

## Russian commentary on Brzezinski's plan

Zbigniew Brzezinski's new book is the subject of recent commentaries in the Russian press, by such influentials as Sergei Glazyev, head of the Information and Analytics Section of the Federation Council, and Yuri Maslyukov, chairman of the State Duma's Committee on Economic Policy.

Glazyev's article, "Russophobia," appeared in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Nov. 18. He writes: "Brzezinski, who constantly emphasizes that Russia and the Soviet Union are the same thing, unambiguously asserts the necessity to destroy Russia, from the standpoint of American interests, describing its future in American geostrategy sometimes as a 'political black hole,' and elsewhere as 'a freely confederative Russia, consisting of European Russia, a Siberian Republic, and a Far East Republic.' . . . The dismemberment of Russia into three parts, Brzezinski believes, will become the basis for achieving a balance of power, in American interests, in Eurasia: 'Each of such confederative entities could succeed in local development of its creative potential, which for centuries was hampered by the heavy bureaucratic hand of Moscow.' The development of the 'creative potential' of the fragments of dismembered Russia will proceed, according to this design, with the guiding influence of the U.S. and its partners. The American colonization of Ukraine is proposed to be implemented jointly with Germany and France; that of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, jointly with Turkey and, in part, Iran; that of Siberia and the Far East, jointly with Japan and China. We see that, in the view of this chief American geostrategist, there is enough of the Russian inheritance for everybody, which will permit the U.S. to carry out its strategy of 'soft hegemony'



*Zbigniew Brzezinski's demand for dismembering Russia has alarmed Moscow analysts, who miss the point about whose interests his proposal really serves.*

in the world, paying with Russian resources."

"Of course," Glazyev acknowledges, "Mr. Brzezinski is not President of the United States, and not even Secretary of State. Official Washington would hardly confirm the existence of such a geostrategy in respect to Russia. Nonetheless, many facts bear witness to the undoubted influence of the ideas expressed by this political scientist, on the practical work of American secret services and pressure groups."

In a discussion of Russia's national security requirements, published on Nov. 15 in *Pravda-Pyat*, Yuri Maslyukov cites the same passages from Brzezinski. He writes that the West is still dominated by notions of the in-born "aggressive, totalitarian, imperial nature of Russia," and asserts that there is "broad support" for Brzezinski's notion that "Russia is a superfluous country," which should be dismembered.

## British 'do business' in the Caucasus

by Rachel Douglas

The British presence in the Transcaucasus, North Caucasus, and Central Asia comprises business projects, cultivation of political assets, and irregular warfare. The capabilities, by which "the British are doing what they have done for the last 100-200 years in this region, . . . [to] use leverage, through our very skilled diplomats, to maneuver one side or the other, to British advantage," as one official put it, are drawn from the historical arsenal of the Empire, and the legacy of British intelligence in the Soviet period. And, some nominally American institutions, such as the "Bush league" oil companies that are very active in Azerbaijan, effectively serve as auxiliaries for British geopolitical schemes; that puts them at odds with the U.S. administration's repeated, explicit rejection of any modern version of Britain's 19th-century anti-Russian "Great Game."

Our chronology records the intensification of British activity in the Transcaucasus this year, as well as relevant earlier events, since the return of London intimate Heidar Aliyev to power in Azerbaijan in 1993.

### Dramatis personae

**Heidar Aliyev**, President of Azerbaijan. An ex-KGB officer, then head of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and a member of the Soviet CP Politburo, Aliyev comes from a prominent Azerbaijani family. His family antecedents' paths crossed those of British intelligence, at the famous 1920 Baku Conference of Toilers of the East, and, later, in factional wars within the Azerbaijani Muslim hierarchy. Today, his brother Natic Aliyev is president of Azerbaijan's state oil company, SOCAR, and Heidar Aliyev's son, Ilham, is vice president.