

## The battle for peace in the Balkans has just begun

by Jeffrey Steinberg

To say that the just-concluded Balkan peace accords are resting on a fragile foundation is perhaps the understatement of the decade. On June 10, by a vote of 14-0 (China abstained), the United Nations Security Council put in place a formal structure for a political solution to the three-month war in Kosovo. Hours earlier, the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia had ceased, after a Yugoslav military withdrawal from the devastated province was verified to have begun. President Clinton delivered a brief national television address, hours after the ink had dried on the UN Security Council document, expressing his relief that a diplomatic solution was achieved and that “we averted the wider war this conflict might have sparked.” Indeed, up to the point that the diplomatic breakthrough was consolidated, the Balkan conflict had all of the hallmarks of the opening skirmishes of a new global war, more akin to the Thirty Years’ War that ravaged Europe during 1618-48, than anything seen during the two world wars of the 20th century.

On the optimistic side of the ledger, President Clinton, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, and other continental European leaders have all agreed that the key to the Balkan peace lies in real, substantive economic reconstruction. Indeed, it was only on the basis of a shift of emphasis, from the NATO bombing campaign, to a diplomatic solution—involving Russia, and hinged on the economic revitalization of the entirety of Southeast Europe—that President Clinton and others were able to cobble together the cease-fire and peacekeeping framework now being set in place.

However, the breakthroughs achieved after weeks of painstaking trilateral diplomacy by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Russian Presidential Balkan emissary Viktor Chernomyrdin, and European Union peace negotiator Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, were only accomplished

over the strongest British opposition, and came after months of British and American unilateral military aggression in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans, that has nearly wrecked U.S. relations with Russia and China.

President Clinton broke that “Anglo-American” pact, first, with his speech in San Francisco on April 15, in which he first invoked the need for an exit strategy from the escalating Balkan war, through economic reconstruction. A week later, he made his break with British Prime Minister Tony Blair public, at the 50th anniversary NATO summit in Washington, where he revived his collaboration with Schröder and Italian Prime Minister Massimo D’Alema, and publicly repudiated London’s pressure for a full-scale ground invasion of Kosovo. In the course of shedding the Anglo-American cloak, the President also downgraded two of the biggest British lackeys in his inner circle, Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Unfortunately, even as President Clinton was moving to reassert control over his own Presidency, at the expense of London and the British-American-Commonwealth (BAC) contingent in Washington, the world was suffering a series of strategic jolts that are still yet to fully play out:

- Former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, the first popular and effective official to be placed in charge of the Russian government since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, was fired by President Boris Yeltsin, at precisely the moment that he was attempting to wrestle power from a clique of corrupt “tycoons” with unsavory ties to Western speculators and raw materials looters. That clique, personified by Boris Berezovsky, has been increasingly reasserting its control over the Yeltsin Presidential entourage.

- The Indian government collapsed in a vote of no confidence, and elections are not scheduled until the fall, assuring

that the South Asian subcontinent remains in a state of heightened instability.

- U.S. strategic ties to China sank to the bottom of the ocean, as the result of the “mistaken” bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, and the release of the “bipartisan” Cox Committee report, fabricating a Chinese military threat to the United States, based on the alleged theft of top-secret nuclear weapon designs from American national laboratories. Unless and until President Clinton provides the Chinese leadership with a full and honest accounting of how its Belgrade Embassy was bombed, and takes strong action against those in the NATO and Pentagon command who were responsible, American-Chinese relations will remain at an impasse—or worse.

In each of these instances of eruptions of political instability, the “invisible hand” of the British was certainly involved. The strategists in London are well aware that Lyndon LaRouche has identified the “Survivors’ Club,” centered around China, Russia, and India, as the natural allies of the United States and continental Europe, in ridding the world, once and for all, of the power of Perfidious Albion, through the creation of a New Bretton Woods financial system, and the implementation of the Eurasian Land-Bridge plan for global economic reconstruction.

British policy is to use any and all means—up to and including triggering World War III—to stop LaRouche’s vision from becoming a reality.

### **The Brits will lash out**

There can be no confusion: The Blair government in Britain was delivered a dramatic setback, when President Clinton broke free of the BAC manipulations that had paralyzed his Presidency for 15 months, and successfully forged a diplomatic solution to the Balkan mess, with crucial European and Russian assistance.

Blair has now proven himself to be a failure, in the eyes of the British Crown, and he may soon disappear from the political scene, like one of Queen Elizabeth’s once-prized horses that has fallen on hard times and is thus carted off, with no royal remorse, to the glue factory. However, the British will not sit idly by and allow the Balkan peace process to move forward unimpeded. And, if history provides any guidance, one can expect the British and their submarines within the NATO structures to launch a new wave of “strategy of tension” irregular warfare in the Balkans, the Middle East, and the Far East, where equally fragile peace processes are moving forward in fits and starts.

Already, both Italy and Germany have been targeted for terrorist destabilization; British “Islamists” have been identified as crucial operatives in an attempt to provoke a new shooting war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir; and, a new upsurge of terrorist atrocities have occurred in southern Lebanon, in the aftermath of the Israeli elections, in which the British marcher-lords Benjamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon

were overwhelmingly defeated, in a clear referendum in support of a renewal of the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Syrian peace process.

On June 11, Jürgen Möllemann, the former minister of economics in the Helmut Kohl cabinet, barely escaped death in a parachuting incident, which police later confirmed involved professional sabotage. Möllemann, who presently is the head of the German-Arabian Society, had been targeted by the British recently for his efforts to sign a lucrative oil deal with Turkmenistan—in direct competition with a British consortium.

### **The Russian crisis deepens**

The Russian involvement in the Balkan peace process was accomplished at a very high price, which will only be overcome if the reconstruction of Central Europe proceeds rapidly, and with heavy Russian participation. In the wake of the UN Security Council vote, a barrage of criticism has been thrown at President Yeltsin and his emissary Chernomyrdin. On June 10, the Russian State Duma (lower house of Parliament) voted by an overwhelming 271-92 majority, to condemn Chernomyrdin for “pursuing a line that contradicts the state interests of the Russian Federation.” The resolution stated, “The defeat of a strategic ally of Russia in the Balkans has sharply worsened Russia’s geopolitical position and created a serious threat to its national security.”

On the same day, Pavel Felgengauer, a Russian military analyst who often speaks for Russian military intelligence, penned an article in the English-language *Moscow Times*, charging that “the pro-Western Kremlin clique sold the Serbs down the river.” He harshly warned that any Russian participation in the Kosovo peacekeeping force would render Russian troops “Western-paid proxies like their political masters in the Kremlin.” Even more ominously, he concluded that “almost all Russians, especially the Russian military, increasingly believe that Yeltsin’s continued presence in the Kremlin is a terrible liability, a handicap for Russia. The country and its military may simply not wait for elections to get Yeltsin out.”

On an even more ominous note, on June 8, the Chinese *People’s Daily* reported that Russia is implementing a new nuclear war-fighting doctrine, based on the development of “miniaturized nuclear warheads” that will “make limited nuclear attack possible.” In response to the NATO Balkan air war, the Chinese official paper noted, President Yeltsin ordered the development of “non-strategic nuclear weapons” to revitalize Russia’s nuclear deterrent. Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin informed the Duma that the defense budget would be increased from 2.8% to 3.5% of GDP in order to guarantee the financing of the “non-strategic nuclear weapons.” Yeltsin is reportedly talking about an arsenal of 10,000 such miniaturized and super-miniaturized weapons, that would, nevertheless, have 1,000 times the explosive power of the bombs that the United States dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.