

held now, and commanding the support of half of the Likud party, he has called for early elections in return for his support for the emergency government.

This is more than Netanyahu's well-known opportunism: It is the spearhead of a major mobilization of right-wing Zionist circles internationally. The most prominent such activity, has been a call for an international Jewish summit, to counter the Arab summit, by Ronald Lauder, Chairman of the Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Lauder is the scion of the multibillion-dollar cosmetics empire of Estée Lauder, and is the chief financial backer of Netanyahu's political career. Lauder made his call at a press conference in Jerusalem, at a time when leaders of Jewish organizations from around the world, including Edgar Bronfman of the World Jewish Congress, were arriving in Israel for a show of solidarity. Other voices in these organizations criticized Lauder's proposal as a "right-wing scheme."

In moves that will escalate religious tensions, Jewish and Christian fundamentalists are deploying en masse to Jerusalem. On Oct. 20, Sharon spoke to a conference of 1,500 self-styled Christian Zionists from all over the world, organized by the International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem. These fanatics, drawn from organizations that represent millions of fundamentalist Christians, are fully in support of the most radical Jewish claims on the Temple Mount and Jerusalem.

Also going to Jerusalem was New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D). A founder of the fascist Jewish Defense League of the late Meir Kahane, Hikind has been courted by First Lady Hillary Clinton in her election bid for the U.S. Senate from New York. Hikind is considered a "Jewish extremist" by the Israeli police, and was refused permission, along with 100 other extremists, to attend a house-opening ceremony in the Arab Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City.

Barak's 'Separation Plan' Is a Disaster

In place of the peace process, Barak has proposed a "unilateral separation" plan, whereby Israel will unilaterally withdraw from parts of the West Bank, but remain in control of the Jewish settlements. The open question would be, where to draw the line. Sharon opposes such a policy, but stated that he would agree to an "interim agreement where Israel maintains all the settlements and strategic points it sees as necessary. This would leave the Palestinians with only 42% of the West Bank, cut up into a patchwork of bantustans, all of which is obviously unacceptable to the Palestinians, who have declared they will resist it.

The plan was roundly criticized by Gen. Shlomo Gazit (ret.), former head of Israeli military intelligence, who was recently quoted in the Israeli press, saying that the only workable plan is a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory. "We need a courageous Prime Minister who will say [to the Israeli settlers]: 'I'm sorry we've misled you for 33 years and

brought 170,000 people into the territories. Now this is the border. We recommend that you leave, but anyone who wants to stay will be a citizen of Palestine.' I see no other way. It can't be done piecemeal." Nonetheless, he admitted that as of yet, no Prime Minister has the power to implement the policy. "Only the sword of Alexander of Macedon could cut through the Gordian knot we have shortsightedly built here over the last 33 years."

Arab Summit Displays Unity for Palestinians

by Hussein Al-Nadeem

Under great pressure from the Arab and Islamic peoples that have been enraged by the ongoing Israeli provocations and assaults on Palestinians, Arab leaders convened their Extraordinary Summit on Oct. 21-22 in Cairo. The summit was organized and chaired by Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak; it was the first all-Arab summit since 1996, and the first to include Iraq since the 1990 Gulf War.

The results of the summit came as no surprise to many analysts and observers, however, all of whom agree that the most important aspect of this meeting was the unity shown by the Arab leaders to pursue a united policy vis-à-vis the Israel-Arab conflict and other related regional issues. In addition, a number of developments in and around the region have emerged around the summit, signifying a shift in the strategic relations of the Middle East to the rest of the world. These developments, which went almost unreported by Western media, included Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi's visit to Iraq to launch a new mechanism to normalize relations and trade.

Another significant development was the high-level visit of Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz to China, South Korea, and Malaysia. The main item of his discussions with leaders of these countries was military-industrial cooperation. Well-informed sources state that these moves came in light of increasing frustration among Persian Gulf countries against the current Anglo-American policy of unconditional support for the state of Israel.

Meanwhile, Russian policymakers have stayed away from the chaos in the peace process created by the U.S. Administration's policies, while taking constructive moves toward the Arab countries. An envoy from the Russian government started a tour of Iran and Arab countries in the Gulf, to push an initiative for security cooperation in that region, including the reintegration of Iraq in such a mechanism.

Despite calls for war against Israel, the Arab heads of state, led by Mubarak, calmed down the rhetoric, in order to leave open a window of opportunity for the resumption of the peaceful settlement with Israel, and to prevent the situation in the Palestinian territories from deteriorating further—possibly leading to a public uprising in the Arab countries themselves. The conviction is that the Arab countries do not want a new Arab-Israeli war, because it will not lead to anything positive, and the Arabs cannot afford such a war either.

The speeches by the Arab heads of state ranged from calls for a de-escalation of the violence and a resumption of the peace negotiations, to calls for military action against Israel, at least in support of an expanded armed Intifada by the Palestinians. However, all agreed on condemning Israel's leadership and holding it responsible for the violence and breakup of the peace process. One sign of the Arab leaders' hope that saving the peace process is still possible, was shown by their abstention from condemning or criticizing the U.S. Administration for condoning and even supporting the Israeli government in its provocations against the Palestinians. The Arab leaders believed that President Clinton is still in a position to affect Israeli policy.

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad told the summit in his speech: "While we were seeking and searching for peace,

Israel searched for war. We opted for peace as the strategic option when Israel approached peace as a tactical option," which also included the use of military force. "What we presented of ideas and mentioned of suggestions would push the Israeli leaders to think of walking along the road of the just and comprehensive peace. This would make them realize the difference between peace and weakness option regarding the Arab nation."

The Resolutions

The final communiqué of the Arab Summit included a strong condemnation of Israel. "The conference comes in the aftermath of conversion by Israel of the peace process into an act of war against the Palestinian people, using military force in besieging, isolating, and keeping them as hostage inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip," said the statement. It hailed the Intifada of the Palestinian people, while condemning Israeli actions.

The Arab leaders vowed to take certain actions and make other demands. "Arab leaders stress their commitment to firmly challenge Israeli attempts to infiltrate the Arab world in any form, and from now on to stop opening relations with Israel," it said. "In line with a Saudi proposal, the summit has decided on the creation of two funds: . . . 'Al Aqsa Fund,' worth \$800 million, will finance projects to preserve the Arab identity of Jerusalem . . . the \$200 million 'Jerusalem Intifada Fund,' will assist the families of martyrs," killed by Israeli soldiers recently. The Arab leaders also decided "to open Arab markets to Palestinian goods while exempting them from taxes and duty."

Emphasizing Israel's responsibility for the current situation, the Arab leaders "demand the [UN] Security Council form an international criminal court to try Israeli war criminals who have carried out massacres against the Palestinians and Arabs." In addition, "The Arab leaders demand the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly take responsibility for guaranteeing the necessary protection of the Palestinian people suffering under Israeli occupation with a view to establishing an international force."

Also, it said, "The Arab leaders stress that a comprehensive and just peace will not be achieved without returning Jerusalem to complete Palestinian sovereignty and giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, including the right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital." They demand "the return of all Arab occupied lands including Israel's complete withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and from the occupied Syrian Golan [Heights]. . . . [And] the removal of Israeli settlements in implementation of Security Council Resolution 465 of 1980."

Cooperation Is Conditional

The Arab leaders closed the door on any regional economic cooperation which includes Israel, unless Israel implements the demands. "The Arab leaders . . . stress that healing

The Way Out of The Crisis

A 90-minute video of highlights from *EIR*'s April 21, 1999 seminar in Bonn, Germany.

Lyndon LaRouche was the keynote speaker, in a dialogue with distinguished international panelists: **Wilhelm Hankel**, professor of economics and a former banker from Germany; **Stanislav Menshikov**, a Russian economist and journalist; Schiller Institute founder **Helga Zepp-LaRouche** from Germany; **Devendra Kaushik**, professor of Central Asian Studies from India; **Qian Jing**, international affairs analyst from China; **Natalya Vitrenko**, economist and parliamentarian from Ukraine.



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matters of regional cooperation can only be achieved by real progress toward a comprehensive and just peace in the region,” said the statement. This touches on the core of the failure of the whole peace process as brokered by President Clinton, because the aspect of economic justice for all parties, especially that of the Palestinians, was pushed aside, considered secondary to other issues. The absence of real economic cooperation is partly responsible for the current state of frustration among the peoples in the region.

One resolution which was pushed to the bottom of priorities is the “economic cooperation and coordination” among Arab countries. The leaders said that the regular meetings of the Arab governments and their agencies should promote this “coordination, especially in the light of the international and regional transformations, making inter-Arab economic cooperation a pressing need.”

One positive sign of the return of normal relations among the ever-quarreling Arab governments is the decision to institutionalize the summit. “The Arab leaders decide to adopt the special mechanism for holding regular Arab summits [each year in March] . . . [and] will meet in March 2001 in Amman [Jordan].”

LaRouche’s Associates’ Challenge to Arabs

In the week prior to the summit, Lyndon LaRouche’s associates challenged the Arab leaders to rise above the current situation and act at a higher level. A statement issued by *EIR* was widely circulated in the Arab world, among government and media circles. The statement contained LaRouche’s proposals on how the Arab leaders could shift world strategic relations by promoting, in coordination with other groupings, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and South Korea (ASEAN-Plus-3), a new, just world financial and monetary system, in accordance with LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods initiative.

The statement was first published in the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Arab International*, on Oct. 19. It was followed the next day by a commentary by the paper’s Economy editor Dr. Mustafa Al-Bazargan, who called on the Arab leaders to initiate the work on integration of the Arab economies, starting from joint work on major infrastructure projects and trade. The statement was reportedly published in other Arab Gulf states. A commentary by Salim Nassar in the London-based Saudi daily *Al-Hayat* on Oct. 21, for example, also emphasized LaRouche’s warning that the Middle East crisis, the oil price crisis, and the ongoing meltdown in the international financial markets, are in reality one and the same issue.

Although the Arab leaders did not raise the issues to the level of a “New Bretton Woods”-type of initiative, the idea of economic cooperation and integration among Arabs countries was officially put on their agenda. LaRouche’s concept of peace through development is a matter of serious debate and consideration among leading Arab circles today.

Geopoliticians Raise Kosovo Question To Block Balkans Peace

by Alexander Hartmann

While Yugoslavia’s President Vojislav Kostunica has made remarkable progress in stabilizing his position, geopolitically motivated forces within the British establishment are again trying to light the fuse on the Kosovo powderkeg: An “Independent International Commission on Kosovo” published a report in late October, calling for “conditional independence” for Kosovo.

After several weeks of negotiations, President Kostunica succeeded in forcing former President Slobodan Milosevic’s Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) to accept the formation of a transitional government, and to call for early elections to the Serbian state parliament for Dec. 23. The reformers used a “carrot-and-stick” policy, offering seats in the transitional government to Milosevic’s SPS, while at the same time threatening to “bring the people back” to demonstrate in front of the Parliament, with Kostunica aide Zoran Djindjic playing hard cop, and Kostunica himself being the soft cop.

Ultimately, the SPS gave in and agreed on a scheme, whereby the Serbian Prime Minister and four important ministers would have deputies from Kostunica’s Democratic Opposition Party (DOP) and Vuk Draskovic’s Serbian Renewal Party (SRS), with every decision taken by consensus, i.e., giving all parties veto power over all important matters. Thus, there will be a truce within Serbia for the time being.

At the same time, Kostunica succeeded in forming a new government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, drawing on the Socialist People’s Party of Montenegro, who have been backing Milosevic. While the government of Montenegro’s President Milo Djukanovic does not recognize the elections, which it boycotted, and thus does not recognize the new Federal government, the international community is recognizing and working with Belgrade to start sorting out the many problems left over after four wars in the region within the last decade.

International Diplomacy in High Gear

In recent weeks, Belgrade has become a hub of diplomatic activities to “reintegrate Yugoslavia into the international community” and to begin reconstruction—or, to prevent it. Yugoslavia has been offered membership in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Stability Pact for