

Editorial

Reconstruction must start now!

The achievement of a preliminary peace accord in the Kosovo crisis has created a promising, if fragile potential in the world strategic situation. The Clinton administration has succeeded in shaping agreement between the Russians and the continental Europeans on a deal which will be implemented through the United Nations, and not the unilateralist hawks of NATO. The complex agreement has many possible pitfalls, but it does include a commitment to national sovereignty, and reconstruction in the Balkan region, indispensable elements in a lasting peace.

But, watch out! The British government, including Her Majesty the Queen, is displeased at this turn of events. The calming of tensions between the United States and Russia and China, is the last thing that the British and their allies in the United States want to occur, and we can be assured that the British-American-Commonwealth crowd will be looking for each and every opportunity to blow up the deal—literally, or in effect. And the British will have many opportunities, including with their soldiers on the ground, to carry out some real dirty work.

The critical ingredient toward ensuring that a peace process, instead of a brief cessation of hostilities, takes hold in the Balkans, is the implementation of a reconstruction plan—specifically, Lyndon LaRouche's reconstruction plan, and not some cheap imitation.

At a press conference held in Washington, D.C. on June 2, LaRouche's Presidential campaign spokeswoman, Debra Hanania Freeman, outlined the essential steps that must be taken to realize the hope of peace. First, she said, the Clinton administration must take care of the unfinished business of putting relations with the Chinese government back on track. This means that the President must tell the truth about the British orchestration of the May 7 bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

Second, the President must adopt a reconstruction plan along the lines proposed by LaRouche.

Freeman outlined the crucial aspects of that plan, which, she stressed, would cost in the range of \$1 tril-

lion, if it's to be effective. But it's not necessary to pour that amount of money into a fund, she explained. The process, which must start immediately, could be begun with seed money of about \$1 billion in public and private investment, put into an independent, self-credit-generating monetary authority, which might be called the Southeast Europe Reconstruction Fund.

Then, rebuilding must begin. The first priority should be to clear the Danube River, which has been blocked by the debris from the bombing. The disruption of this international waterway is hindering economic operations for all the countries in the region.

The second priority is a crash effort to clear out the land-mines, which must be done so that the population can safely return. Failure to take such measures after the war in Southeast Asia has contributed to ongoing devastation in such countries as Cambodia.

The third immediate priority should be modelled on the only part of the Dayton Accords that did work after the end of the fighting in Bosnia. That was the home reconstruction plan, whereby every household received \$5,000 to rebuild their home. Such a measure is very important, because it's necessary to overcome the trauma of the refugee experience, and engaging people in the rebuilding process helps to do this.

Freeman expressed hope that President Clinton might adopt LaRouche's plan, and that it would become the cradle of the new monetary system that LaRouche has called the New Bretton Woods. But the time is very short. Therefore, LaRouche's Presidential campaign has been carrying out a two-week mobilization, in which it is circulating more than a million broadsheets containing LaRouche's Balkan reconstruction plan, and is seeking out discussions with every U.S. Congressional office on the need to support this program.

The United States not only can afford to join in such a reconstruction effort with European and other nations, Freeman said, but it can't afford *not* to do so. The constant threat of war cannot be stopped, unless an unstoppable process of economic development is set into motion. There is no time to waste.