

House of Lords by Queen Elizabeth. Lord Nazir emphasizes the favors which the British oligarchy, and Prime Minister Tony Blair in particular, are graciously bestowing on Muslims in England. Remember the warning in Virgil's *Aeneid*—"timeo Danaos et dona ferentes" ("beware of Greeks bearing gifts"), enunciated by Laocoön, when he tried to prevent his fellow Trojans from introducing the giant wooden horse, a gift of the Greeks, into the walled city of Troy.

The choice is between a British and an American model. By "American model," we mean not what pragmatically exists, but the model of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and Benjamin Franklin. The British model means manipulation on behalf of London's imperial aims. London, like the witch in a fairy tale, is ready to give as gifts many poison apples, if this will allow it to control the Muslim world.

Many hot spots will be triggered and exploded by the British war machine. After having promoted the creation of the modern Greater Serbia at the beginning of this century, there are several reports that British psywar specialists have been working hard trying to sell to the Albanians the idea of a modern "Greater Albania." Up to now, this poison apple has been rejected, but the pressure is increasing. To accept such an "offer" would guarantee for the British-American-Commonwealth faction, the geopolitics of war that they desperately need as their rotten financial system explodes around them. It will also guarantee misery to the Albanians, a spiral of destruction and degradation.

London is already looking for other hot spots to explode. Kashmir appears to be on the top of the list. Tony Blair's group could not care less about the sufferings of the Kashmir people; but Kashmir represents a detonation point for Pakistan, India, and China, with consequent destabilization and war among these countries in a broadening spiral of destruction. In order to ignite the fuse there, the new colonialists need the docile obedience of a large sector of the Muslim world. The words of Lord Nazir of Rotherham, his incessant praise for Tony Blair, and for Blair's supposed pro-Muslims initiatives, and his reference to Kashmir, remind us how doggedly the British oligarchy are pursuing their goal.

Clearly the interest, and the ideals of the American Muslims, are not to be fulfilled in this scheme. Quite the opposite. The Muslim world represents the geographic heart of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The development of that vast area from China's Pacific Coast to the Middle East and Europe, is what so many Muslim countries are demanding. This is also the solution for the Balkans: a new Marshall Plan, as was discussed at the AMC conference. And a new financial system, a New Bretton Woods that guarantees the financial base for such historical development projects. This could indeed trigger a new Islamic Renaissance. This is the only American and Muslim way, the only "human way" to guarantee peace, prosperity, and freedom.

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## Interview: Dr. Nazir U. Khaja

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# American Muslims and the war in Yugoslavia

*Dr. Khaja is the president of the American Muslim Council. He was interviewed by Umberto Pascali on May 7 at the AMC's eighth national convention in Arlington, Virginia. The AMC is the political organization of American Muslims, and the producer of "Islam," a TV program broadcast throughout the United States.*

**EIR:** Dr. Khaja, you were in Belgrade a few days ago, as one of the most prominent American leaders in the delegation led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, negotiating with Slobodan Milosevic for the successful release of the three U.S. soldiers taken prisoner at the beginning of the bombing against Yugoslavia.

Your action, as a leader of a political organization of the American Muslims, is particularly remarkable because, so to speak, you "broke the profile" of what was expected from you, in terms of the false—but still strongly perceived by many—idea of a Clash of Civilizations between Muslims and, in this case, Serbs, as peoples and religions. Could you tell *EIR's* readers, first of all, your first-hand impressions of the Belgrade mission, and then comment on where this initiative is leading?

**Dr. Khaja:** As you rightly pointed out, the general image of Muslims and Islam is inconsistent with the trip that was taken. American Muslims are realizing more and more that, not only are we fighting stereotypes that have painted us with such a broad brush, but also we are fighting this whole issue of self-identity in our society. So, the more we work on the issue of the American Muslim identity and presence, the more it will become clear, hopefully in the future—with the work of the AMC and other organizations—that American Muslims are more or less along the same lines with the rest of American society, concerning the diversity of thinking, in ways we approach issues. So in that sense, when a peace forum of that kind [Rev. Jesse Jackson's delegation] was put together, a coalition of different churches, the American Muslims needed to be present, and that is why that trip was taken.

**EIR:** And your impressions, Dr. Khaja, of the Belgrade mission? Indeed the situation is moving very fast. We just learned that Kosovo leader Ibrahim Rugova has arrived in Rome, and new peace initiatives are taking place now. Your

courageous contribution has certainly been extremely relevant. Tell us, if you would, your impressions of the meetings you had in Belgrade with Slobodan Milosevic.

**Dr. Khaja:** Milosevic is a self-righteous, arrogant dictator. His tragedy is that of any other dictator who begins to lie in order to maintain his power, keeps repeating the lie to everybody around him, and then he himself begins to believe the lie. That is the same notion of the Big Lie that caused mass hysteria. Consequently, the view in Belgrade and Serbia is 180 degrees opposite to what is believed here in the West. No amount of dialogue can convince Serbians that the aggressor is Milosevic and that the victims are the people of Kosovo, just as the people of Bosnia were. Serbian people have been conditioned by this propaganda, and now they are facing the constant NATO bombings, so you can easily imagine that they are extremely angry. This has been the prevailing condition at the present time in Belgrade.

**EIR:** In 1993, I was part of an organization called International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia, which brought a delegation of ten members of Congress and parliaments to Sarajevo during the siege. I remember, in those horrible times, how strong, despite everything, were the hopes of the Bosnians, of President Alija Izetbegovic, that after all the sacrifices, finally they would be able to have a country, a process of reconstruction and establishment of a modern economy, of a future. This did not happen; the war ended, but peace did not come. There was not the promised economic reconstruction.

There was a proposal at that time for a new Marshall Plan for the Balkans. Recently, President Clinton has talked about a Marshall Plan for the Balkans in the postwar period. A call for the reconstruction of the area was recently issued by the former Chief of Cabinet of President Izetbegovic, Faris Nanic, and by Schiller Institute founder, Helga Zepp-LaRouche. The fact that Bosnia was not allowed to have reconstruction brought the country to a present potential danger of a new ethnic explosion.

Looking at the large masses of suffering, desperate Kosovars, we are reminded that the alternative is clear: Either they will be sent away from Kosovo permanently and/or put in some form of concentration camp, or a large program of reconstruction is needed immediately in the Balkans, a Marshall Plan that obviously is to be extended to the whole Third World.

**Dr. Khaja:** I think there is a discussion on what will follow after peace and security are established. I think one of the options being discussed now, is to have a Marshall Plan, for that area at least, and I think President Clinton struck a chord and is probably committed to it. How other nations will participate in it? Germany has shown some willingness in the past to do something about it. Yes, indeed, there will be a need for massive reconstruction for the whole area, so that with economic stability, these problems which have

always caused conflicts, will go away. After all, we are becoming more and more cognizant of the fact that if you have economic growth, this will stabilize the political system. Yes, definitely we have to look at this.

**EIR:** Dr. Khaja, would you comment on the future of your organization and the role of the American Muslim community, not only for the United States, but as a reference point for the rest of the world?

**Dr. Khaja:** I think the American Muslim community is beginning to realize it is the most important asset of the whole Muslim world. I say that, because if one looks to the Muslim world, from Mauritania to Malaysia, there are areas of the world where there is some freedom, but there is no education, and there are some areas where there is education, but no freedom. Where else in the Muslim world, or anywhere else Muslim, have both of these elements: knowledge and freedom, which are part of the teaching of the Koran? The American Muslims are uniquely placed because of that, and they will continue to play a more positive role, which will have a necessary impact on all the Muslim countries also.

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Interview: Dr. Muhammad  
Aslam Cheema

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## Balkan reconstruction is the key to peace

*Dr. Cheema, a former president of the American Muslim Council, is now its treasurer and a member of its board of directors. He is a retired surgeon, who has dedicated his life to giving a voice and an adequate role to the American Muslim community. He explains: "I retired early for health reasons, but this gave me the opportunity to serve the community. I am totally wedded to the idea that the American Muslim community has now reached the point that it has to start shouldering the responsibilities that fall upon it. And I am now literally spending all of my time pursuing these objectives." Dr. Cheema was interviewed by Umberto Pascali on May 7.*

**EIR:** Dr. Cheema, this morning we were at the White House, and National Security Adviser Samuel Berger came to talk to the AMC convention participants. Someone commented that, whether one agrees or disagrees with everything he said, it is striking that, after a few hours of sleep back from Germany where he accompanied President Clinton to deal with the Kosovo issue, Mr. Berger came to give his remarks personally to the American Muslims. What was your evaluation of this