

Religious Roundtable, represented by Ed McAteer; Michael Little of the Christian Broadcasting Network; representatives of the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem; and the Christians' Israel Public Action Committee. These groups are the "dispensationalist" current among evangelicals, whose doctrine bears an uncanny resemblance to Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations." Spread by British evangelist John Nelson Darby in the 1870s, this doctrine's central tenet—supposedly based on the St. John's Book of Revelation—is the return of the Jews to Zion, the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple, and an apocalyptic battle at Armageddon, where God will appear with His army and battle the Antichrist. After the mass destruction of mankind, including two-thirds of the Jews, there will be the so-called Rapture whereby God's elect, the dispensationists, will be carried off to Heaven.

Televangelist Hal Lindsey, in his book *The Late Great Planet Earth*, updated this doctrine to cohere with modern times. In the 1970s, with the Cold War still on, the Antichrist was the European Common Market, the "northern power" was the Soviet Union, while the "southern confederacy" was an Arab-African coalition headed by Egypt. The Kings of the East were represented by Communist China. The names in this basic geopolitical scenario have, of course, been revised since Lindsey's book, but the substance is the same.

John Ashcroft is not just allied with these groups, but as a leading member of the evangelical Pentecostal Church, is one of their "co-believers." Southern Baptist dispensationalist Ed McAteer, who hails from Al Gore's Memphis, Tennessee, heads the so-called Religious Roundtable, which brings together representatives of many major Christian fundamentalist ministries, televangelists, and related right-wing political action committees. It includes Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Heritage Foundation founder Paul Weyrich, and many others. It is a network that can potentially reach out to millions.

The Christian Embassy in Jerusalem actually represents the interests of the Christian fundamentalists in Israel and is their main conduit of financial support for the illegal Jewish settlements throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They work with such organizations as the Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, which organizes fundamentalist congregations all over the United States, to "adopt a settlement" through fundraising and other activities. All of this is to hasten the "end times" by building up the state of Israel in preparation for Armageddon.

The number of groups, congregations, and voters involved far surpasses anything the so-called "Jewish lobby" could mobilize. What appears to be tremendous support in the U.S. Congress, both among the right-wing "Southern Strategy" Republicans such as Jesse Helms, and the New Democrats, aligned with former Vice President Al Gore and his running mate Sen. Joseph Lieberman (Conn.), can to a large extent, be traced to these Christian fundamentalist currents.

## March to Stop NATO Breakup of Macedonia

by Umberto Pascali

A demonstration of thousands of Macedonian-Americans waited for hours in front of the U.S. State Department on Aug. 9, while its leaders met with U.S. officials within. The Kosovo Liberation Army, effectively supported by NATO, was running amok just over the border, in the north of Macedonia, and Macedonia's sovereignty was at risk.

On Aug. 8, the Macedonian government had de facto accepted the proposal (essentially, an ultimatum) of the "international facilitators"—UN Ambassador James Pardew and European Union envoy François Léotard—which could lead soon to a process of national partition. Under this "deal," the KLA then committed its largest massacre to date against Macedonian soldiers, and its worst atrocities against civilians in the Tetovo area, north of the capital, Skopje.

The KLA has been able to hit Macedonian military targets with the utmost precision. Recently the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, in an exposé that included interviews with the present and past German defense ministers, dealt with the issue of the KLA's communications. "Thanks to U.S. assistance the KLA's command center was set up in Arachinovo [on the outskirts of Skopje], with direct satellite phone connection to the Pentagon," wrote the magazine. "The U.S. forces in the Balkans has low-orbitting satellites and its own mobile communications system that enables encrypted telephone calls. . . . The KLA however, can use the Americans' exclusive communications network with a radio circuit of its own."

An Aug. 10 KLA operation showed the use of these intelligence capabilities available to the terrorist gangs: Mines were placed on the road from Skopje to Tetovo, immediately before an Army convoy was to pass, killing eight soldiers and wounding as many. Macedonians discovered a well-organized KLA operational base in Skopje; according to official reports, the KLA team had been prepared to murder relevant Macedonian officials. The team had been preparing its attacks in Arachinovo. When Macedonian police raided the base, among the casualties was the head of the team, "Commander Teli," an Albanian (not Macedonian) citizen, wanted for terrorist acts by several countries.

### Macedonia Destabilized

The situation of virtual civil war, led to the resignation of the Macedonian Army Chief of Staff, while, despite the



*Macedonian Americans demonstrate against Washington's complicity with the Kosovo Liberation Army in a bid to break up their country.*

immense, public pressure from Western governments, President Boris Trajkovski stated that the Armed Forces were launching an offensive to push the KLA guerrillas behind the July 5 cease-fire line "guaranteed" by NATO. NATO spokesmen had in fact admitted that they "cannot do much" about the KLA's open violations of this "guaranteed" cease-fire of "facilitators" Pardew and Léotard.

The peace deal between the Macedonian and the ethnic Albanian parties, to be signed on Aug. 13, is based on the clause that NATO will deploy 3,500 men in Macedonia to disarm the KLA. But "NATO has no mandate to use force" against the KLA, NATO ambassador Hans Jorg Barry said. And NATO spokesman Barry Johnson continually confirms that position: "NATO's role in the whole process is only to facilitate, and *if possible* to promote the cease-fire agreement. We are limited, so you cannot use such strong word as guarantee."

### **The Meeting with Armitage**

It was in this dramatic situation, that a delegation of six Macedonian Americans met with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage. This was the first time ever that a Macedonian-American delegation was received by the administration, despite the fact that all administration officials, from the President on down, declare that Macedonia has been a friend, actually a "close friend" of the United States since the early 1990s. The meeting, which was supposed to take place with Secretary Colin Powell, was deferred to Armitage. However, an Albanian-American delegation having been received by Powell, fairness and protocol should have suggested the same level of reception.

Every Macedonian knows almost by heart the words of Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski, denouncing the complicity of "so-called Western democracies" with the KLA, or the statement by his spokesman that "the mask is now off." They

had also in mind high-level admissions, starting with the characterization of the KLA by James Bissett, the former Canadian Ambassador to Yugoslavia, that "we have created a monster."

"We now know that long before the bombing of Yugoslavia [in 1999], it was NATO countries themselves that were inciting violence in Kosovo and attempting to destabilize that province." Bissett wrote. "As early as 1998, the Central Intelligence Agency, assisted by British special armed services, were arming and training KLA members in Albania. The KLA terrorists were sent back into Kosovo to assassinate Serbian mayors, ambush Serbian policemen and do everything to incite murder and chaos. The KLA then turned its attention to Macedonia. The tactics were the same—assassinations, ambush and intimidation of the local population. Again, as in Kosovo, the KLA is armed and equipped by Western powers. Even more alarming is the fact that the KLA in Macedonia continues to receive assistance and military help from NATO countries."

Transcripts of the July 24 dialogue between Lyndon LaRouche and the Macedonian leader Nestor Oginar, had circulated widely in both languages in the United States and in Macedonia. Professor Oginar was a prominent member of the delegation, and later led the march to the White House and addressed the demonstrators, pointing an accusing finger at Zbigniew Brzezinski, Henry Kissinger, and Lord David Owen. At the State Department meeting, Professor Oginar asked what the United States intended to do, noting that his own family was at that moment hostage to the KLA in Tetovo. Armitage reportedly accused Macedonians of "mob" action at the U.S. embassy in Skopje; but this led to a substantive discussion on why more and more U.S. embassies are being transformed into bunkers under siege, and how to change that situation and go back to the favor and sympathy U.S. once enjoyed.