

## Editorial

### *Insist on development!*

The often breathtaking pace at which prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians seem to be vanishing recently, after such a promising start in September 1993, might tempt one to throw up one's hands in despair, or to engage in a cuckold's orgy of finger-pointing, placing the entire blame on the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, or on Palestinian hotheads, according to one's prejudice. The efforts of U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross to follow up on President Clinton's emergency Netanyahu-Arafat summit with a meeting in Jericho, fell apart when the Israeli prime minister refused to meet with Arafat and Jordan's King Hussein; and now there is talk that Israel is going back on its promise to restore parts of the Golan Heights to Syria. Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority President Arafat has warned to prepare for the worst.

Over the past two decades, *EIR* has exposed the agents of British geopolitical influence in Israel and elsewhere in the region, who have done everything possible to sabotage the peace process. Not the least of these are Israel's so-called Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Henry Kissinger's longtime buddy, and Syria's President Hafez al-Assad. But, it would be a terrible mistake to use those evil machinations as an excuse to avoid facing the United States' own share of responsibility for what has occurred. For, as big as the sins committed have been, there are also actions that have *not* been taken—sins of omission, committed by leading individuals and governments, who *at any point* could have turned the situation around—and who still could rescue the situation today, if they so choose.

What was not done? As Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized ever since his first intervention into Middle East policy in 1975, the only truly common interest among Israelis and their neighbors, lies in the commitment to rapid and massive development of infrastructure—especially water and energy infrastructure—that would ensure the rapid rise of living standards for all. As LaRouche put it in an interview back in 1993, “The urgent thing here is that we must move with all speed to *immediately* get these economic development projects,

such as the canal from Gaza to the Dead Sea, going, because if we wait until we discuss this thing out, enemies of progress and enemies of the human race, such as Kissinger and his friends, will be successful . . . in intervening to drown this argeement in blood and chaos.”

This sense of urgency was embedded in the economic section of the Mideast accord protocol signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat in 1993. LaRouche and his associates also found great receptivity for the Oasis Plan, which included the construction of strings of nuclear power plants along the proposed Mediterranean-Dead Sea and Dead-Red Sea canals, in order to create new rivers of desalinated fresh water. Israel's then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres picked up on the idea, writing in his 1993 book, *The New Middle East*, that such nuclear installations would serve as “islands of international cooperation.”

But time passed, and the groundbreaking for such projects did not occur. Conferences continued to be held—first in Casablanca, then in Amman, and last year in Barcelona. But these conferences were increasingly dominated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which made it clear that such great projects were simply “not on the agenda.” Nuclear cooperation with Palestinians began to seem “unrealistic.” Rabin was assassinated.

But, now, ask yourself: What would have happened if the world's major powers, led by the United States, had intervened to *insist* that such great projects be undertaken? What if that were done today, or even a few days from now, following the U.S. Presidential elections? Unrealistic? Hardly. At least, it is what Franklin Delano Roosevelt would have done, were he with us today. Indeed, the United States, in concert with other world powers such as China, has the power to unleash the most massive development push in world history, if only it has the courage and fortitude to persevere against all obstacles thrown into its path by the jackals of history, the British-based oligarchy and their geopolitical gamemasters. Now is the time for it to use that power.