

Editorial

The Russian coup one year later

When the news of a Soviet coup began filtering west on Aug. 19-20 of last year, it seemed that we had been given another window of opportunity to transform a grim international political reality which appeared to be bringing us ever closer to the brink of war. In the Aug. 30 issue of *EIR*, Nancy Spannaus quoted statesman and political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche on the developing Russian situation.

LaRouche said then, under the title "The West Needs a Recovery, Too," that "the essential thing is this. If the United States, and Britain, and Paris in particular, would learn their lesson, would learn to stop acting like fools, they would say to the Russians, 'All right. You can have your own economic reform, on your own conditions, without any Jeffrey Sachs plan, without any disastrous Polish model.'

"We would say clearly, we do not want to do to you, the nations of the Soviet Union, what our folly helped to do to Yugoslavia, and is helping to do to Poland, for example. Yes, we have some bad ideas, too, from our quarter. We want something that works; and we offer you cooperation to devise something that will work.

"We are withdrawing our demands that you accede to the crazy free trade ideas of Margaret Thatcher and similar ideological idiots. Let's have a sensible plan of cooperation for the economic reform and development of the Soviet Union and its member states. And we can say frankly, 'Look, buddy, we need it, too; the United States is in a depression. The U.S. recovery went on vacation in the summer of 1987, and is never going to return on the present schedule. Things just aren't that attractive.'

"We need a recovery. We need a boom in world trade. And rebuilding eastern Europe, and rebuilding areas of the Soviet Union and Central and South America and Africa and Asia are the best chance for the United States to get out of its own present depression.

"So, that's making a fairly short story long, and a fairly long story short. The short of it: Let's stop crying, 'I want my Gorbodoll!' Let's come up with concrete, practical offers *now!* If we make an offer, we can shape

the Soviet situation, at least the best we can shape it. *We better make the offer.* If we don't make the offer, we're just going to be bystanders perhaps watching a bloody civil war, or something worse, perhaps, than is going on already in Yugoslavia."

Today, one year later, the reality is that the world is presently *at war*. Russian President Boris Yeltsin knuckled under to International Monetary Fund pressure and imposed austerity measures on the Russian people which caused a ratcheting down of their nation's ailing economy such that there is hardly any food on many Russian tables.

Today, one year later, the Serbs are on the verge of applying a Hitler-style final solution on the Croats and Bosnians, while the rest of the world looks on. Today, the reality of the economic decline of the United States can no longer be hidden.

Today, one year later, there are indications that Yeltsin is in the process of making a shift in his government which will bring the military-industrial crowd back into power. If this is done in opposition to London and Washington, it would signal an end to the so-called liberalization, and a turn instead to the kind of Great Russian nationalism characteristic of the period prior to World War I.

Either the current economic and related policies emanating from the United States and Great Britain are reversed, or we will see the spread of "small" wars to every part of the globe, to an accumulation of local wars which will soon enough—if we don't stop it—lead to what every American will recognize as World War III. We will see the spread of famine and disease, and millions of innocent victims made homeless.

Are you willing at last to listen to LaRouche and his associates? Are you willing to wait another year while the world ratchets down into an irreversible crisis, or do you propose to act now, while there is still time? Unless you are willing to take responsibility for the actions of your government, and force a change, future generations may well curse us all for the devastation which we have left in our wake. Last year we were given a great opportunity. Next year it may well be too late.