

Editorial

War Can Still Be Stopped

The massive outpouring of citizens of the G-7 countries against an Iraq war on Feb. 14-15 (as European Union President Romano Prodi noted, “it was the entire society in the streets”) has created a very serious France- and Germany-led European resistance to the disaster of war; acting through the UN, flanked by the Pope’s indomitable spirit for mankind’s welfare, and insistently pushed by tens of millions, to persevere and win. This battle began last July-September with an extraordinary mobilization, by Lyndon LaRouche’s movement, of 10 million leaflets and pamphlets exposing the war party throughout the United States and Europe. That mobilization catalyzed what is now happening; that is the reason each of the Washington war party’s “chicken-hawks” is known, by name and by dirty deeds, to the tens of millions protesting throughout the world; and the 10-year genesis of the imperial war plan is known just as well.

Yet the war mobilization still continues. No one is better qualified than LaRouche to advise on what can still stop it. It is decidedly not the desperation tactic of trying to pressure Saddam Hussein to further disarm, which should be dropped in favor of far more viable actions to jam up the war. So long as Saddam is convinced that the United States is going to war anyway, there is no incentive for him to disarm. Equally foolish, is to try to make a case for the impeachment of President George Bush, rather than the firing of those who have been driving him to war.

The reported outburst by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice against chicken-hawk Douglas Feith, the Pentagon’s leading Likudnik, is indicative of what is really going on. The Administration is being pushed so hard by the crazy neo-conservatives, and by the backers of an Ariel Sharon who is desperate for war in the Mideast, that it has come to hate the pressure. The dumping of Feith, Dick Cheney’s *factotum* Lewis Libby, or Paul Wolfowitz would give the President some room to get out of this mess. Bill Clinton’s slam on the “Today Show” against Lewis Libby, for setting him up to pardon super-swindler Marc Rich, struck at

the war pressure on both parties.

Another crucial flank is loose-cannon Attorney General John Ashcroft. Everything LaRouche warned in trying to stop Ashcroft’s confirmation in January 2001 has been confirmed. In fact, Ashcroft’s ripping up the Constitution is the only basis on which Bush might be impeached. He’s the greatest vulnerability of the President, who should take heed of the European warnings about the insane Christian-Zionist fundamentalists and their “religious-sect imperialism.”

Tony Blair remains in an impossible situation, and the very imminence of war could result in his being dumped, if there are enough Labour Party representatives with the courage to represent the British population. Britain otherwise will break all its links to continental Europe. British leaders, most of whom are not fanatics, have no economy left, and a crashing financial system; if they proceed from the standpoint that they must be in Europe, they will negotiate to get the best possible terms. Without Blair, the “coalition of the willing” would vanish overnight.

The potential of a U.S. nuclear-weapons first strike against Iraq, in violation of international conventions, numerous treaties the United States has signed, and its own traditional military doctrine, is now a public issue which could crack the situation wide open. It is the only issue on which any leading Democrats are moving aggressively in the general directions LaRouche has indicated. This mooted nuclear strike is the revival of the Bertrand Russell-H.G. Wells “pre-emptive nuclear strike” imperial doctrine of the late 1940s; it is immoral and anathema to the American republican tradition.

Most critical is the continually worsening economic crisis. Ignoring this crisis, or blowing up the world’s economies completely by war, is the most insane flank of the whole imperial policy. It is so insane, that Europe is threatening through the EU, if the war begins, to bolt from the Maastricht Treaty and the free-trade financial system and go with Rooseveltian recovery measures. This changes the choices of the game being played. It is the fight that should be taken to a higher level.