them die. More than 600 outbreaks of waterborne disease have occurred since 1971. Accord-

ing to the health standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), one out of every five U.S. water systems fails to meet requirements, affecting 10% of the nation's households, or about 30 million Americans a year.

The article attributes the problem to "a booming population that pollutes the environment, more micro-organisms that resist cleanup efforts, and water-distribution pipes and treatment plants that are aging." It notes that many of the nation's water-distribution pipes are 100 years old, and easily prone to harboring microbial growth and breakage.

### 'Jobs Summit' calls for FDR-style recovery plan

A two-day "Jobs With Income Summit" in Philadelphia on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, organized by Hospital Workers District 1199C and backed by the national AFL-CIO, emphasized the need for Roosevelt-style public works and infrastructure projects, to create good jobs and expand manufacturing. Attended by 250 people, the summit focussed on the need to re-create the FDR coalition of labor, minorities, the unemployed, and the urban poor. Speakers included William M. George, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, and Gerald McEntee, international president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and vice president of the national AFL-CIO.

Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), the only member of the Congressional Black Caucus from Pennsylvania, said he has introduced legislation to finance infrastructure projects. He noted the dilapidated condition of Philadelphia's water mains; the obstacle that poses to maintaining manufacturing; and the number of good jobs that can be created by repairing and replacing water systems. Fattah said that the city of Philadelphia has lost 100,000 manufacturing jobs over the past five years alone. State Rep. John Myers (D-Phila.), recalling President Franklin D. Roosevelt's public works programs, announced that he has prepared a bill for introduction, calling for financing of infrastructure jobs in Pennsylvania.

**THE CO-AUTHOR** of California's "Medical-Marijuana" initiative is lobbying to kill the program aimed at eradicating the state's illegal marijuana crop. Dennis Peron, head of the Cannabis Cultivators Club, says his supporters want an end to helicopter flyovers and seizure of marijuana in production areas, to ensure the availability of "cheap and pure" marijuana.

**DESERT STORM** commander Norman Schwarzkopf was asked during a Jan. 29 Senate hearing, whether blowback from carpet-bombing of Iraqi chemical weapons might have afflicted U.S. troops. "Yeah, it's a very real possibility," he said. He denied any allegations, however, "that I and my commanders knowingly placed our troops at risk to chemical weapons while we sought to protect ourselves, and subsequently engaged in cover-ups."

**STATE DEPARTMENT** spokesman Nick Burns said Feb. 3, that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright chose to deliver a major foreign policy address at Rice University's James Baker Institute in Houston, because she "believes very strongly in bipartisanship." Her decision to meet with former "Secretary Baker and President Bush," Burns said, "is an indication of the importance that she attaches to bipartisanship in American foreign policy."

**ONE OF EVERY SEVEN** African-American men—a total of 1.46 million—is barred from voting, according to a new study by the Sentencing Project. In many states, persons convicted of felonies are denied their right to vote, and do not regain it when they are released from prison.

**PAMELA HARRIMAN**, British courtesan; ex-wife of Winston Churchill's son Randolph; reputed intimate of Aly Khan, Gianni Agnelli, and Baron Elie de Rothschild; widow of U.S. financier W. Averell Harriman; former member of the Democratic National Committee; and U.S. Ambassador to France, died in Paris on Feb. 5, at the age of 76.