

has prompted international aid organizations to send groups to evaluate the food situation, and to decide what amount of direct food aid should be given to Jordan immediately.

The IMF was in a hurry to finalize a new three-year agreement with Jordan in order to extend \$150 million in urgently needed aid. The IMF pledged to open a special fund which Jordan could draw on in times of emergency. The price, however, as the IMF's Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer insisted time and again, was that Jordan "privatize, privatize, privatize." The implementation of the first IMF agreement in 1996 provoked bloody riots, at a time when the IMF conditions were not totally followed. Now, full implementation of the IMF program might kill the rest of the economy, which has no social safety net. Jordan, which will become totally dependent on foreign aid, might be supported to survive this year or one more year, but thereafter, it will have almost no economy. By adhering to this strategy, Jordan is mortgaging its future to institutions that have ruined Russia, eastern Europe, Africa, large parts of Asia, and South America.

In addition to this massive mobilization of "financial aid," military and intelligence assistance will have to be provided to prevent intervention from Israel and possibly Syria, and to crush any pro-Iraqi moves from within Jordan itself. British intelligence and security advisers had reportedly gone to Jordan to assist Jordanian security services even before King Hussein died. Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton was scheduled to visit Amman on Feb. 19 for a high-level meeting with the Jordanian leadership, on the first stop of a regional tour which was to also take him to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman. Shelton was preceded by Gen. Anthony Zinni, head of U.S. Central Command regional forces, who visited Amman a few days earlier and met with King Abdullah, who is a military commander himself. He was followed by Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.), a member of the House International Relations Committee who met with the Jordanian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Kaabneh to review developments in the region, and pledged to continue the support for Jordan's economy and security.

The Iraqi leadership, which has been put in an increasingly desperate situation, is expecting a major military show-down within three to four weeks. More than 1 million Iraqi civilians have been armed and trained in the past three months in preparation for an invasion or a civil war. The illusion of overthrowing Saddam Hussein in a quick fix has long been pushed in Washington. In reality, any of the existing scenarios will result in a bloodbath in Iraq, and possibly in neighboring countries; Israel's madman Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is facing political demise in the Israeli elections, would seize the first opportunity to stage a new atrocity in line with an Armageddon doomsday scenario.

Meanwhile, Russia will not let the region be divided in a new Sykes-Picot scheme which excludes Russia, and throws the region into a new round of Great Game geopolitics.

British deploy 'new NATO' in Kosova

by Umberto Pascali

On Feb. 3, the London *Times* predicted what was going to happen in Kosova, in its lead editorial on "Gladstone's Shade," inciting Prime Minister Tony Blair to walk in his footsteps. William E. Gladstone, British Prime Minister and cabinet minister in the post-Palmerston Victorian period at the end of last century—the British Empire's "golden period"—was known as both an inflexible champion of international free trade, and the advocate of British penetration in the Balkans under the cover of helping the "freedom fighters" of the time.

The *Times* blares loud the new imperial trumpet: "NATO is planning to deploy ground forces within a sovereign state, turning part of it into a NATO protectorate. . . . [If a deal is signed between Kosovars and Serbs] NATO ground forces are to police it . . . British ministers have taken the lead, and British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of a peacekeeping force, under British commanders. Gladstone's shade walks the Balkans. . . . [The Blair government] is right to have taken this lead. But Tony Blair needs urgently to explain why it is right for Britain. . . . The people of this country understand well that a trading nation with global interests must be prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened."

Entente Cordiale at Rambouillet

In fact, the Kosovar-Serb "peace talks" that began on Feb. 6 in the former hunting lodge of the French royals, the chateau of Rambouillet, under the joint chairmanship of the foreign ministers of Britain and France, cannot be understood but from the imperial vantage point proposed by the *Times*.

What has been officially discussed at Rambouillet under the direction of French Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, with the junior partnership of the United States in the person of chief mediator U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, has little to do with Kosova as such. Kosova, like Bosnia before it, is only a pawn, a cynical pretext for the destructive game triggered by the collapsing financial oligarchy that controls Britain and Wall Street to preserve their bankrupt financial system.

The whole Kosova operation, with all its horrors, destruction, and death, has been, under British manipulation, a way to create unprecedented provocations against those nations and forces that do not fit the mold of globalization, and will not accept being sacrificed to keep alive for a few hours more

the mountains of financial paper growing like a cancer in the City of London and Wall Street. In particular, the target of the Kosova operation is Russia. In fact, Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic has been used by the Anglo-French imperial financiers as a tar baby, aimed at trapping Russia into a confrontation with the United States, and in this way preventing any potential alliance between the two nations (along with China and India) for an adequate international financial reform.

War provocations against Russia

Milosevic has been deployed as the provocateur, while Serbia remains in alliance with Moscow. British agencies have openly played both sides off against the middle. *EIR* has exposed several times the vicious activities of the Lord Byron Foundation for Balkan Studies tied to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, which, since the beginning of the Milosevic escalation, has been egging Russian factions on to “react against the NATO attacks on Serbia,” because, it claims, they were, in reality, attacks “against Russia.” Of course, at the same time, the same British gang that deploys the Lord Byron Foundation has been calling for the deployment of NATO.

Milosevic, while often attacked verbally, has been helped by the oligarchy in every way possible to keep the game going. Ironically, he and his scorched-earth policy have been helped especially by the British and French intelligence agencies operating within the two countries’ NATO contingents in Croatia and, especially, Bosnia. A few times, high-level French and British intelligence officials have been caught red-handed in helping Milosevic, and even the notorious war criminal Radovan Karadzic. The cases of British Maj. Milos Stankovic and French Majors Hervé Gourmelon and Pierre Bunel were just the tip of the iceberg of what appear to have been routine intelligence deployments in certain sectors of the French and British military in the Balkans.

However, we are now close to the “end game.” The announced deployment of more than 30,000 mostly British and French troops into the minuscule Kosova, and the threat of NATO bombing against Serb targets, has provoked the brandishing of a “Vietnam scenario” in the Balkans by Milosevic’s representative, President of Serbia Milan Milutinovic.

After having met the Serb delegation at Rambouillet on Feb. 12, Milutinovic rejected stationing any NATO forces in Kosova, and, if that refusal should lead—as the NATO ambassadors have officially stated—to military attacks on Serbia, then “that would literally mean blood up to the knees.” “I cannot believe,” stressed Milosevic’s agent, “that they want to have a Vietnam in Europe.”

But, while these provocative statements, though unprecedented, fit into the financiers’ scheme, what is much more alarming is that, after the Russian State Duma (lower house of Parliament) unanimously approved a resolution rejecting any NATO deployment without UN Security Council approval, President Boris Yeltsin on Feb. 18 issued a televised

comment, in which he stated that he had talked to President Clinton directly. “I conveyed to Clinton my view, both by phone and by letter, that this will not work. . . . We will not let you touch Kosova,” Yeltsin said.

The situation is made incandescent by the convergence of the British-inspired crisis in Iraq and the spreading international destabilization following the arrest of Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan. Already, many, especially inside the military, are fuming at the British and U.S. air strikes against Iraq carried out without the approval of the UN Security Council, where Russia and China have veto power. All these escalating provocations are clearly aimed at putting the Russian leadership of Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov in an untenable situation, and possibly triggering enraged anti-West reactions from leading military and political circles. Indeed, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov had talked to the delegations at Rambouillet and issued reassuring declarations. The two delegations “will come to an agreement. . . . There is no military solution to this problem, only a political one,” he said.

In the meantime, the escalation of words between the United States and Russia has continued. The televised comment by Yeltsin was answered by U.S. National Security Council spokesman David Leavy: “We are aware that Russia has opposed the use of force in Kosova, but we have also made clear that should the Serbs comply and refuse to sign a political settlement, that NATO has to consider military action in its own interest, in the interest of the region, and in the interest of the U.S., and we will do so.” The force that NATO has put together for the Kosova operation includes 430 planes.

The British Rapid Reaction Corps

Officially, the negotiations have been taking place under threat of a NATO military intervention, if an agreement between the two parties is not reached. The original draft presented by the Anglo-French chairmen and Chief Mediator Hill of the United States, called for the partial withdrawal from Kosova by Milosevic’s army and special police, the disarmament within three months of the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK), an interim period of three years in which some form of autonomy will be experimented with in Kosova through the creation of a still-undefined parliamentary assembly. If, and as soon as, an agreement is signed at Rambouillet, a military contingent of 30,000 or more men organized by the British-dominated elite and highly trained NATO’s Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), will take over in Kosova.

However, the only thing really certain, is that the deployment of the British-controlled ARRC will take place. On Feb. 15, the first ships, the *Sea Crusader* and the *Sea Centurion*, carrying British heavy weapons, left Germany for the Greek port of Thessaloniki. The British Defense Ministry gave a cavalier answer to those asking why the ARRC is leaving for Kosova—officially at the request of the “parties”—before the

“parties” at Rambouillet have decided anything. “It is simply prudent military planning,” a ministry spokesman said.

What is the Rapid Reaction Corps? *EIR* will take up this issue again, but for now, let us stress that the whole Kosova operation—which is already under way—is under the command of the ARRC commander, British Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Jackson. General Jackson will have a French general as his second-in-command. The British and French will supply most of the troops and, for the first time in such “peacekeeping” operations, the United States will make a limited contribution in men and will accept deployment of U.S. troops under a foreign ground commander.

The ARRC is an international general staff under total British control. Starting with the Kosova operation, France will be integrated into the ARRC command, and, given that Paris is not part of the integrated NATO chain of command to which the ARRC—at least formally—belongs, the French Defense Ministry has devised a liaison mission. That means, in the words of the ministry, “a soft and pragmatic reinsertion” of France into the NATO military command. The ministry stressed, in the worst tradition of the Entente Cordiale, that the preparation of the “peace force” has been carried out in “total concert with the United Kingdom.” France has already been given the power to “oversee the maritime traffic in the Adriatic.”

The ARRC was activated on Oct. 2, 1992, and became operational at the beginning of 1995. It was part of the restructuring of NATO after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was established in Germany, but it has been a British operation from the beginning. After 1989, a broader discussion took place on NATO, as it existed during the Cold War, was still necessary, especially the large British and French military presence in Germany. NATO’s new “strategic concept” was soon justified because of the explosion of Yugoslavia, thanks to Milosevic.

NATO British representative Sir John Weston stated in December 1992 that “the work of defining NATO’s future contribution to international peace and stability is unfinished. The terrible bloodshed in former Yugoslavia is a forceful reminder.” Sir John also predicted the “risks to international stability” that made necessary the new “strategic concept” and the creation of the ARRC: 1) ethnic and territorial disputes in Central and Eastern Europe, and economic and political instability; 2) proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction; and 3) the threat of conventional, chemical, and nuclear forces left by the disintegration of the Soviet Union. He “foresaw”: “Above all, the U.K. will lead the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps. A very significant proportion of the British Army will be assigned to it. . . . This is a vital part of our future contribution to the defense of Europe. . . . It is an excellent example of how NATO’s military structures are being adapted. . . . The Corps exemplifies the increasing prominence of highly mobile, multinational forces. They will be central to the future integrated military structure.”

Wehrkunde Conference

China, Russia, India challenge NATO insanity

by Rainer Apel

The fact that the end of the century also marks the end of a whole era, was illustrated by the 35th Munich Conference on Security Policy, which took place under the theme, “Global Security on the Threshold to the Next Millennium,” on Feb. 5-7. The annual “Wehrkunde” gathering of several hundred leading military officers, defense experts, and politicians from NATO member and other Western countries, which for the last few years has also seen representatives from Russia and eastern Europe, featured an entirely new aspect: For the first time ever, senior government representatives of China and India were invited to present their views.

By contrast with the constructive views of China and India, the performance of the Western attendees illustrated the fact that the elites of the West have lost the ability to contribute something conceptually useful to the world. The ruling Western elites have grown decadent, tending to view the rest of the world only in terms of “threats,” and calling those nations “rogues” that do not want to adopt the rules of a collapsing monetarist system, or who have gotten in the way of Western policymakers for other reasons. This rotten elitist tendency has found one of its worst representatives in U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen, whose speech at the conference on Feb. 6 made that all too evident.

Cohen lashes out against ‘rogue nations’

Cohen’s central message to the audience was, that NATO must arm itself against the threats coming from “rogue nations.” He said that when the 34th conference gathered last year, “the eyes of the world were focussed on Iraq, as Saddam Hussein sought to thwart the UN inspectors with a pattern of obstruction and obfuscation—a pattern that ultimately prompted our sustained strikes, which, with the help of our British friends and coalition partners in the region, diminished Iraq’s ability to deliver weapons of mass destruction and to threaten its neighbors.”

But Saddam Hussein’s Iraq is only one among those “rogues” that give Cohen bad dreams: “Only weeks after we gathered last, Serbian forces swept into Kosova, unleashing a torrent of terror and prompting preparations for NATO air strikes, strikes that remain an option, today.” And, there are others that Cohen dislikes: “Since we gathered last, nuclear