

ern backing for the Taliban. Both ministers emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation for security in the Caspian Sea region and Caucasus, as well as Central Asia, and they reiterated their support for the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.

The Broader Islamic World

Not only in Pakistan have massive anti-U.S. demonstrations taken place; Malaysia and Indonesia are also tense. Reports (though unconfirmed) that the United States was considering these two nations as on the list of states harboring terrorists, and therefore, potentially, targeted for attack, only fuelled the anti-U.S. ferment.

The Palestinian Authority was hit by extremely dangerous protests, during which desperate Palestinians raised pictures of Osama bin Laden, and expressed their solidarity. Palestinian police deployed to calm the protests, fired on the crowd, and three were killed. PA President Yasser Arafat's attempt to support the anti-terrorist campaign, has placed him in an impossible dilemma, and anything could happen—from assassination attempts against him, to civil war among the Palestinians.

Elsewhere in the Arab world, tensions have been red hot, since the air war began. In Egypt, despite official bans of protests, 4,000 students demonstrated in Cairo. Egyptian authorities arrested a large group of suspected extremists from the Jihad movement, linked to al-Qaeda, who were reportedly planning attacks. In Lebanon, government circles expressed fear, after the United States issued a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including the name of a Hezbollah leader. The implication was that Lebanon, or Iran, could be targeted as a result. In Jordan, extensive police and military measures, as well as tightened legal restrictions, have been introduced to control public protests. In Saudi Arabia, a visit by British Prime Minister Tony Blair was cancelled, due to the Saudis' concern that it would spark uncontrollable reactions. Friction has been reported between the Saudi royal family and parts of the Wahabite clergy, as the latter still supports bin Laden.

In short, the aerial bombardments launched by the United States, have already ignited a clash of civilizations, throughout the Islamic world, and the next casualties may well be those "moderate" Arab governments which have been trying to resist extremism.

Post-Taliban Afghanistan

Although there are no indications that the ongoing aerial bombardments will succeed in eliminating bin Laden and al-Qaeda, a debate has already broken out, regarding a post-Taliban political arrangement for Afghanistan. One option is for an all-party government, with representatives from all the tribal groups in the country, to be formed through the Loya Jirga, or assembly of tribal chiefs. There are, however, divergent views as to who should convoke the assembly, and who the components should be. The 86-year-old former King of

Afghanistan Zahir Shah, is one candidate, who has already been contacted in Rome by a State Department representative. The King, presented as a unifying force, is, however, not universally supported in Pakistan, nor his own country, which he left 30 years ago.

Then there is the idea that Tony Blair's adviser, Martin Wolf, has frankly called a "new imperialism." According to the Oct. 11 *Daily Telegraph*, Blair's neo-colonialism would involve establishing a mandate, or an international protectorate over the country, until a government can be formed (see article in this section).

Given the dynamic that has been unleashed in the region, it is more probable that the post-Taliban situation will be one of chaos, in and beyond Afghanistan's borders. Inside the country, as the Pakistani government fears, in a vacuum created by the fall of the Taliban regime, the old warlords could engage in renewed civil strife. There are reports to the effect, that a new coalition of 45 parties and organizations, has been formed, in the Afghan National Solidarity Movement. This group of Afghan refugees and former mujahideen, put together in Pakistan on Oct. 1, says it has 6,000 experienced fighters, plus 20,000 volunteers, whom it can deploy in a fight against the Taliban. The ANSM, which may enjoy the support of the Pakistani government, is also opposed to the Northern Alliance, and would take it on, after the Taliban were dealt with. The seeds for renewed civil war may already have been sown.

Macedonia Plays The 'LaRouche Card'

by Umberto Pascali

"The problem is that, when people say to the government of Macedonia, that you have to accept our conditions, and those conditions include changing the form of government in such a way that the sovereignty of the nation is destroyed, that's not arbitration, that's not peace negotiation, that's imperialism. And no agency has the moral right to do that." That statement by Lyndon LaRouche was part of an interview broadcast on Makedonska Televizija's prime-time news on Oct 5. The interview had an electrifying effect on many Macedonians struggling to save their country from the narco-terrorists of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and even more, from the international negotiators, or "facilitators," who have forced the government in Skopje to discuss de facto partition of the country and the subversion of the Constitution, under the guns of the narco-terrorists.

U.S. Ambassador James Pardew, better known in Macedonia as "The Cowboy," represents the worst example of this

kind of imperial negotiation. Pardew and his colleagues from NATO, the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other supranational organizations that go under the collective label of the “international community,” have created an extremely dangerous situation. Their longstanding goal has been to prevent the Macedonia government from acting as one of a sovereign and independent country. Following the KLA armed assault—launched from the NATO protectorate of Kosovo—at the beginning of the year, Macedonia was pressed to ask NATO for “help.”

How The ‘Helpers’ Became The Rulers

However, before the direct involvement of NATO and the “international community,” the Macedonian Army had been able to push back the aggressors beyond the Kosovo borders. After the arrival of NATO, the Macedonian Army was progressively paralyzed. The “helpers” became, more and more, the rulers. The north of the country was attacked, villages were burned, the roads were taken over and blocked, and the population was terrorized and forced by violence to leave, i.e., “ethnically cleansed.” But any time the government gave an ultimatum to the narco-terrorists, the “facilitators,” from Ambassador Pardew on down, forced the government to stop, in the name of “peace” and negotiations. The “international community” even organized a “silent” illegal embargo of weapons against Macedonia, and in their fury against the sovereignty of the country, NATO imposed a policy that the only weapons available to the Macedonians—a few gunship helicopters—be grounded or even disarmed.

The government was finally forced to negotiate while the country was occupied and under armed aggression. The government had to promise at the “negotiating table,” that it would subvert the Macedonian Constitution. In exchange, Pardew, NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson, the EU’s Javier Solana, and the other facilitators engineered the grotesque farce of the voluntary disarmament of the KLA, known as “Operation Essential Harvest.” The NLA (the name of the KLA in Macedonia) delivered 3,865 weapons, mostly obsolete or unserviceable, and then, on Sept. 27, organized a press conference featuring the narco-terrorists’ chief, Ali Ahmeti, in civilian clothes, who declared that the NLA had given up the armed fight.

Pardew, NATO, and Solana declared themselves satisfied, and stated that now it was the turn of the Macedonian government and Parliament to “deliver,” i.e., to accept the subversion of the Constitution and the transformation of Macedonia from a nation-state of free individuals into a bizarre tribal state composed of ethnic communities represented as ethnic communities—something that would shock anybody who knows anything about the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, the Parliament was expected to pass a general amnesty for the NLA terrorists, and the Macedonian

Army and police were expected to refrain from entering the “rebel areas,” effectively recognizing the partition of the country.

A delegation of the International Monetary Fund added financial blackmail to the package. As if this were not enough, Pardew, according to media and other reports, presented an ultimatum to President Boris Trajkovski: The media had to stop any reference to the connection between the KLA and Osama bin Laden, because these reports could be harmful to “peace.” The shameless diktat was presented despite the fact that Pardew was the representative of a country at war with bin Laden and the Taliban. Even the elected leader of the Kosovo Albanians, Ibrahim Rugova, had denounced the close connections between the KLA and the bin Laden organization, and had revealed that an Egyptian, Mohammed al-Zawahiri, one of the closest collaborators of bin Laden, personally supervised the training of the KLA in Albania. The “disarmament,” Rugova said, is a propaganda stunt. “I am familiar with their way of thinking. It is the way of thinking of mercenaries, with no values underneath, except the determination to keep up the war.”

Macedonia’s Fight For Independence

It was later learned that the KLA in Macedonia had in fact implemented a division of labor. The guerrilla machine remained intact under the label of the Albanian National Army (ANA), while Ali Ahmeti had been ordered to set up a political cover, in the form of a political party. More evidence of the nature of this obvious game came on Oct. 10-11, when the Macedonian police entered what NATO calls “the rebel area,” in the village of Tanuse near the Albanian border, and found a large number of sophisticated weapons, one of the many such caches in the hands of the KLA after the “voluntary disarmament.”

It was clear why Pardew, the EU, and NATO did not want the Macedonia authority to venture into the “rebel area.”

If Macedonia had accepted these demands, it would have given up any semblance of sovereignty. It was an historical *punctum saliens* for the young republic. It was at this moment that a significant part of the leadership and the totality of the population decided to say no. A popular referendum on the Constitutional changes is being organized. Rumors are circulating that Pardew could be declared *persona non grata*. Meanwhile, the reaction of the “international community” is one of rage and malevolence. A donors conference has been cancelled, Solana abandoned Skopje without warning, and, according to reports, open threats are being issued.

However, Macedonia has decided to play the “LaRouche card,” and to fight for its independence. A wave of remoralization is spreading inside the country. The interview with LaRouche has been already broadcast by the main radio station and reprinted in full in the daily *Makedonia Denes*.