

Editorial

British push for World War III

In his commentary of May 27, Russian Special Envoy to the Balkans Viktor Chernomyrdin was blunt. "The world has never in this decade been so close as now to the brink of nuclear war," he wrote. While that statement was a shocker for many, the statement as a whole contains a significant omission—the fact that it is Britain's Blair government which is leading the drive for escalating the conflict into a ground war, which will lead very rapidly toward World War III.

The problem is not just that the British are beating the drums for a ground troop deployment; they are orchestrating one destabilization after another to prevent the consolidation of agreements between the United States, Russia, China, and leading European nations which could put a peace plan in place. Just look at the crucial events.

First, we had the bombing of the Chinese Embassy on May 7, a deliberate act, and one aimed at sabotaging agreements which had just been reached by the Group of Eight on a possible negotiated peace through the United Nations. There is no question but that this act was carried out by the British-controlled military apparatus in NATO which wants to sabotage peace, and that, unless President Clinton cuts this military grouping down to size by identifying and punishing the perpetrators of this crime, the potential for all efforts toward peace is permanently crippled.

Second, we had the May 12 removal of Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, who had long been a target of the British-American-Commonwealth (BAC) grouping, because of his role in building an alliance with China and India, *and* his openness to working with the West on a new economic orientation.

At the same time, the BAC core of NATO has steadily escalated its bombing campaign to hit more and more civilian infrastructure, crippling hospitals, power systems, and water supplies. At least 14 other embassies or diplomatic residences, in addition to the Chinese Embassy, have been hit. These atrocities have been accompanied by more and more demands for ground troops, and even the mooted use of nuclear weapons!

So far, these mootings have not occurred in the American press. The first came in the BAC's flagship paper, the London *Sunday Telegraph*, on May 2, when "historian" Andrew Roberts called for NATO to "go nuclear" in the war against Yugoslavia. The second was more indirect, but came from Gen. Wesley Clark, who is running military operations. The Spanish daily *El País* published an interview with General Clark on May 25, in which the paper reported his answer to a question on whether aerial bombardments can ever win a war. "The general alludes to the case of Japan during World War II, as a technical example for a country which got destroyed without the necessity for an invasion with ground troops. Yet, he insists that one has to transpose that reference with caution, because the forces and circumstances then were not identical with the actual ones in the Balkans, as if to prevent someone from coming to the conclusion that he would defend the launching of an atomic bomb."

Then, during the week of May 24, the British dropped some new bombs to try to bury any move toward a negotiated settlement. In this category falls the Cox Committee Report on alleged Chinese espionage, which we take up in our national section. The fraudulent report is widely seen as an attempt to "change the subject" from the Chinese Embassy bombing, and to further break relations between the United States and China. And then, on May 27, came the indictment of Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic as a war criminal—something which could have been done any time since the early 1990s, but was timed to stymie ongoing diplomatic efforts.

How will this British campaign of sabotage be stopped? It will take a mobilization of ruthless honesty and spectacular intensity, focussed on identifying the British role, punishing the embassy bombers, and pulling together concrete plans for reconstruction in the Balkans. The circulation of the call for peace through development, issued by Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Bosnian leader Faris Nanic, is building the basis for such action. But the time-bomb is ticking, and within weeks the decisive action must be taken.