

during the course of World War II. I support today the tradition of the cooperation of Prime Minister Curtin with General MacArthur and President Roosevelt, against Churchill's intent virtually to abandon most of Australia to Japan occupation, during the early years of the Pacific War.

This Roosevelt-Churchill conflict of the pre-April 12, 1945 time has surfaced with renewed passion, in today's unconcealable conflict in global policy between London and the U.S. Clinton administration. Among some of the persons within a group fairly identified as the imperial "Club of the Isles," the in-progress disintegration of the world's monetary and financial systems evokes an impulse to bring the existence of the nation-state quickly to an end upon this planet, and, in that setting, to transform the British Commonwealth, in effect, back into the form of an imperial force within a nation-state-free, globalist society. In that scheme of things, some think that an Australia (itself torn and tattered into a pitiable condition, relative to its former achievements as a technologically progressing nation-state) might serve as the regional command-center of this revived empire, respecting South, Southeast, and East Asia.

The issue which underlies Mr. Leibler's quarrels with me,

is, in the final analysis, simply whether this planet shall be restored to a system of sovereign nation-states engaged in the benefits of scientific and technological progress, or a globalist utopia whose characteristic feature is slave-labor workshops of the type which Jeremy Bentham called "Panopticons," and Adolf Hitler built as "Concentration Camps." That renewed conflict, between the U.S. and imperial traditions, is the axiomatic form of the issue which, among Mr. Leibler's other points of difference with me, made me an ally of Israel's martyred Prime Minister Rabin, and dumped Mr. Leibler among the political camp-followers of such neo-churchillian utopians as Conrad Black's anti-Clinton Hollinger Corporation and its international press empire.

I would suggest that, in such troublesome times, the public interest, of your nation-state and my own, were better served by an effort seeking truthful clarity respecting this fresh outbreak of the Roosevelt-Churchill conflict, and less effort wasted on the the notorious Mr. Crossman's World War II tradition of official political lying.

Sincerely,
Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Israel's Peres reports progress in peace talks

by William Engdahl

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres delivered an important signal at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland the first week in February, which has been all but ignored by the international media. In his plenary address, he reported his "seasoned optimism" that a new phase of the Mideast peace process is near, namely, an agreement among Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. "I am convinced that [Syrian] President Assad, as [are] we, is determined to come to an agreement."

"What I am allowed to tell you today," he said, "is that both sides have agreed on one point, and this is perhaps the most important of all, is that we [Israel, Syria, and Lebanon] have already agreed on one thing. Once we three conclude our peace agreement, we have agreed to immediately convert those negotiations into negotiations with the rest of the Arab world, in order to make a comprehensive peace settlement which will end the threat of war in the region."

Asked by the press about concrete results to date, he stressed, "Water is the major problem in the talks with Syria and Lebanon. We have begun talks with an international consortium of U.S., European, and Asian companies, which re-



Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres

volve around desalination projects and modernization of the present water conduit." Peres noted that Turkey holds the key to the solution of the water problem of the region, with its damming of the Euphrates River flowing from Turkey into Syria and south. He noted that Turkish President Suleyman Demirel was to come to Israel in March for talks, but declined to elaborate on what proposals around water might be included. On the existing Jordan-Israel agreement, Peres mentioned that the two countries were discussing turning the Jordan rift valley into a joint venture to develop the rich agricultural potential, to expand the food supply for both countries in an area which is now a wasteland.