

National News

Army, Hollywood unveil 'virtual' training games

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera announced that the Army would give \$45 million to the University of Southern California (USC), to create more powerful commercial video games and military training materials. The project, hushed up until an Aug. 18 press conference at USC in Los Angeles, had been leaked earlier to *EIR* and exposed in the July 2 issue, along with Lyndon LaRouche's *Feature*, "Star Wars and Littleton." A copy of that issue was presented to Secretary Caldera, along with LaRouche's press release "Is World War III Coming?"

The virtual reality industry was represented at the press conference by Rick Belluzzo, chairman of Silicon Graphics, Inc. Several press raised questions regarding the public perception that violent Satanic video games had warped the minds of children, who have then killed others. The question was shrugged off with the response that any new technology could be used for good or evil.

The new institute at USC arises out of a report, authored by Naval Institute Professor Michael Zyda for the National Research Institute, calling for increased military cooperation with the "entertainment industry" in creating training video games for the nation's armed forces. Zyda is a devotee of such mind-destroying games as "Doom" and "Quake."

New York Times lies that Bosnians stole aid money

In uncharacteristically harsh terms, the U.S. State Department excoriated the *New York Times* for its front-page story on Aug. 18, "Leaders in Bosnia Are Said to Steal Up to \$1 Billion," which claimed that the theft was discovered by "an American-led anti-fraud unit" set up by the Office of the High Representative, who is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Dayton Agreements. The *Times* claimed to base its story on a

4,000-page report compiled by the anti-fraud unit.

State Department spokesman James Rubin countered on Aug. 19 that "there continue to be reports about a non-existent report by the Anti-Fraud Unit of the Office of High Representative. That report does not exist. . . . Nor are the reflections of \$1 billion being lost—of foreign aid—accurate. That \$1 billion is a lumping together of domestic revenue losses with minimal foreign assistance losses that leads to a false impression that a billion dollars of foreign assistance has been stolen."

Rubin pointed out that the 4,000 pages consist of work by the Bosnian federal police. "So . . . the only 4,000-page document that exists is a document in Serbo-Croatian that constitutes the receipts and the proof that the Bosnian federal police have put together an investigation of corruption of one of their own."

Rubin said that the sum total of potential—not actual—losses to the United States is around \$1 million. "This was not foreign assistance," Rubin said. "And instead, the world continues to be told that a billion dollars of foreign assistance has been lost."

Clinton speaks to VFW on how to 'win the peace'

On Aug. 16, speaking before a convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Kansas City, Missouri, President Clinton returned to some of the themes, if somewhat muted, of his April 15 San Francisco speech, in which he called for a Marshall Plan approach to rebuilding southeastern Europe. "International engagement costs money," he said, "but the costliest peace is far cheaper than the cheapest war. Ever since I became President, I have been trying hard to convince Congress of that basic truth. It has been a considerable challenge. . . ."

"Today, after the victory in Kosovo, and in Bosnia, we have an opportunity to invest in peace, so that future wars do not occur there. The people of the Balkans have been crippled by conflict, really, since the end of the Cold War. Today we have a chance to integrate them with each other and into the

mainstream of Europe, where they will have strong incentives to maintain democracy and good behavior, and avoid conflict.

"To do this, we don't need anything as ambitious as the Marshall Plan. And whatever is done, we must insist that our European partners carry most of the load and that the Balkan leaders themselves take responsibility for changing their policies.

"Still, the United States should be a part of this process. If we don't, and the effort fails, make no mistake; there will be another bloody war that starts in the Balkans and spreads throughout southeastern Europe, and some day more young Americans may be asked to risk their lives, at far greater cost than our part of the rebuilding of the region."

The President turned to an even larger problem—the wasted manpower of post-Soviet Russia: "Today the Russian economy is struggling, as we all know. The average salary of a highly trained weapons scientist in Russia—listen to this—the average salary of a highly trained weapons scientist in Russia is less than \$100 a month.

"Now, for a small investment, we can help them turn that expertise to peaceful projects that help the world and draw a living wage doing it, or we can do nothing and pray that each and every one of those thousands of scientists will somehow resist the temptation to market their expertise to those who wish to do us and the cause of freedom harm. Common sense says to me that we ought to give them something useful and good to do, and let them make a decent living. . . ."

"The bottom line is this: Today we have a unique opportunity and a real responsibility to advance the values in the world won in the 20th century, over the last hundred years, by America's veterans."

Congress probes Sudan factory bombing raid

The House Intelligence Committee is currently investigating the story released in early August by the cable network MSNBC, that the State Department prohibited the FBI from going to Sudan to interrogate two suspects whom the Sudanese government had arrested on Aug. 8, 1998, one day after ter-

LYNDON LAROUCHE'S Balkan reconstruction program was reported on in a two-page spread in the August issue of *Conscience International*, a monthly Nigerian magazine that circulates throughout West Africa.

UAW 'SOLIDARITY,' the union's monthly magazine, ran a letter in its September issue asking, "Can UAW Survive Gore?" "I fear the next step our union is going to take in national politics is the endorsement of Al Gore for President," writes the unionist. "This man's environmental agenda will do away with the automobile and the factories that produce them, not to mention power plants that produce the affordable electricity. Can the UAW survive this?"

BUSH'S TEXAS GULAG was profiled in the Aug. 18 *New York Times*, showing that Gov. George W. Bush's penal system has 545,000 people in prison, jail, probation, or parole, more than any other state. Earlier this year, the Texas Senate passed a bill prohibiting the execution of mentally retarded prisoners. Due to Bush's opposition, the state House rejected the bill.

FRANCIS ARINZE, the Nigerian Cardinal who is often mentioned as the next Pope, addressed a Jubilee 2000 event in South Dakota on Aug. 11-13. Arinze stepped on a few corns in one speech, listing three reasons why Christians do not evangelize: unfamiliarity with theology—"flip off the TV and start reading"; unwillingness to intrude on others' privacy; and the feeling that one is not "good enough." He debunked all three.

THE GOP SENATE MAJORITY may be in jeopardy in the next general elections, writes the Aug. 22 *Washington Post*, because, for the first time, the Republicans are defending more seats (19) than the Democrats (14), and many GOP seats are held by freshmen who came in in the now-tarnished "Contract on America" sweep in 1994.

rorists bombed the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. In an Aug. 21 followup, MSNBC international editor Michael Moran said that the network had obtained documents, "including a handwritten letter from Sudan's intelligence chief, Gutbi el-Mahdi, to FBI Director Louis Freeh, [which] showed that the two men were arrested, questioned, and held by Sudanese officials for several weeks after the Nairobi bombings. Sudan's ambassador [to Washington], Mahdi Ibrahim Mohamed, said his country repeatedly invited FBI officials to come to Khartoum to interview them.

"The two men, Sayyid Nazir Abbass and Sayyid Iskandar Sayyid, were travelling on what Sudan assumed were forged Pakistani passports. They were handed over to Pakistan's notorious internal security service, the ISI. . . . However, both FBI and intelligence sources dispute the State Department official's claim that the two men were determined to be uninvolved."

The Senate Intelligence Committee probe is reportedly broader, and concerns the question as to whether the U.S. bombing of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum on Aug. 20, 1998, was a mistake.

Both hearings are behind closed doors.

Judges split over continuing Starr probe

The three-judge panel which appoints independent counsels, which now contains a Democrat-appointed judge, split on Aug. 18 over whether to authorize Kenneth Starr to continue his British-instigated witch-hunt against President Clinton, which began with Whitewater and then spread into the Lewinsky case and the President's impeachment. Judges David Sentelle and Peter Fay noted that, although the now-expired independent counsel law directs them to reauthorize the investigation each year, they do not interpret the law to mean that they can supervise the independent counsel. The dissenting judge, Peter Cudahy, ridiculed their reasoning, saying that their approach "is in stark contrast to the aggressive performance of this Division in *In re. North*," when it issued an Order

to Show Cause to Iran-Contra independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, demanding that Walsh show "why his investigation should not be terminated."

Cudahy also referenced the "informal contacts" which have taken place between Starr and Sentelle, and otherwise insisted that Starr should wrap up his probe and submit a final report.

The *New York Times* reported, also on Aug. 18, that Starr plans to quit as independent counsel as early as October. He reportedly asked that one of his top deputies be allowed to take over and continue the probe. The *Times* and other media report that he is still considering issuing new indictments, despite his recent setbacks.

Warren Beatty: Dems should stop being GOP

"It's Time For America's Democrats to Stop Being Republicans," was the headline on an Aug. 24 *New York Times* commentary by actor Warren Beatty, in response to calls that he run for President. Referring to himself as a "Roosevelt-Truman-Stevenson-Kennedy Democrat," Beatty rakes the party over the coals, writing, "To serve Rockefeller Republican leadership in the Democratic Party is an unacceptable option for me." Instead, he would "try to persuade the slightly more liberal of the two accounting firms that we Americans call our major parties to return to the principles of the Democratic Party of my youth." If he does enter the race, he would use it "to challenge the present party to admit its timidity in protecting those who need help most and to acknowledge the undeniable."

Alluding to Bill Bradley versus Al Gore, he writes, "When will our centrist challenger sufficiently differentiate himself from the centrist front-runner to justify his insurgency? . . . Do we continue to wait in suspense . . . until it is too late for a progressive challenge? Do we wait for Jackson? For Kennedy? For Wellstone? For Mario Cuomo? For a crash in the market?" He concludes, "In the disparity of our prosperity, someone must rise to honor the historic mission of the Democratic Party."