

National News

Brzezinski calls for expansion of NATO

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the geopolitical lunatic and former Carter administration National Security Adviser, attacked the Clinton administration for softness on Russia during the Balkans war, and called for accelerating the expansion of NATO, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Oct. 6.

Brzezinski claimed that "cooperation with Russia is desirable," but then declared that "the Kosovo experience shows that the current Russian government is not trustworthy."

He denounced what he called "Russian-Serbian collusion," including Russia's denunciations of NATO and the West, Russian envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin's negotiations with Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, and the surprise Russian occupation of the Pristina airport.

"I would hope that . . . NATO will continue to expand," he said, "because there's no doubt in my mind that expansion of NATO enlarges the zone of stability and peace and security in Europe. It eliminates areas of ambiguity. So the continued and credible expansion of NATO I think is very important. . . ."

"We should not be mechanically bound to the year 2002 as the date for the next steps in enlargement," as was said at the NATO summit in April. "I think we should be flexible regarding that date, and move on further expansion sooner if it is objectively feasible, and if some countries qualify sooner. And in my judgment, two or three might, specifically, be Slovenia, Lithuania, and maybe Slovakia."

Talbott to Europe: Boost defense spending

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) on Oct. 7, called on European nations to increase their defense spending, according to the *Washington Times* on Oct. 8. Noting that U.S. per-

capita defense spending is almost twice the European rate, except for Greece and Turkey (while Germany has just announced a decrease), Talbott told the gathering for the 50th anniversary of NATO:

"Many Americans are saying: Never again should the United States have to fly the lion's share of the risky missions in a NATO operation and foot the bill, by far the biggest bill. . . ."

"Many in my country, notably members of Congress, are concerned that in some future European crisis, a similar predominance of American manpower, firepower, equipment, and resources will neither be politically or militarily sustainable given the competing commitments that our nation has in the Gulf, on the Korean Peninsula, and elsewhere around the world."

Talbott reportedly went on to say that he backs the idea of a European Defense Initiative, but only one that is subordinate to NATO.

Speaking after Talbott, NATO Secretary-General George Robertson said that the European Union should set a goal of being able to deploy quickly a corps-sized force of exclusively European forces to deal with a threat to the continent's security. "We are nowhere near that yet," Robertson noted.

More Americans lack health insurance

Forty-four million Americans have no health insurance, and the numbers are rising, according to an annual report by the U.S. Census Bureau. As of the end of 1998, more than 44.3 million Americans—one in six—were without any form of health insurance. That is a rise of 1 million over the 1997 figures. Furthermore, there were 1 million fewer Americans on Medicaid than a year earlier. Among the most hard-hit segments of the population: 11 million children have no form of health care coverage, and one out of every three Hispanic Americans have no insurance.

Looking at an example from one state, from 1997 to 1998, the number of Marylanders without health insurance increased by 160,000, to 837,000, the *Baltimore Sun* reported on Oct. 5. This is an increase of 13-16%. One-sixth of the Maryland population

as of last year is uninsured, with more than half of them holding jobs, and one-fourth of them being children. Maryland had the third-fastest growth rate of uninsured people, behind Wisconsin and Nevada. The reason given by analysts for this dramatic increase was "double-digit cost increases for health insurance premiums, welfare reform, and more part-time workers."

Clinton may offer to share ABM technology

The *Drudge Report*, an Internet media clearinghouse, wrote on Oct. 7 that "President Clinton will offer to share new missile defense technology with other nations, if such a system can be created," according to government sources.

Neither the White House nor the National Security Council would confirm or deny the story.

The *Report* writes that "Clinton's intentions will not be formally announced until next summer, after a Pentagon review of the system's feasibility, but the President told senior advisers this week that he likes the idea of sharing the technology in an effort to prevent a new global arms race. The offer could only be made in general terms, since the outcome of the research is far from clear.

"Clinton expressed a willingness to share the new missile defense system specifically with Russia, China, and Israel. The move is bound to cause complete controversy, but a White House policy of sharing a missile defense with other superpowers would not be new. During the last years of the Cold War, President Ronald Reagan offered to give the Soviet Union a missile defense system, if and when deployed. 'We will share the defensive system with you,' President Reagan promised the Soviets. . . . Reagan defended his decision during a debate with Walter Mondale in '84: 'Now, some people have said, ah, that would make a war imminent because they would think that we could launch a first strike because we could defend against the enemy. But why not do what I have offered to do and asked the Soviet Union to do? Say look, here's what we can do, we'll even give it to you, now will you sit down with us and once and

for all get rid—all of us—of these nuclear weapons and free mankind from that threat. I think that would be the greatest use of a defensive weapon.’”

Lyndon LaRouche, in speeches and articles during 1982 and 1983, prior to Reagan’s March 23, 1983 announcement of the Strategic Defense Initiative, urged a policy of sharing ABM technologies based on “new physical principles” with the Soviet Union, in order to replace the Kissingerian doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) with one of Mutually Assured Survival.

Bradley offers plan for farm payments

Speaking in Iowa on Oct. 8, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Bill Bradley proposed that the Federal government provide payments to farmers raising grains and livestock, when they are receiving prices below their cost of production. He proposed a calculation based on a three-year average. The proposal is described as a \$5.5 billion package, and payments would be denied to corporate farms.

This proposal, and others such as a “floor price” for farm milk, fall short of the parity concept which Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR* advocate, though they go in that direction. A true parity price also takes into account the requirements of capital investment required for technological development. (For an elaboration of this concept, see Marcia Merry Baker, “National Economic Security Depends on Farm Parity,” *EIR*, March 8, 1996.)

British companies finance U.S. elections

The U.S. subsidiaries of leading British companies are major contributors to U.S. political campaigns, according to the *Times* of London on Oct. 11.

For example, Brown and Williamson, the U.S. subsidiary of the British American Tobacco Company, has given more than \$500,000 directly to political candidates, including \$5,000—the highest legal amount—to George W. Bush, as well as

other political causes. They have also given another \$680,000 of “soft money donations.”

Other big spenders are Glaxco Wellcome, the pharmaceutical company, which gave over \$1.1 million in soft money and direct contributions to political candidates. BP Amoco gave over \$300,000. Earlier this year, they financed a discussion meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Other top receivers of money include the Committee for the Preservation of Capitalism and the Freedom Project, both Republican-oriented organizations.

LaRouche statements in Spanish on website

The Presidential campaign of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. announced on Oct. 4 that major press statements, policy papers, and background material associated with the campaign are now available in Spanish via the candidate’s website (www.larouchecampan.org).

LaRouche’s national spokeswoman, Debra Hanania-Freeman, said in a press statement: “A significant portion of the people who inhabit the Americas are Spanish-speaking, and so, it is our commitment to make a broad spectrum of what we produce available in Spanish, not to pre-select statements that address what are perceived as ‘hot button’ issues tailored to appeal to Hispanic voters.

“LaRouche’s continuing and unique role in crafting a new more just international financial order to replace the current bankrupt IMF system, and his unswerving insistence that that new system must be based on the principle of respect for the sovereignty of all nations, has made his candidacy a key concern and point of hope for many nations, especially in the so-called developing sector. He and his wife, Helga, have travelled extensively in Ibero-America, meeting with government, military, and religious leaders. So, the launch of the Spanish language version of his campaign website is of importance not only to Spanish-speaking people inside U.S. borders, but internationally as well.”

STATE DEPARTMENT spokesman Jamie Rubin on Oct. 4 condemned the assassination attempt against Ukrainian Presidential candidate Natalia Vitrenko. “Open, peaceful, and fair Presidential elections in Ukraine are essential to the future of this important American partner,” he said. “We urge the Ukrainian authorities to conduct a swift and impartial investigation into the attack.”

DEFENSE SECRETARY William Cohen announced the creation of a new military task force to manage nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons incidents on U.S. territory, according to a “senior Defense official” quoted by wire services. He added that the “disaster-response capability” was being established as a result of President Clinton’s May 1998 order to agencies to improve their ability to handle incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

DR. WILLIAM WARFIELD, the world-renowned operatic baritone, endorsed Lyndon LaRouche for President on Sept. 20. Warfield is past president of the National Association of Negro Musicians (1985-90). “I heartily endorse Lyndon LaRouche,” he said, “and urge you, fellow artists, to use your individual talents to the maximum, to bring this worthy gentleman to the White House as the next President of the United States.”

THE CATO INSTITUTE, a neo-conservative think-tank in Washington, D.C., held an all-day conference promoting drug legalization on Oct. 5. The keynote speaker was Gov. Gary Johnson (R) of New Mexico, who got a standing ovation for his ridicule of the “war on drugs” as a waste of \$50 billion, and his statement that he is “proud” to say that he didn’t “experiment” with drugs—“No! I used marijuana. I smoked marijuana. . . . We enjoyed what we did!”

OVERHEARD at a literature distribution site by members of the LaRouche movement: “The British have deployed the greatest Weapon of Mass Destruction—your TV set.”