

Editorial

The vice-president resurfaces

The world received a sharp reminder of the dangers represented by Vice-President Al Gore on May 12, when a cabal of operatives around former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, among others, succeeded in getting President Boris Yeltsin to oust Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov. There is no question but that this move was prompted from outside Russia. The finger is pointed squarely at Al Gore.

You will see in our *International* section the comments of one U.S. Russia expert, Dr. Stephen Cohen, pointing to Gore's role. But Dr. Cohen is not alone in his analysis, which is currently circulating throughout Washington.

Here we go again. The last time the Vice-President meddled in foreign policy, he succeeded in getting Russian Prime Minister Primakov to turn his plane around, only two hours from Washington, and thus aborted the last chance at diplomacy which might have prevented the disastrous war in the Balkans. Recall that it was Gore's office, not the White House, which announced the cancellation of the Primakov visit. Gore's actions were denounced by this publication and Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche at the time, as potentially provoking world war.

We also asserted—against much opposition—that Gore's actions did not reflect the preferred policy of President Clinton. While this may not have been visible then, time has shown our assertion to be absolutely true. President Clinton, over the first half of May, put forward an economic reconstruction perspective as the end-point of the Balkan war, and began to collaborate with the Germans and Russians, in particular, in seeking a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Now, as the administration intensified its diplomatic efforts with the Russians, we suddenly find Primakov dumped—an act that leaves Al Gore's friend Chernomyrdin as the chief interlocutor for Washington, and Russia on the brink of either chaos or a dictatorship which could lead in the very short term toward World War III.

Recall that Gore has a long history of collaborating with Chernomyrdin behind the back of the President. It

was last August, in the thick of the impeachment fight, that Gore intervened to try to get Yeltsin to appoint his corrupt old friend as Prime Minister. In the face of Russia's de facto bankruptcy, Gore was trying to ensure that his cronies on Wall Street, who were exposed up to their eyeballs in Russian securities, would get their loot. When the State Duma (parliament) rejected Chernomyrdin in favor of Primakov, Gore was obviously not pleased.

The next move which Gore took on foreign policy was not on Russia, but against President Clinton's other designated strategic partner, China. This was his much-ballyhooed public attack on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, at the November APEC summit. Even the Nazis were more polite, LaRouche has commented. But Gore's intentions were clearly to blow up relations between the United States and the group of Asian nations who are coordinating with China, of which Malaysia is a leading example.

After each of these deliberate provocations, President Clinton has eventually been able to smooth the waters, and re-establish diplomatic relations. But the consequences get more and more serious, and the time for maneuver is running out.

Which brings us back to the question of Gore and the ouster of Primakov. There is every indication that the Clinton loyalists in the administration were in favor of Primakov staying in office. They, and every other sane person, realize that, while not a bold thinker, Primakov had an orientation of putting Russia back on the economic track, in collaboration with China and India, and if possible, with the United States. There would be no adventures, no flight-forward, under his tenure.

But such was not the view of London, Gore, and the British-American-Commonwealth grouping. They are prepared to jeopardize world peace, and even their own debt-collection efforts, in order to destabilize possible cooperation among the United States, Russia, China, and India. Can you see now why an Al Gore Presidency would mean not only Malthusian genocide, but a head-long rush toward world war?