

economic potentials of the newly independent Central Asian republics.

The failure of the Afghan talks at this time was a nail hammered deep into the Taliban's coffin, in the sense that it has been isolated internationally, and punished by the United States. However, the Taliban remains a virulent, aggressive military force. Unless the major powers, the United States, China, and Russia, agree on a peaceful solution to the conflict, Afghanistan may again be engulfed in yet another war.

Conference advances India-Central Asia ties

by EIR Staff

Schiller Institute representatives Ramtanu Maitra and Michael Liebig participated in a conference in New Delhi, on July 28-29, whose purpose was to strengthen the ties of the "survivors' club" centered around Russia, China, and India, as the world undergoes an economic and finance crash. The meeting was opened by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. It was sponsored by the Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies of Calcutta on the topic of Indian-Central Asian relations, and with special emphasis on the contribution by the late Russian Orientalist Babajan Gafurov.

Conference participants included some 20 scholars from the Central Asian republics; a Russian delegation, led by the head of the Moscow Oriental Institute, Professor Rybakov; a Chinese delegation, led by Prof. Ma Jiali, who chaired one of the seminar's sessions; some 40 Indian scholars, led by Prof. Devendra Kaushik, chairman of the Maulana Azad Institute, who, in April, had addressed *EIR*'s strategic seminar in Bonn-Bad Godesberg (see *EIR*, May 7, 1999); and Hrant Khachatryan, a newly elected member of Armenia's Parliament and longtime Schiller Institute collaborator. Michael Liebig presented a paper to the seminar on "NATO, the 'Eurasian Triangle,' and the Caucasus/Central Asia Region." The conference proceedings, which are to be published as a book, include a paper by the Schiller Institute's founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, on the Eurasian Land-Bridge and what is becoming known as the "China-Russia-India strategic triangle."

The conference demonstrated, in its own way, the major improvement in Sino-Indian relations over the past months. Chinese and Indian participants discussed in public the possibility of intelligence cooperation between China and India, and road connections crossing the Himalayas that would linking Central Asia and India through China.

The conference also showed the reality of the emergence of the India-Russia-China triangle on the world political

plane, as well as in the Caucasus/Central Asia region. This is all the more significant, as India is currently being intensely wooed by the very same British-American-Commonwealth oligarchy which had screamed and yelled about India's nuclear tests in May 1998.

In this context, even more light was shed on the high degree of credibility that Lyndon LaRouche, the Schiller Institute, and *EIR* enjoy, on both analytical and programmatic matters.

'Many silk roads'

The first day of the conference took place at the Indian Parliament, where Prime Minister Vajpayee delivered the inaugural address, focussing on the "geo-cultural space," uniting South Asia and Central Asia, "criss-crossed" by "many silk roads," in political, economic, cultural, and religious terms. Maitra and Liebig were introduced to the Indian Prime Minister as "the representatives of the Schiller Institute." With particular warmth, Vajpayee greeted the Chinese delegation. The conference was also addressed by the Indian Education Minister Dr. Joshi; the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, N. Dayal; and the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Faruk Abdullah. The second day of the conference, held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, was filled with lectures, among them from the Schiller Institute, and marked by intense debate.

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