

matters of regional cooperation can only be achieved by real progress toward a comprehensive and just peace in the region,” said the statement. This touches on the core of the failure of the whole peace process as brokered by President Clinton, because the aspect of economic justice for all parties, especially that of the Palestinians, was pushed aside, considered secondary to other issues. The absence of real economic cooperation is partly responsible for the current state of frustration among the peoples in the region.

One resolution which was pushed to the bottom of priorities is the “economic cooperation and coordination” among Arab countries. The leaders said that the regular meetings of the Arab governments and their agencies should promote this “coordination, especially in the light of the international and regional transformations, making inter-Arab economic cooperation a pressing need.”

One positive sign of the return of normal relations among the ever-quarreling Arab governments is the decision to institutionalize the summit. “The Arab leaders decide to adopt the special mechanism for holding regular Arab summits [each year in March] . . . [and] will meet in March 2001 in Amman [Jordan].”

### **LaRouche’s Associates’ Challenge to Arabs**

In the week prior to the summit, Lyndon LaRouche’s associates challenged the Arab leaders to rise above the current situation and act at a higher level. A statement issued by *EIR* was widely circulated in the Arab world, among government and media circles. The statement contained LaRouche’s proposals on how the Arab leaders could shift world strategic relations by promoting, in coordination with other groupings, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and South Korea (ASEAN-Plus-3), a new, just world financial and monetary system, in accordance with LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods initiative.

The statement was first published in the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Arab International*, on Oct. 19. It was followed the next day by a commentary by the paper’s Economy editor Dr. Mustafa Al-Bazargan, who called on the Arab leaders to initiate the work on integration of the Arab economies, starting from joint work on major infrastructure projects and trade. The statement was reportedly published in other Arab Gulf states. A commentary by Salim Nassar in the London-based Saudi daily *Al-Hayat* on Oct. 21, for example, also emphasized LaRouche’s warning that the Middle East crisis, the oil price crisis, and the ongoing meltdown in the international financial markets, are in reality one and the same issue.

Although the Arab leaders did not raise the issues to the level of a “New Bretton Woods”-type of initiative, the idea of economic cooperation and integration among Arabs countries was officially put on their agenda. LaRouche’s concept of peace through development is a matter of serious debate and consideration among leading Arab circles today.

# Geopoliticians Raise Kosovo Question To Block Balkans Peace

by Alexander Hartmann

While Yugoslavia’s President Vojislav Kostunica has made remarkable progress in stabilizing his position, geopolitically motivated forces within the British establishment are again trying to light the fuse on the Kosovo powderkeg: An “Independent International Commission on Kosovo” published a report in late October, calling for “conditional independence” for Kosovo.

After several weeks of negotiations, President Kostunica succeeded in forcing former President Slobodan Milosevic’s Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) to accept the formation of a transitional government, and to call for early elections to the Serbian state parliament for Dec. 23. The reformers used a “carrot-and-stick” policy, offering seats in the transitional government to Milosevic’s SPS, while at the same time threatening to “bring the people back” to demonstrate in front of the Parliament, with Kostunica aide Zoran Djindjic playing hard cop, and Kostunica himself being the soft cop.

Ultimately, the SPS gave in and agreed on a scheme, whereby the Serbian Prime Minister and four important ministers would have deputies from Kostunica’s Democratic Opposition Party (DOP) and Vuk Draskovic’s Serbian Renewal Party (SRS), with every decision taken by consensus, i.e., giving all parties veto power over all important matters. Thus, there will be a truce within Serbia for the time being.

At the same time, Kostunica succeeded in forming a new government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, drawing on the Socialist People’s Party of Montenegro, who have been backing Milosevic. While the government of Montenegro’s President Milo Djukanovic does not recognize the elections, which it boycotted, and thus does not recognize the new Federal government, the international community is recognizing and working with Belgrade to start sorting out the many problems left over after four wars in the region within the last decade.

### **International Diplomacy in High Gear**

In recent weeks, Belgrade has become a hub of diplomatic activities to “reintegrate Yugoslavia into the international community” and to begin reconstruction—or, to prevent it. Yugoslavia has been offered membership in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Stability Pact for



*Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica.*

the Balkans, and even in NATO's Partnership for Peace, while the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have sent "fact-finding" missions to Belgrade to prepare negotiations for Yugoslavia's reentry.

But before getting economic reconstruction into high gear, some of the diplomatic roadblocks have to be cleared away. One of these roadblocks, is relations to the other former members of the Yugoslav Federation, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. On the weekend of Oct. 21-22, Kostunica visited Bosnia-Herzegovina, meeting members of the Bosnian Presidency and UN administrator Wolfgang Petritsch.

There, Kostunica sent important signals to the international community. For example, he acknowledged that massacres against civilians perpetrated by Serbian or Yugoslav forces were "crimes," which have to be punished, and added that Serbs have been victims of such crimes, too. He said that he considers that working with the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague is part of the 1995 Dayton agreements, although he left open whether this means he would deliver Milosevic, who has been indicted, to The Hague; asked about that, he said that Milosevic was going to stand trial, "somewhere."

But before meeting the Bosnian Presidency, he first visited the ethnic Serb entity in Bosnia, the Republika Srpska, to attend the reburial of Serbian national poet Milorad Dodik,

in a ceremony led by Serb Orthodox Patriarch Pavle and attended by the Republika Srpska leadership and leading Serb nationalists, including the wife of former Srpska President Radovan Karadzic, who is a fugitive from the War Crimes Tribunal. Earlier, he had called for implementing UN Resolution 1244, which envisages a limited presence of Yugoslav military and police forces in Albania. Thus, he may be willing to do just enough to start economic reconstruction without compromising his fragile government coalition, or his fundamental nationalist views. One of these positions is, that Kosovo is an integral and indispensable part of Serbia.

### **A Geopolitical Monkey Wrench**

This is where those political forces who want to geopolitically use the multi-ethnic Balkans region, to destabilize continental Europe, are now trying to preempt economic cooperation "from the Atlantic to the Urals," as it had been put by French patriot, President Charles de Gaulle.

Just when the doors are opening to economically rebuild the war-torn region, and thus start healing the many wounds left from the war, an Independent International Commission on Kosovo proposed "conditional independence" for Kosovo. The commission was originally founded by Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson, to investigate the use of depleted uranium ammunition during the NATO bombardments. Strangely enough, the commission changed its subject, and published a report on what should be done with Kosovo.

Among the members of the commission are Prof. Mary Kaldor of the London School of Economics, a daughter of Lord Kaldor and an intimate of Emma Rothschild, and Richard Falk of Princeton University, who had been involved in former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's project to overthrow the Shah of Iran.

The UN rapporteur on human rights in former Yugoslavia, former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, called the idea of "conditional independence" for Kosovo "a dangerous game." Creation of more countries in the region would cause chain-reaction destabilizations, he said. Independence for Kosovo would mean "a direct path to division of Bosnia-Herzegovina." In a discussion with *EIR*, another expert from a Vienna think-tank warned against creating "atomized micro-states, which have no economic viability." Splitting up the region more and more would make it impossible to rebuild it, and would perpetuate the many existing conflicts.

Predictably, the British media have been heavily promoting the Independent Commission report, showing clearly the intentions of their masters: They want to keep the Pandora's box of the Balkans open, which they had first opened when they started sponsoring the career of Milosevic 13 years ago with the aid of former U.S. National Security Advisers Sir Henry Kissinger and Sir Brent Scowcroft.