

can be thrashed out. The causes of the current crisis, can be identified in the economic policy madness that has reigned for the past 30 years; and the solutions, like those presented by Lyndon LaRouche, for global reorganization of the monetary and financial structures, can be pushed through.

Although neither Lafontaine, nor Jospin, nor any of the men behind the scenes, will dare admit it in public, LaRouche was right. That is the reality which is dominating the turbulent developments on the European political landscape.

'Third Way' derailed in Great Britain

by Mark Burdman

If British Prime Minister Tony Blair's deranged performance in his keynote address to the Labour Party's end-September annual conference in Bournemouth had not already provided convincing evidence that he was a most desperate man, and that his vaunted "Third Way" policies are a dead letter, events since then should quell any lingering doubts.

On Oct. 5, "Third Way" policies died a very public death in Britain, with the rail crash between a commuter train and an intercity train at the busy Paddington Station in London, which resulted in a reported 40 deaths, and which was one of the worst rail crashes in Britain in this century. The tragedy was all the more devastating, because a major rail crash had occurred at the same station just two years ago, in the aftermath of Blair's election victory on May 1, 1997. It became immediately evident, that the crash was a consequence of the Thatcher-Blair policies of privatization and disinvestment in transport infrastructure, in favor of short-term profits and pursuit of a so-called "post-industrial, information society." Notably, the Blair government has refused, in order to "save money," to invest in the superior automatic breaking system, the ATP, that is used on the European continent, as a fundamental safety measure.

The Paddington crash has forced onto the agenda the necessity of non-"Third Way" policies, centered around building up the real, physical economy.

The "Third Way," as devised for Blair by his ideological guru, Prof. Anthony Giddens of the London School of Economics (who wrote a book in 1998 entitled *The Third Way*), is an amalgam of several factors. It is, first of all, an attempt to continue Thatcherite austerity and cost-cutting, under a thin left-liberal veneer. It is, at the same time, a policy to distance the Labour Party, in particular, and the international

social democracy more generally, from its traditional working-class electoral base. Linked to this, as Giddens emphasizes, it is an attempt to "modernize" the social democracy, by bringing it into line with the "globalized realities" of the last 30 years, since the "post-industrial" paradigm was launched, in earnest, in the mid-1960s.

All of this is now called into question. As one astute Scottish observer told *EIR* on Oct. 8, the rail crash has had a "shock effect" in Britain, turning anger against the policy of "saving money, making profits, and killing people. People are very angry. It is now clear that, under Blair, we have a repetition of the Thatcher system, under a different guise. Those of us who voted for Blair in 1997, as I did, now see that we bought into a fraud. What is really happening in this country? We have run-down schools, hopeless transport and infrastructure, schools in chaos, universities being ripped apart, and meanwhile, a small elite making a lot of money. It's all rather sinister, and I can assure you, it will come to a head soon."

The return of 'Lord Mandy'

With that mood growing in Britain, how did Blair respond? He tugged on his emotional security blanket, and sought to give himself psychological-ideological support. In a desperate move, he opened the week of Oct. 11 by bringing Peter Mandelson, his closest crony and leading ideologue and "spin doctor" of the Blairite "New Labour," back into the government, in the post of Northern Ireland Secretary. This was part of a broader Cabinet reshuffle, to fill the posts of Defense Secretary, whose current occupant, Lord George Robertson, is the new NATO Secretary General, and Health Secretary, whose current occupant, Frank Dobson, has announced that he will be running for the post of Mayor of London. Mandelson is replacing Mo Mowlam, who is in turn replacing Dr. Jack Cunningham as chief Cabinet "enforcer."

Mandelson is a thoroughly discredited and unpopular operative. He was forced to resign as British Trade and Industry Secretary, around Christmas of last year, following revelations that he had failed to report a £373,000 loan, to buy an expensive house in London, from New Labour moneybags Geoffrey Robinson, who also had to resign from his post, as government Paymaster-General.

Mandelson had earned a most seedy reputation. He was known in leading London circles as "Lord Mandy of Rio," following an at-government-expense romp through the homosexual haunts of the Brazilian capital, Rio de Janeiro. Besides this, "Mandy" never missed an opportunity to pour bile on the traditional Labour working-class base, insisting that the age of industry had passed (true enough in "post-industrial" Britain!), and that New Labour had to move in the direction that Baroness Margaret Thatcher had established, during her 13-year reign as British Prime Minister, from 1979-92. Mandelson was wont to cultivate enormously wealthy British

and American establishment figures as cronies, and to frequent such pro-Thatcher policy institutions as the New Atlantic Initiative, which was launched by the Baroness herself in Prague, in 1996.

Despite his removal from office, Mandelson continued to play an important role in Blair's Third Way during this year. He recently had become head of the German-British Forum, from which post he insisted that German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder push through Blairite austerity measures, despite the German voters' rejection of such measures at the polls.

Mandy's pet idea, often portrayed as the secret of New Labour "success," is that the art of politics is the control of the media and the flow of information. Today, that idea is implemented, with brutality, by Blair's Press Secretary Alastair Campbell, known as "the real Deputy Prime Minister." No wonder, that one astute British observer, a former Blair supporter, told *EIR* that "nothing like the propaganda control and manipulation you see in this government, has been seen since the time of [Nazi Propaganda Minister] Josef Goebbels." This individual is not alone, in seeing certain parallels between the Blairite "Third Way" and Hitler's Third Reich.

No sooner had the Mandelson appointment as Northern Ireland Secretary been announced, than the 10 Downing Street Strategic Communications Unit went into full gear, to portray this as a sign of Blair's strength, and command over the situation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Respecting Northern Ireland as such, there is an ominous side to Mandelson's appointment. In the days leading up to it, there were leaks in the British press that a split-off from the Irish Republican Army, known as the "Real IRA" (dubbed by one wag, "The Royal IRA"), is planning spectacular attacks on England, supposedly to be timed to coincide with possible computer mishaps because of the "millennium bug." This is very much in line with the so-called "Operation Surety" plan for placing Britain under emergency rule in the period to come. Having a 150% Blairite loyalist in the relevant Northern Ireland post would fit in with this scenario.

'Mediocrity worshipping itself'

Blair's Bournemouth speech was filled with emotional tear-jerking and various attempts at psycho-political manipulation, with the underlying message that Blair himself is the "incarnation" of Britain, and that his enemies are enemies of the state, who will have the power of the state used against them. Perhaps his most truthful comment was, "In the last few months alone, I've been compared to Hitler, Mussolini, and Milosevic."

The best published insight into Blair was written by Theodore Dalrymple, M.D., in the Oct. 3 *Sunday Telegraph*. Dalrymple mused, that if one had simply watched Blair making his speech in Bournemouth, without sound, "the deaf observer might have thought the time fast approaching when a clause of the Mental Health Act would have to be invoked, and the

speaker carted away by men in the white coats, for a little rest in the local asylum." But, with sound added, "it is clear that things are more complex with Mr. Blair than straightforward madness."

Dalrymple went on, that Blair "is at the same time vacuous and sinister; burningly sincere yet fickle and opportunistic; humble yet arrogant and egotistical; . . . passionate but shallow and empty; sentimental but ruthless and bullying. He thinks he is Moses but reminds one more of Mussolini. His capacity for self-deception puts me in mind of some of my patients."

Dalrymple likened Blair to an alcoholic who "smells of alcohol but who claims he never drinks a drop," and to "criminals." His speech was "just as dishonest and self-serving as that of the burglar who explains his activities by his unhappy childhood." The author warned of Blair's "staggering arrogance," "childish egotism," and "savage vandalism," continuing that "Mr. Blair has undeniable talents, though they are unpleasant ones; he is both demagogue and apparatchik."

Dalrymple concluded that Blair and the self-professed "populist elite" that he leads, represent "mediocrity worshipping itself. If it is possible to be brilliant mediocre, then that indeed is what Blair is: a brilliant mediocrity."

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