

International Intelligence

Russians: U.S. Losses Like Ours in Afghanistan

Russian experts reckon that the U.S./British casualty rate in Iraq is approximately equal to that suffered by Russian forces in Afghanistan during their much longer occupation. The calculations were reported by Sergei Lavrov, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations: "The other day, our colleagues from the UN, who used to be in charge of Afghanistan-related issues, made some simple calculations. It turned out that if we multiply daily American casualties in Iraq, by the number of days the Soviet troops were in Afghanistan, the figure would be about 13,000. We had that many casualties in Afghanistan. This information showed everyone the scope of the Iraqi problem."

LaRouche Representatives Welcomed in South Korea

Lyndon LaRouche's representatives Jonathan Tennenbaum and Kathy Wolfe addressed almost 800 people in five public meetings, two press interviews, and more than 15 private discussions during a trip to Seoul, Korea from Oct. 31-Nov. 8. The meetings ranged from a national economic and trade association conference, to one of 200 university students, organized by a student who has been studying *EIR* and produced a leaflet entitled "Eurasian Land-Bridge—Build Our Way Out of Pre-emptive Nuclear War," which spread around the Internet in Seoul. The leaflet calls for the founding of a LaRouche Youth Movement in Korea, and for the anti-war movement to give up its negative anger and demand the positive solution of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The students were all eyes and ears to hear about LaRouche's program for "our bright future" and to finally make fun of Dick Cheney's neo-con gang, instead of living in constant fear of nuclear war.

The student leader said in opening the meeting, "When I first saw LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge book, with all the brightly-colored maps and its vision of

world economic development, with such a bright future for Korea, it made my heart beat fast with excitement."

The other public meetings included seminars on the Land-Bridge infrastructure-building concept and LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal, at several graduate schools, and an address to a peace movement group which included some of the most elite scholars in Seoul, with direct lines to the Presidential Blue House. Several Senators and retired cabinet ministers, and advisors to President Roh, including a top official of the President's party, were also briefed in personal meetings.

"We are so happy to finally discuss the Eurasian Land-Bridge as the great project illustrating the spark of the Divine in every human being," said one professor, in explaining the LaRouche campaign and the Schiller Institute to his students. "This is truly what Friedrich Schiller spoke of as the 'Götterfunken' ('sparks of God') in his great 'Ode to Joy,'" the professor added.

Adult Stem-Cell Research Makes Another Advance

Several treatment experiments being reported to the American Heart Association conference in Washington on Nov. 10, indicate once again that stem-cells in a patient's own body can be used to reverse or prevent some of the damage caused by heart attack or heart disease.

German researchers at the Hanover Medical School reported that in a test involving some 70 patients, cells taken from those patients' bone marrow at the hip, and washed into the heart in the areas of disease, could either transform themselves into heart-tissue cells, or stimulate new growth of damaged heart tissue, so as to increase the heart's function.

"This is the first demonstration that this treatment is effective," Dr. Helmut Drexler, who led the study, told a news conference at the AHA convention. The 30 patients who got the cells had an average 6.7% improvement in the pumping efficiency of the critical left ventricle of the heart. Both Drexler and other doctors reviewing the

work independently, called this improvement very significant, much greater than that from angioplasty, and perhaps enough to turn short-term into long-term survival.

In a second study, Dr. Bodo Strauer of Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, and his colleagues, gave bone-marrow stem-cells to half of 40 heart attack patients. They found that the patients given stem-cells seemed to regenerate new heart tissue in the damaged area, shrank the damage, and doubled the heart's contraction speed.

While these studies remain small, they continue a train of significant therapeutic results in recent years from the use of stem-cells from the patient's own body—results lacking with morally controversial research with embryonic stem-cells, which continues to be given the great bulk of media coverage.

Israelis, Palestinians Rally Against 'The Wall'

Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians demonstrated against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "apartheid wall" on the 14th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Nov. 9. The demonstrations, organized by "Citizens of Israel Against the Fence," were held in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and the West Bank.

What the Israeli government describes as a fence, "is actually a system of cement walls, electric and barbed wire fences, trenches, patrol roads, trace paths, guard towers, lookouts and cameras. The average width is 60 meters and the length is 590 kilometers, with an estimated building cost of 7 billion Israeli shekels [\$1.5 billion]," warned the leaflet distributed by the marchers. The wall "dissects the West Bank and puts the Palestinians in a pressure cooker: without agriculture, without trade, without water sources, without freedom of movement and without educational, health and welfare services."

One of the organizers of the march, Khulood Badawi from Taayush, the Arab-Jewish Partnership, said that they marched to show the world that "unlike what the Israeli government claims, there is no general consensus in Israel about the wall."