

Editorial

A positive strategic shift

It is not yet clear that President William Clinton understands that the war crises which have dominated his administration in recent months—first Iraq, and now Kosovo—were born out of the desperation of the world financial oligarchs to prevent the consolidation of a combination which could replace them. What is clear is that some of the major errors which led to the current crisis, are beginning to be reversed, opening up the strategic potential for the good.

Increasingly, we should point out, the world's press is admitting how close the current financial system came to extinction, during the crisis of the Long Term Capital Management hedge fund in late September 1998. At the time, only this magazine and its co-thinkers pointed out how serious the collapse of that institution was. Now, the Bank for International Settlements, and even the *Washington Post*, are admitting the existential terror the bankers faced.

But, while the imminence of financial death, and the capitulation of President Clinton to crisis management, rather than taking up measures for a New Bretton Woods, energized the drive of the British-American-Commonwealth group toward war, there were three other policy errors by the administration which fuelled the war drive. And, they are now being reversed.

First, there was the decision, under duress, by the Clinton administration to bypass the United Nations and take unilateral action (along with the British) in bombing Iraq in December. This action sent a signal far beyond the particular occasion, signalling to Russia and China, in particular, that traditional norms of international relations were being overturned, and that they would not be consulted on questions of war and peace.

In recent days, since the NATO summit, however, this error has begun to be reversed. Not only did the summit participants pay lip service to the importance of working with Russia, and the United Nations, but in the immediately following days, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the Russians have been at the very center of working with the United States and others on

a pathway to peace.

The second critical error which was made in the buildup to the launching of war against Serbia, was the avoidance of collaboration between the United States and the western European nations. It is hardly a secret that Italy and Greece, both members of the NATO alliance, have been much less than thrilled about the bombing campaign. But, while the Clinton administration initially worked almost exclusively with Great Britain and the blaring Tony Blair—the real masterminds behind this war—over the past days President Clinton has been collaborating much more closely with the Germans, in particular.

Thus, when President Clinton sent his personal emissary and friend, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, to Moscow on April 25, he made a point of stopping in Berlin to brief the Germans upon his return.

Collaboration with Germany is a special slap in the face to the British imperialists, who consistently react with rage to any sign that their “special relationship” with (read: dominance over) the United States is being rivalled by U.S. partnership with Germany.

The third crucial error of the Clinton administration which led into this war crisis was the ignoring of the global financial crisis. Although both the President and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin have stated publicly in the recent period that they are not planning to implement a New Bretton Woods, the President has shifted the agenda in the Balkans to the question of providing for economic development. This gives the President the high ground, against those who are simply following the logic of war, with greater and greater intensity.

This strategic shift could not have occurred without the work of the LaRouche movement, and its publications. It must now be furthered by an accelerated international movement for LaRouche's New Bretton Woods system, and the necessary international development program, including extensions into the Balkans. We have a period of new opportunity, which must be seized now.