

EIR Feature

Give Clinton the backbone to stop Serbia now

by Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.)

General Scherer is one of the world's leading experts on the former Soviet Union. He was, during the 1970s, the director of the Militrische Abschirmdienst (MAD), the military intelligence and counterintelligence agency of the Federal Republic of Germany. During several visits to the United States since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, he forecast accurately the fall of Gorbachov and the probability that war would erupt among the nations of the former Soviet Union.

In a recent visit to Washington as a guest of the Schiller Institute, he gave a press conference at the National Press Club on March 9, focusing on the need to stop the war in the Balkans (see last week's EIR). He also discussed the explosive situation in Russia, warning that President Boris Yeltsin will soon be out of power.

On March 10, General Scherer addressed the Schiller Institute in Leesburg, Virginia. The body of his remarks, which we print here, has been translated from the German by EIR; his responses during the question-and-answer period are taken from the simultaneous translation by his interpreter, Webster Tarpley.

The real reason why I have come back to the United States after one year, is because I believe we are entering an extremely dangerous course of development. You will recall that the last time we were here together was in April of last year. In the meantime, the situation has developed along extraordinarily disquieting lines. Allow me first to briefly describe the Russian situation, and then the Ukrainian, and then we will go into the Balkans.

Among Russians generally, in the underground, in the middle class, and reaching into the government itself, extremely bitter disappointment has been spreading about the United States—a disappointment engendered by the Middle East war in Iraq, and by the very one-sided, unpleasant forms which President Bush had worked out.

But you must know the following: The Russians, of course, with their general staff, fully recognized, first of all, that the French would only have been able to



U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali walking with Egyptian battalion commander Huessein Ali Abdel-Razek (left) and Egyptian soldiers in Sarajevo on Dec. 31, 1992. Boutros-Ghali's proposal to deploy ground troops is "unthinkable. We simply cannot allow people to make a new Vietnam."

deploy at most one division into Iraq—and half of those were from the Foreign Legion. The Russians were aware that the British could have deployed no more than two divisions. And the Russians knew that what was presented on television by CNN and so forth, was a lie.

From this vantage-point, they were fully informed about the capabilities of western civilization. They had recognized clearly, that in no case would the Germans be willing to deploy their own forces, even though they had 12 divisions at their disposal. I.e., the Russians, as the successors to the Soviets, felt themselves vindicated, because their policy of calling for disarmament as part of their psychological warfare against the Germans, had been completely successful.

Strategic and global political judgment in the East went in the direction of concluding that the West had in fact assumed the attitude of a paper tiger. And thus, only *one month* later [after the Gulf war], on April 4, 1991, there came the [Russian] permission and support for the Serbian forces, to destabilize Europe in order for the Balkan war to begin, and to establish a Greater Serbia.

This timing was a signal to the western intelligence services, that the Russians knew exactly what they were doing. The West had precise knowledge that Marshal [Dmitri] Yazov had been in Belgrade four times, bringing with him the relevant already-drawn-up plans showing how the wedges were to be driven [through Croatia], how the cities were to be encircled, and how supply lines were to be maintained.

During this transitional period, we had, as we all remem-

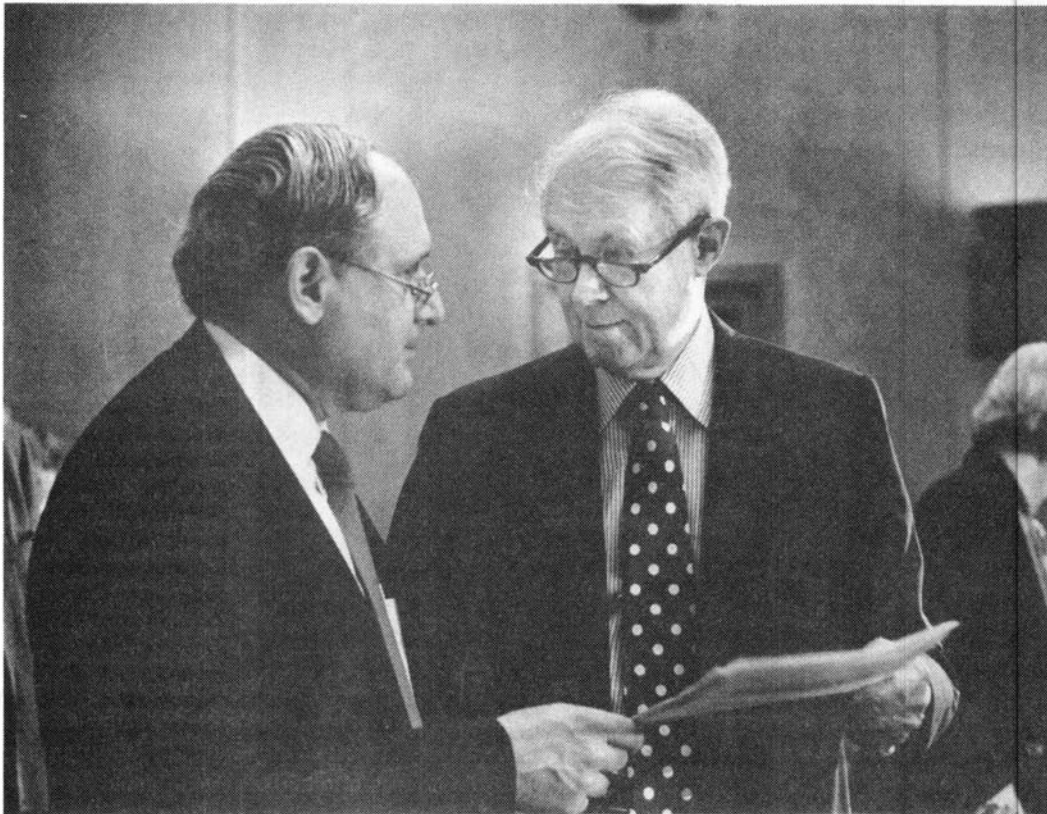
ber, the conspiracy and failed coup in August 1991. The *nomenklatura* was driven underground, and they were simply denied their various privileges. And now, coming out of these conditions—and thanks to the weaknesses of the West, and the deliberate soft spots of the British, the French, and of the Americans—things have developed such that for the past 24 months, filled as they have been with negotiations—[Cyrus] Vance, [Lord David] Owen, and earlier, [Lord Peter] Carrington—and with warm embraces for the Serbs, we have still not been brought a single step forward.

War against western civilization

If, in the wake of this, there were an immediate softening of the conditions being demanded by the Serbs, then good things would indeed begin to happen in the world. But the exact opposite is the case. It must be clearly stated that from the strategic standpoint, this is no civil war, this is an aggressive war; and it is being waged against the values of western civilization, whose validity people are allegedly so convinced of.

These past 24 months have shown that among circles in Central Asia, in Great Russia, in Ukraine, tremendous disappointment has set in over the weakness of western civilization.

That means that you people here, who constantly think and operate from a political standpoint, and who attempt to bring the American population into a direction such that they do some serious thinking—you must understand that from



U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance is shown with Sen. Carl Levin testifying on U.N. peacekeeping efforts at the U.S. Senate in June 1992. The negotiations of the past 24 months have been "filled with warm embraces for the Serbs" and not brought us a single step forward.

my experience as a German, as a European, and as an Atlanticist, we have reached the point where it is no longer permissible to merely conduct negotiations; we must now put an immediate end [to the war].

I have also emphasized that if I came here, I would, no matter what happened, demand action to immediately seek a halt to the fighting in the Balkans. And for this reason, I first flew to meet Lyndon LaRouche, and I held two days of discussions with him. I didn't need to convince him at all, since our views completely coincided.

We have to start from the following premises. The western world has shown that it was of a good will to maintain peace. Under unfavorable conditions, it conducted negotiations, and on 14 separate occasions saw the negotiated ceasefire conditions violated. The leading power of NATO, the United States, went through new elections, and regardless of the outcome, the former Soviet (now Russian) side has perceived the signs of weakness, and can now say: "Tomorrow, if we wanted to, we could resolve the situation in the Balkans to our liking."

Russian forces poised against Baltics

Another reason why I came, is because I just recently received inside intelligence information that in the meantime a Russian "special forces" division has taken up a position in the area lying between St. Petersburg and Narva. This means that in the springtime, that is, as soon as the frost and snow

have begun to break up, we must expect an invasion and re-occupation of the Baltic states.

Western civilization, arrayed around the Atlantic as a kind of internal sea, cannot permit the right of peoples to self-determination to be undermined in any further way. Therefore they *must* demonstrate, *in the Balkans*, that this simply will not be tolerated in the Baltics. They must demonstrate in the Balkans, that there is not going to be a war with the Russians in Ukraine.

You have to proceed from the following inside background information: The Yeltsin crew has reached the end of their rope. There no longer exist the ties between the mass of the Russian people and the seats of the various autonomous republics with their different languages, such that the latter can continue to go along with the government under Yeltsin's group.

You have to consciously grasp what it means for former Soviet officers and soldiers, or for party functionaries: Before this, they were the second world power—they were in Berlin, they were on the shores of the Elbe; they were a great nation. But now they are nothing, absolutely nothing! For them, taken as a whole, the key question is, first, that of sheer survival. They are living under conditions which we can describe as follows: First, it takes 460 rubles to equal one U.S. dollar. Second, out of the many thousands of tons of gold formerly in their reserves, a mere 210 tons remain. The diamond and the fur export industries, which used to bring

in so much hard currency, don't bring in anything anymore. They have no capital left, despite the fact that they are the biggest single oil producer in the world. Two weeks ago, they were forced to turn off the oil and natural gas to the Ukrainians in an attempt to collect an outstanding debt of 165 billion rubles; but they haven't collected it so far.

Try to imagine yourselves inside the hearts and minds of Russians who are, for example, officers in the Black Sea fleet. They were forced to take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, even though they remain Russians. Imagine yourselves inside the mind of Russians who know that it was Peter the Great who liberated the Crimean coast from the Ottomans, but that now the Black Sea is no longer Russian. Imagine yourselves in the minds of people among whom 70% are living below *their* poverty line. It should be obvious to you, that they basically no longer have any connection to their own elites, to their government, to their parliamentarians—all of that has been cut off. I do not believe they will go so far as to follow the communists; but the Great Russian nationalists, i.e., those who would resurrect the empire under Russian conditions, these they will follow.

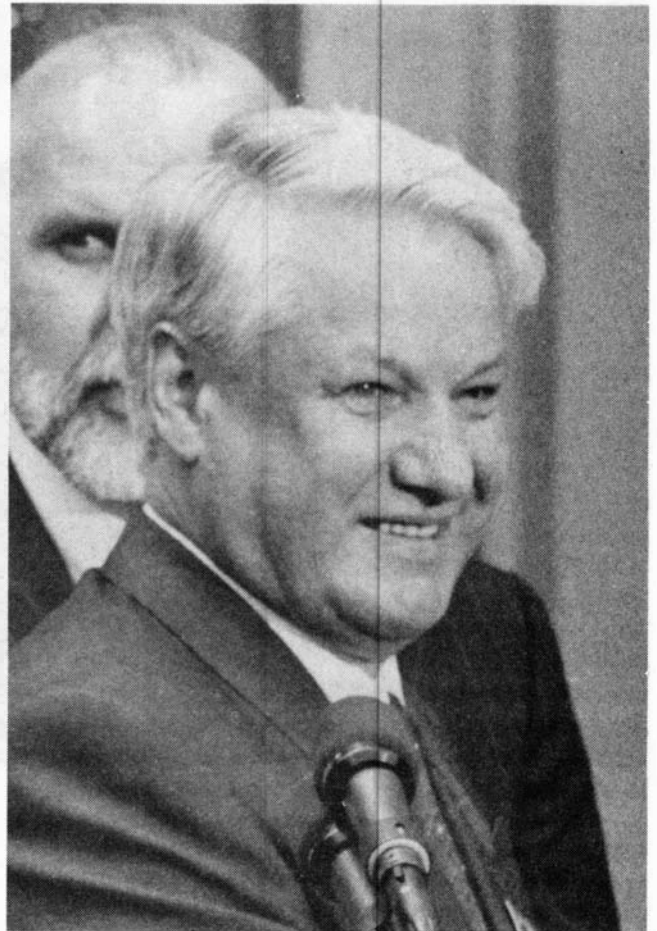
A completely new situation

Tying this into the situation in the Balkans and the experiences there, this means that if tomorrow, or in a month, or perhaps in two months, the question of power is posed, namely, when entirely new forces push themselves to the fore, as in a revolution, and a change of power occurs—a junta—replacing the Yeltsin group, what do you have? It is certain that under those circumstances there would exist an inclination in the Great Russian mentality to resume a position of opposition to the West. That is new. That means that it would be impossible to maintain the illusion, widely shared in the West, that the Cold War has somehow ended; and with that, we would be running into a completely new situation.

Let me now also show you the strategic conceptual background. Let's briefly think back to the years 1981-82. In December 1979, the Soviets began their invasion of Afghanistan. They had produced approximately 10,000 SS-20 missiles—a tremendous success for them. Perhaps you have seen one of these huge SS-20 machines on exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum [of Science and Technology in Washington, D.C.]. And from this, I can only say that these two conditions, when viewed in the correct light, forced the inner circle of the Politburo leadership to say, "If things don't go right on the Afghanistan question, and since we are basically not capable of arming ourselves any more than we are at present, we therefore need to have a new strategic conception; otherwise, we will not make it."

LaRouche led negotiations

Brezhnev was still alive at this time; he only died in November 1982. And what Brezhnev was trying to do, with



Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "The Yeltsin crew has reached the end of their rope."

his apparatus, was to find new means of approaching the West. It was during this time, in February 1982, significantly *before* Brezhnev's death, that the secret negotiations commenced between the Americans and the Russians in the Soviet Embassy in Washington. And the conceptual leader of the U.S. side in these secret negotiations was Lyndon LaRouche.

By August, however, the detailed plans that had been discussed were a dead duck. What had happened?

The Politburo had made the extremely brutal decision, that if we seek out cooperation with our major adversary in this bipolar world, namely, with the Americans, if we seek this, and then have to answer for this before our own people, then we will lose our enemy image. And so, during that autumn of 1982, Brezhnev was becoming ever more seriously ill, and it was recognized that his conception was going to die along with him. Marshal Ustinov insisted that the troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan. And in this regard there were considerable conflicts among the different factions within the Politburo. The boss of the KGB at that time [Yuri Andropov], who succeeded Brezhnev after his death, in effect was able to push through his recommendation to adopt



Soviet officers on a visit to Washington in 1988. For former Soviet officers and soldiers, the question now is sheer survival.

a new strategic conception.

In the spring of 1983, Andropov personally made the unprecedented gesture of giving a signal to the entire world, in the form of an off-the-cuff interview to the German news weekly *Der Spiegel*. In it, he insisted that he could only cooperate with the United States under the precondition that the world be divided, meaning, in turn, that the Soviet zone be recognized. And it was at that precise moment, in March, that Reagan made his own corresponding announcement [of the Strategic Defense Initiative]. Without mentioning LaRouche, he said we intend to do this and this, and *if need be we will do it alone*.

This is the departure point for making it comprehensible to you, that a new strategic conception had been born. The [Soviet] top leaders had recognized, "We don't have any capital, we no longer have the wherewithal to keep up with the West; and so therefore we must turn ourselves entirely around."

The new Soviet gameplan

The recommendations went in the direction, and were in fact carried out, first of all, of remaining *below* the nuclear threshold; second, of renouncing proxy warfare, because they could no longer finance it in the long term. However, this renunciation was only to be a temporary one; after they had been relieved of some of their immediate burdens, and had healed somewhat financially, they would once again get involved in carrying out the idea of world revolution. The

third demand in this new concept was the abandonment of any classical idea of conventional warfare, simply because this was too expensive.

The result of all the many consultations throughout the apparatus, among scientists and in the general staff, and among the relevant functionaries was: "We are going to initiate a psychological war of appearing to make a great change, from armament to psychological warfare and disarmament; and we will announce our alleged intention to renounce all of our weapons by the year 2000."

You know just as well as I do, that the practical implementation of this policy led to "Gorbys magic" and to "Gorbys mania"—and with success. Part of the western elite was completely blinded. For example, the German Social Democrats raised the demand that Germany should proceed to disarm even before the Soviets did, as a reward for this wonderful Soviet achievement. But up to this very day, out of 30,000 [Soviet] nuclear weapons, only 1,500 have been disarmed each year. And only under the conditions laid forth in the INF [Intermediate Nuclear Forces] treaty, namely, [western] renunciation of the most modern weapons in NATO's arsenal, were the Russians prepared to get rid of their SS-20s. This means that, despite their unfavorable overall situation, they have been able to obtain a long, drawn-out victory over the West, stretching over a period of five years.

The significant part of the old *nomenklatura* was not satisfied with this result, because eastern Germany had been handed over to NATO. For them, Gorbachov was Traitor

Number One. And now, they are on the way to saying that Yeltsin is Traitor Number Two. You will recall that he announced plans to fly to Japan. The agenda had already been agreed upon: He wanted to renounce all claim to the Kurile Islands. But he was prevented from doing so; he was unable to do it. The result: Rich, prosperous Japan does not spend a single ruble or a single dollar for the [former] Soviets, which means that this internal political development in Russia is now preventing any economic modernization of Siberia.

At the same time, the developments in the Balkans occurred as I already described, along with a complete destabilization of the western world. For, this Balkan war has been a proxy war, at a short range and on a short fuse, coming during the weakest period right after the Gulf war.

Conflicts will result from weakness

So, if I now summarize the description of the situation and these estimates which I have now given you, I arrive at the following picture: In the entire world outside the sphere of our own European-American civilization, with its Judeo-Christian cultural background, people see quite clearly that the West no longer has any morality; the West's talk about "value systems" is not defended in reality. The attempt to worship the Golden Calf and nothing else is leading the Islamic fundamentalists to say, in effect, "These devils must be wiped out once and for all."

That means that during this spring, during this year, we will have conflicts which will be the direct result of this weakness. We are on the threshold of an internal shift of power [in Moscow], which cannot fail to be accompanied by a correspondingly hostile attitude toward the West. The illusions of a long period of peace, the illusions of no more nuclear war, the illusions of a pleasantly disposed East which will come over to our ways, all these illusions have now blown up in our faces. And there is absolutely no time left to do anything about it.

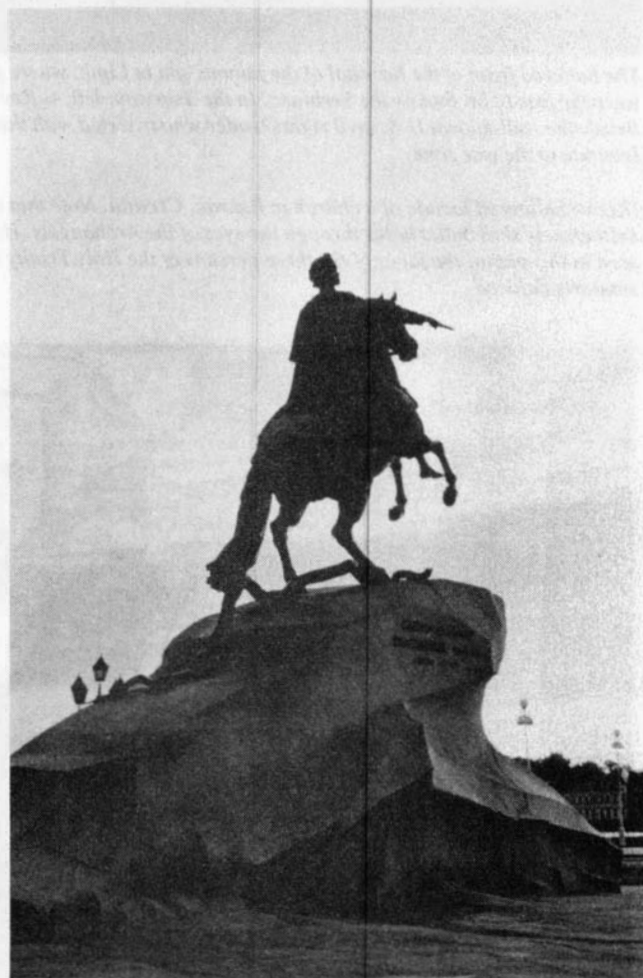
The leading western power, in its above-described state of weakness, *must* either announce its surrender, or else it must fight. There are no intermediate solutions, no alternatives, if you want to prevent the so-called causal chains, i.e., the strategic operations which necessarily follow. Only an overt, demonstrative proof that we in the West are prepared to fight on behalf of our morality, for the right of small countries to self-determination—only that is acceptable, and only that can engender certain feelings of caution on the other side, so that they do not move back into the Baltics.

I assume that I do not need to go further into the demands which I have developed and presented in writing. [See *EIR*, March 19, pp. 44-45.] But let me say the following by way of a brief summary. What is important, is that we have written letters, under my signature, addressed directly to President Clinton, to Vice President Gore, and to a whole series of other important people such as the secretary of defense [Les Aspin], this strange leader of the opposition [Sen. Robert

Dole (R-Kan.)]—yes, he has to *read* this!—and beyond this, the well-known billionaire from Texas [Ross Perot]. Yes! If he wants to be the opposition, he had better oppose Clinton's weakness!

I, as a private individual, only want to help. It is not just out of vanity. I have been doing this for 40 years, and have personal access to the relevant information; and so, should I simply just sit by and watch, while over here, inexperienced incompetents, lacking any adequate background information, and failed politicians go out and wreck our world? No, that I will not do.

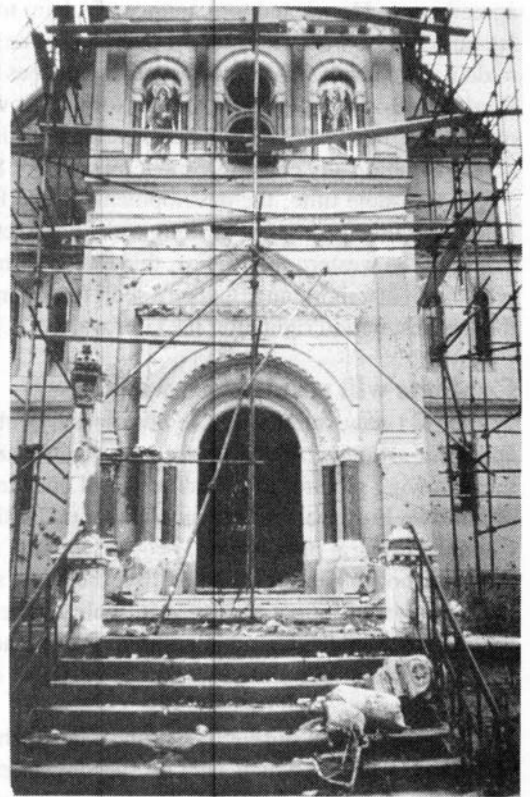
I assume you have read that last November I was at the fronts in former Yugoslavia. There I was able to gather fresh, first-hand impressions, since I did not want to talk about things which I only knew about from the television and from newspapers. And I have taken back with me impressions of utmost horror. You must never forget that 2.5 million people



The statue of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg. "Imagine yourselves in the minds of Russians who know that it was Peter the Great who liberated the Crimean coast from the Ottomans, but that now the Black Sea is no longer Russian."



The battered front of the hospital of the famous spa in Lipik, where patients were the first to be shot by the Serbians. In the doorway, left, is Rev. James Bevel, the well-known U.S. civil rights leader who traveled with the Schiller Institute to the war zone.



(Right) Shattered facade of a church in Pakrac, Croatia. Note that the Serbians deliberately shot bullet holes through the eyes of the Archangels. Higher up, not seen in this photo, the faces of the three persons of the Holy Trinity were similarly defaced.



Displaced persons in front of their destroyed houses in Lipik, West Slavonia (Croatia), in a United Nations photo of 1992.



A roadside shrine in Croatia in territory which the Serbians occupied. Wanton destruction of religious sites like this one, together with the leveling of houses (in the background), was carried out after these areas had already been taken militarily—for purposes of sheer terror. This and most other photos on this page were taken by a Schiller Institute delegation which visited Croatia in early 1993.



A destroyed bridge at Osijek, a Croatian city near the border which put up a long and heroic resistance to Serbian aggression, and is now under U.N. "peacekeeping rule."

(Below) A United Nations tank near Lipik in Croatia sits at the boundary of a U.N.-patrolled zone, yet rapes and other crimes by Serbian Chetniks continue in these zones.





Leonid Brezhnev. "It was in February 1982, significantly before Brezhnev's death, that the secret negotiations commenced between the Americans and Russians in the Soviet Embassy in Washington. The conceptual leader of the U.S. side was Lyndon LaRouche."

there have already become refugees. Some 20,000-plus women have been raped; about 300,000 people are dead, and the entire country has been wrecked for the next 20 years. I saw the houses. I'll give you an example which won't compromise me: I was in Lipik—this is the name for the so-called Lipizaner horses; they had shot up every single stall, and 600 horses had been shot dead. The first people to be shot were those in the spa houses and the hospitals. Without any exaggeration, *every single house*—because the residents were to be driven out forever—*every house* had been shot with artillery. And that is why I decided to put forward these demands:

An action plan for the Balkans

First, I cannot countenance the idea that [U.N. Secretary General Boutros] Boutros-Ghali proposes, where ground troops are to be deployed there; that is unthinkable. We simply cannot allow people to make a new Vietnam.

What I presented at my press conference in the form of an executive summary: First, we want to establish our air superiority, both from an operations and a strategic standpoint. The tanks are sitting up on the hilltops [above Sara-

jevo] and shooting right down into there. So if tomorrow you deploy aircraft, you can put a stop to this immediately.

This means that the entire cell structure [of the Serbian Army] can be broken with a single decisive blow; and I am firmly convinced, from my own personal experience, that after three weeks, this war would be over.

Of course, the war could be ended; but what would *not* be ended with that, would be, first, the blood vendetta on all sides; second, the hatred inside everyone's heads; and third, the temptation which each ethnic group would feel to cross the borders again and grab the other guy by the throat. The bestiality, the Stone Age mentality which has now spread throughout the Balkans, can only be broken if, first, national borders of the three states as of Dec. 16, 1991 are fully accepted by all; this must be *enforced*.

Proceeding from this, all of the ethnic components, not just the Serbs, must be forced to recognize the right to self-determination of *all* minorities; everyone moves back into their own houses. And anybody who is not willing to accept that minimum elementary precondition of humanity *must* emigrate, and indeed must be *forced* to do so; there is no other way.

How can we put these conditions into effect? The next demand is completely essential: If we don't intend to deploy western ground troops—and they *must* not be deployed, they couldn't handle it—we must see to it that the Croats, the Bosnians, the Slovenians, if they want it, along with the other affected areas belonging within the framework of the recognized states, *are allowed to arm themselves*. Lift the arms embargo!

From this vantage-point, I believe that with these few points—there are a number of other demands which I also raised, but they are less important. The important thing is that you have a basic knowledge of how—as I believe, at any rate—we are going to get out of this filthy mess.

Let Balkan states join NATO

My proposals actually go even further: Should the argument be raised against so-called out-of-area operations, then *the three states should be brought into NATO*, and that's that. Yes, it would not work any other way. That's your only possibility to get around that objection.

But now comes the biggest difficulty: The Russians will not wish to play along with all this. They have a seat on the [U.N.] Security Council, and they have the right and claim to enjoy all the powers of the former Soviet Union. A new American President, if he wants to stop this circus sometime this spring, will be forced to tell the Russians, "Either you cooperate, or we'll do it alone." I.e., he will get into a situation similar to that of President Kennedy, when Khrushchov shipped his nuclear missiles to Cuba; only now, Serbia is much closer to Russia than Cuba was. This means that the new President, and western civilization as a whole, is playing a game which could end in our own destruction; that is clear.

Landsbergis sees Russian designs on Lithuania

Vytautas Landsbergis, former President and now head of the parliamentary opposition in Lithuania, warned against Russian imperial designs, in an open letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the Baltic news agency Baltfax reported on March 3. Days later, Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), former head of Germany's military intelligence and counterintelligence, independently warned in a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. that "a Russian 'special forces' division has taken up a position in the area lying between St. Petersburg and Narva. This means that in the springtime, that is, as soon as the frost and snow have begun to break up, we must expect an invasion and re-occupation of the Baltic states."

In his letter, headlined "On Russia's Bid to Become International Policeman," Landsbergis referred to Yeltsin's suggestion that Russia be granted a U.N. mandate to "secure peace and stability in the former Soviet Union," as revealing Russia's design to interfere with its neighbors' affairs. "Mr. Landsbergis also expressed concern over the unstable political situation in Russia and the imperial tenor of Yeltsin's opponents," added Baltfax.

Landsbergis emphasized that Lithuania, which finally won recognition of its independence from Russia in 1991, has "never been and we will never become a CIS [Community of Independent States] country," and criticized Yeltsin's bent to control "near foreign states." Landsbergis said that "near foreign states" was not a "geographical term," but a "political term."

For over a half-century the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were illegally annexed to the Soviet Union under the secret clauses of the 1939 Hitler-Stalin Pact.

But if it *does not* do that, then the entire world will be assured that the West is but a paper tiger. Nobody will be able to talk about morality anymore.

Now for you here as a group, as a movement, from my point of view, and I also discussed this with Lyndon LaRouche, what is necessary is to go out to the public and help *force* this government to take this path, i.e., to be *courageous!* There is no other way. I can discuss it with you afterwards. You can propose things to me, and I will definitely accept them, if they are better than my own.

I know that you were opposed to the war against Iraq. I can well understand that; but now we have a completely new situation. We have a strategic emergency situation, with our backs up against the wall. Modern pacifism right now only guarantees catastrophe.

That means we must now provide those people who want to lead today and tomorrow, with a corset to keep them standing up straight. You know that earlier, at the beginning of the 20th century, women still had these whalebone corsets. We have to put the Clinton administration into something like that.

But all joking aside, this is a damned horrible, bloody situation. And I want to ask quite bluntly: Are the Balkans part of Europe? Is Europe part of your own civilization, or not?

This is the life-or-death question. There's no more skirting around it. There can no longer be any cowardice; 24 months of cowardice was enough! Or do you think that there is any way the Vance-Owen program is going to get the Serbians to see reason? I don't.

Blindness must not have the last word

And to that extent, the question of life or death is being posed for the first time. For 40 years, we have been living peacefully under the atomic umbrella; today that has to be said. Two superpowers have mutually balanced each other out: One set off into space, then the other one got to the Moon; then one power waged proxy wars, and the other one had to intervene against that. And then came the great illusion that now we have peace, that now we have quiet, and that the Russians have stopped making any trouble. And as I have just shown, these illusions have vanished, they've been burned off. All that remains is bitter disillusionment. Blindness must not continue to have the last word.

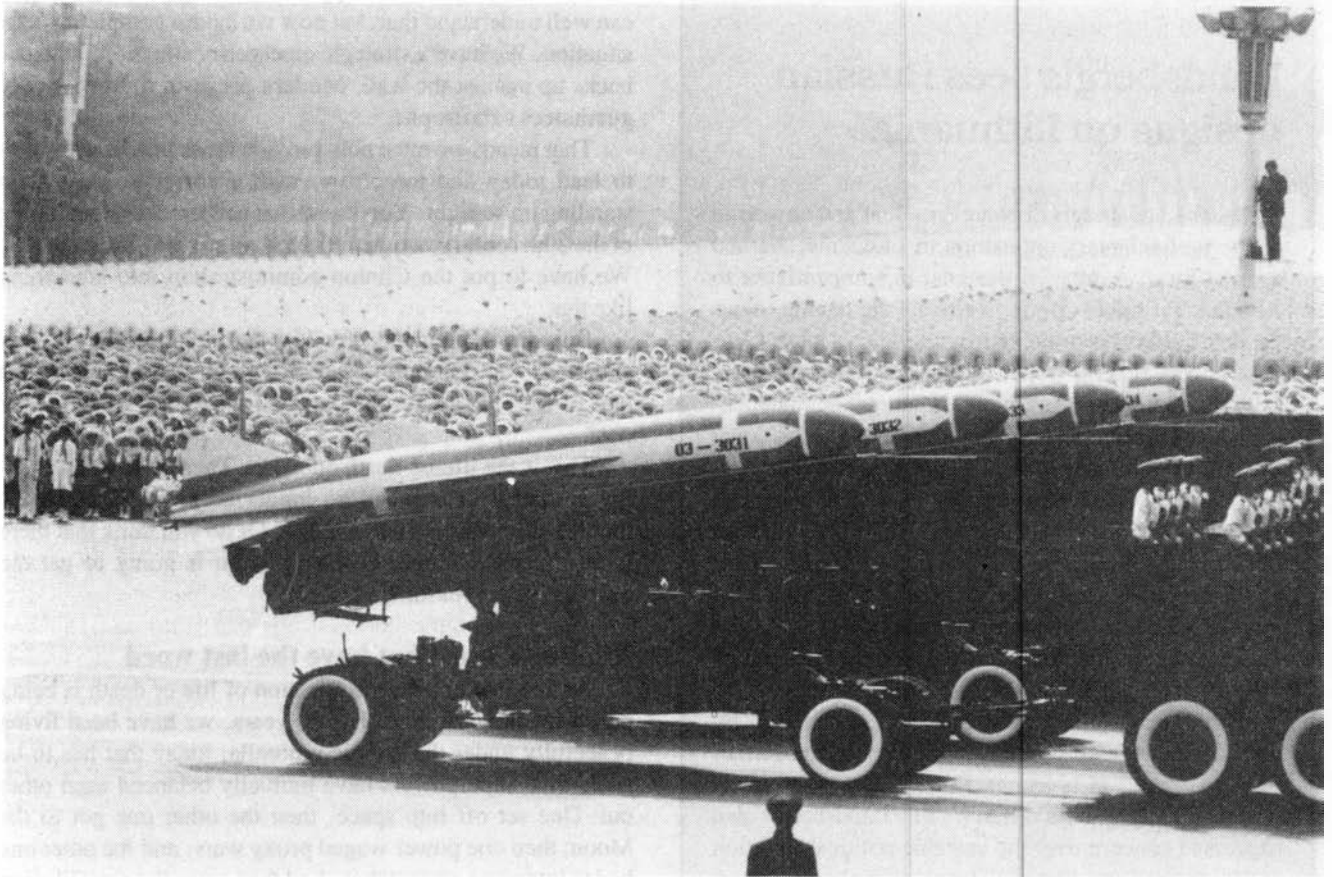
I hope that in this short presentation, I have conveyed the essential things on how I see the situation at the moment, without making it look pretty, and without over-dramatizing it.

Questions and Answers

Q: The last time you were here, you put great emphasis on China, but you did not mention it tonight. How do you see China as part of this strategic equation?

Scherer: I would first of all hope that you would understand that it was really for time reasons that I did not go into this.

First of all, China, with 1.3 billion people, is in an extraordinarily difficult domestic political situation. One of the things that is perfectly plausible, is that by about 1994-95, Siberia will separate itself from Russia, and the Chinese may find some kind of a common ground with that, and may try to undertake these investments into Siberia instead of the



Chinese silkworm missiles on parade. "The Chinese have mightily developed their arms export industries, and in particular have been sending all kinds of military equipment to Syria and Iran."

Japanese.

But it is also possible that things will look very differently in China, because there is this very real possibility of an *interior* or *internal* revolution in China. According to my information, there are *over 100 million unemployed* in China, and there is a tremendous division and tension between North and South.

The Beijing elite is not able to stay together, so there is a big divergence. I am not able to judge this myself, but this information comes from Taiwan. But what you do see, is that the Chinese have mightily developed their arms export industries, and in particular have been sending all kinds of military equipment to Syria and Iran. They are negotiating with the Russians to buy the most modern military aircraft, and they would like to buy battleships and submarines. The Chinese are capable of making tanks and munitions for themselves.

So you have two scenarios. First, is that China could fall apart and divide, up until about 1997, before Hong Kong and Macao and so forth are given back.

Another scenario is that the Chinese make an approach to

the Siberian leaders. In Western Siberia there is big industry which is practically only military. And if the Chinese make that kind of a deal with Siberia, the Chinese path to superpower status would be 10-20 years shorter. I have always thought that by about the year 2020 the Chinese would have a worldwide superpower role. But it could come much quicker.

Q: Who is trying to convince the United States not to take action to stop the Balkan war and why?

Scherer: The British, and the French also.

Look at this big anti-German position—anti-Teutonic, you might say, not really anti-German. It is an attempt to take these old, obviously very nasty, historical experiences and to radically upvalue them. This is what the Serbian propaganda works with.

Look at what the British have to look at: that the Germans first of all, apart from *everything else*, have much more capital. Right now in Europe, the number of people who speak German is much greater than the number of people who speak English or French. If you want to deal with the Russians, then the *lingua franca* is German.

You have to figure that the German-speaking population is *above* 130 million, and that is very disturbing for some countries who said first of all, "We have the universal language," or "We have the highest culture, and everybody else is in the shit."

The Serbians and the Russians, of course, wish to exploit this extremely short-sighted, narrow-minded interpretation of history. If you look at [Radovan] Karadzic's speeches, you will see that he talks all the time about how Germany is winning the Second World War after the fact, that they are riling up the Russians, and that the Serbs are the main leadership against that. Many people accept this. Karadzic is, of course, a trained psychiatrist. He knows what he is talking about. He got his training here in the United States; Milosevic also.

The fronts are hardening also in a psychological sense, and the big issue is who will have the say in Europe for the period ahead.

You know that it is not allowed in NATO to speak German. You can't! At the United Nations, it is not an official language. The Japanese cannot speak Japanese at the U.N.,

the Germans cannot speak German—all the old Yalta mentality.

It is a kind of poison in people's heads which hasn't been removed. Remember what Einstein said: "It is easier to smash an atom than to get rid of an old prejudice." That is true.

Q: Could you say something about what the thinking is inside the German government?

Scherer: The first thing you have to say about Germany, is that it is in political chaos. It is the slide, first of all, into an economic depression of a certain kind. I have said often how much money Germany has put out for east Germany. For the former G.D.R., the Bonn government has spent about \$400 billion so far. And now it is about \$160 billion a year for the former G.D.R. alone. So you can see what socialism actually wrecked.

German politics is basically *kaputt*. What does this mean?

Remember that there is, according to the German constitution, the upper house, the Bundesrat, composed of the representatives of the federal states. The SPD [Social Demo-



A town along the Trans-Siberian railroad. Because of Russian internal politics, Yeltsin could not obtain Japanese funding needed to modernize Siberia. But China would be highly motivated to make a deal with Siberia.



President François Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. What if armed hostilities begin in eastern Europe in 1993? This means that the common society of western civilization cannot defend itself.

cratic Party] has a majority of these civil states, and a policy which is sharply opposed to that of the Bonn government.

For the past one and a half years it has been impossible to change the law governing the granting of political asylum. There are plenty of people who come from India, from the Near East, who are *not* politically persecuted, and what they get is a pension of about 3,000 deutschemarks per month. The simple workers say, "We can't do this. We can only do it for people who are actually politically persecuted. Otherwise, they should leave again." The FDP [Free Democratic Party] and the SPD will not let this law be changed, and that costs the German state about DM 100 billion per year.

In the course of the "2 plus 4" talks [on the reunification of Germany], it was especially the British who demanded that the German Bundeswehr be reduced from 500,000 men under arms, to currently 370,000. That meant, for example, that on Oct. 1, 1992, one-third of all combat units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force were dissolved; they ceased to exist. That is, of course, under conditions where Germany could be called upon to do something tomorrow.

The resentment is so tremendous among the soldiers, citizens, taxpayers, and politicians, that people do not really want to give the politicians any status or recognize them in any way. People are just fed up with politics, fed up with politicians. The estimate is that, in the coming nationwide

federal elections in 1994, about one-third of the population will not vote, which is a tremendous decline. This postwar German republic, as of the year 1993, is a kind of fairweather consensus democracy which is going into a big crisis.

Then we have criminalization and criminality that are growing in an unbelievable way; and you have mafiosi from Russia, Poland, and Italy, in particular, who have taken up extremely strong positions in Central Europe. Remember that since the police organizations are primarily based on the individual federal states, and the governments of these are so overwhelmingly Social Democratic, they have been cut down in numbers and efficacy.

The Germany of today is no longer the Germany of the '60s, '70s, or '80s. The Russians know this very well; they still have about 180,000 troops in east Germany. The Russian commitment, or their pledge, which was obtained, of course, by money, is that they would all depart by Aug. 1, 1994.

Let us look at the scenario, that tomorrow, maybe in the course of summer 1993, armed hostilities were to begin in eastern Europe. What happens?

It means that this common society of western civilization cannot defend itself. If you are a specialist, you have to grab yourself by the head and say, "Why are they doing this?" It is populism; the politicians listen to what the people say, and then they say, "Yes, you are right, and that is what we are

going to do.” Remember that over 40% of the German intellectuals are extreme leftists. We have a very nasty mediocracy and tele-crazy, meaning that television determines our political life with these leftist—not even centrist—but leftist tendencies. We are all very concerned about what is going to happen in the period ahead. Let us look at Europe for a minute.

First, Italy is in the process of dissolution. There is an intention on the part of the political elite which is still there, to partition Italy into three states. The North, with its developed industry, is no longer willing to subsidize central and southern Italy, so they want to get out. Suppose you have three Italian states.

Second, Belgium is also splitting up. The Flemish, who speak Dutch, no longer wish to remain together with the French-speaking Walloons.

The British are getting rid of their monarchy, in my view, in the period ahead. I would almost bet that this will be the last queen of England. At the same time, they have the biggest unemployment and the worst economic situation of any European country.

In France, elections will be held next month, and the entire Mitterrand apparatus will completely fall on its face, it will be finished, although [President François] Mitterrand will remain because of the Constitution.

In Sweden, the entire banking system has been bankrupt since spring of last year. The entire social order has to be shifted around. This social system, this socialism that they have, is completely impossible to finance.

The Poles have been able to develop their own domestic hyperinflation, with the help of the American economist Jeffrey Sachs, and they are also in big trouble. Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka has been talking about the danger that Poland will be overwhelmed by about 35 million refugees crossing their eastern border.

This means that western civilization is tremendously threatened by collapse. Up until now, North America was relatively untouched by terrorism. But that is changing now, because this whole strategic idea has been kept at least on the back burner by the *nomenklatura*, and that is now going to make a comeback. The Russians of today, just like the old Soviets, did not necessarily invent the railroad, but they like to jump on trains that are leaving the station.

This means that if Islamic fundamentalism persists in identifying the West as this tremendous devil, then the Russians will support that under the table and finance it. This means that we are facing extremely difficult times, and we must hang on.

My estimate would be as follows. We may indeed have the worst period of the crisis during 1993. We will have the sequelae of that in 1994-95. By 1996, things will begin to quiet down, but in an atmosphere of complete destruction, primarily in eastern Europe and Russia; and by 1997, we may begin to see the beginnings of an exit out of this valley

of crisis.

If that can be attained by 1997, it may be that western civilization can survive. But any wrong answer to this challenge in the Balkans and so forth in 1993, will be paid for in blood at a later point in this crisis.

Q: In case we succeed in recruiting the Clinton administration and the United States decides to go ahead and do what you're suggesting, you said that in three weeks, the Balkan war would be over. What kind of reaction would you expect from the British and the French?

Scherer: I would assume that the American political apparatus must simply coerce, force, the western European NATO partners to do all this. You have plenty of arguments in hand. You have, after all, tried for 24 months to negotiate with the best knowledge, the best intentions, and in the best conscience; what more can they ask? *Clinton has to show a hard line; he must lead!*

The training in the Bundeswehr [German Army] for leadership, is that to lead is to set priorities. That is the most important thing. If I have no ability to set priorities, then I cannot make decisions, and I am unsuited to be a leader. Things are really that simple. But it is a hard school.

Q: Besides the British and the French, one of the biggest constraints on Clinton right now appears to be the U.S. military, which, some people say, is almost in a state of revolt against Clinton and is putting up enormous resistance to any idea of intervention. Have you been able to have any discussions with military people here?

Scherer: No, not yet. I have also heard this on the side from people in the intelligence agencies. . . . I would say that these problems make the whole process more difficult—much more. But we have to have a change in society. I would say that, provided that the entire ground war be ruled out, the military people would be willing to wage the air war. I really believe that. And from that point of view, I would say that the military is actually more reasonable than the politicians, without trying to protect them too much. Not all military people, but many.

I can't really completely remove the kind of concern that you bring up. I understand that you have to estimate this as quite important, because it really is a big problem. But we have to cut through this. You have to get this American population to the point where they can somehow see over the edge of their plate.

Q: My sense is that the World Trade Center bombing has everything to do with trying to prevent the Clinton administration from involving itself in the Balkans. LaRouche has said that he suspects that there is an involvement of certain circles in this country of an intelligence nature who seek to send that message to Clinton; and this suggests that there is a perception among those people who are trying to protect



Former Soviet Defense Minister and putschist Marshal Dmitri Yazov: "I am not guilty, the others are."

Serbia, that there is a potential in the Clinton administration to do the right thing. My sense is that that kind of terror is run by the friends of the Serbian leadership.

Scherer: Yes, of course. It is the attempt to create fear on the part of the supporters of a policy which *has to change*, and everybody knows that the current policy has to change.

Q: Have you noticed, so far, in Washington, a change from the views that people had on Europe and on Lyndon LaRouche?

Scherer: No. I haven't been able to observe any changes like that; but what I believe, especially based on my discussions in Europe, is that the Clinton administration would react to LaRouche in a more positive way and not have this same poisonous attitude that the Bush administration had. . . .

I will continue to try to stress the importance of what LaRouche set into motion with these secret discussions with the Soviets back in 1981-82. I will do that in Europe.

As I said beforehand, I am, of course, independent, I am not a member here. I would say, that in the last year, your organization as a whole has shown a significantly positive development. . . .

I know that the LaRouche movement and the Schiller Institute are represented in Moscow and in Kiev also. Russian professors, military people from the East, have also visited me in my home, these are people with whom you are in touch. Certainly, the organization is strongly represented in Zagreb, in the women's movement in that area. There is also a strong presence in the former G.D.R. You have become much stronger there in the last year; similarly in Poland. Then you have Brazil and Peru.

I see that many more legal people in the world have spoken out for LaRouche, important people, not just legal, but also politicians and military leaders. That simply means that you have gained in effectiveness and that is a very significant step forward. Of course, I am perfectly conscious, that if you have had your leadership stuck in jail, then that is a tremendous disadvantage.

I also tremendously admire what LaRouche has been able to do *from jail*. I read the commentaries that LaRouche dictates, where he speaks out and where he intervenes; his mental-intellectual capacity for leadership is completely there.

I would sum up, as a military man and also somebody who has intelligence experience, that my overall impression of your movement, is much more positive now than it was a year ago. . . .

Q: I understand that Britain has troops in the Balkans. Why haven't they moved in to stop this aggression?

Scherer: These are the United Nations Protective Forces (Unprofor). These people are very, very lightly armed. They have essentially sidearms and a little bit more. They ride around in white-painted armored vehicles. They really do not do anything; *but* the presence of these people is a tremendous disadvantage, for the following reasons.

They have always supported the Serbs. What these Unprofor people do, the British ones in particular, which I saw with my own eyes when I was there, was that at about 4 p.m., as soon as twilight began, these Unprofor people would take their mobile posts, these personnel carriers that they ride around in, and go and procure rations and food, and deliver it to the Serbs, to the Chetniks. The way that it works, is that the Chetniks man these encirclement positions, these rings. The Croatians and the Bosnians are besieged inside the circles. The logistics, the food deliveries for these Serbian Chetniks, are very, very difficult. And the U.N. forces, for "humanitarian reasons," so that these poor guys do not get too hungry, deliver the food to the Serbian Chetniks. Those are the facts.

So there is absolutely *no potential* that the Unprofor troops would have any part in a serious ground war. I personally, during my visit, saw hundreds of women and children who simply wanted to go back to their homes, but the homes were on the other side of the demarcation lines that were manned by the Unprofor troops, so the Unprofor troops said,

“You can’t go home.” They do not let them through these lines.

So what they do is to support the Serbian “ethnic cleansing” by forcing the non-Serbs out, or by helping to keep them out. That is how they help the Serbs.

It is clear that no western ground troops will do *anything* there. What you have to do, is to deliver arms to the Croats, Bosnians, etc., and let them do what they have to do themselves.

Q: How do you understand Clinton’s airdrops and deliveries to Bosnia?

Scherer: The so-called air deliveries of food I would see as a measure that might ensure that a U.S. airplane would get shot down, and then the U.S. would finally fight! Seriously, it is like Pearl Harbor! The Japanese came there and said, “We are going to shoot up all of your battleships,” and then the United States was forced to do something. The actual delivery capability from airplanes at that altitude is about zero.

When you had the Berlin Airlift, you had these so-called raisin bombers [C-54s—the German population called them “raisin bombers” because they dropped raisins and other foodstuffs instead of bombs], which could land, and that was much better.

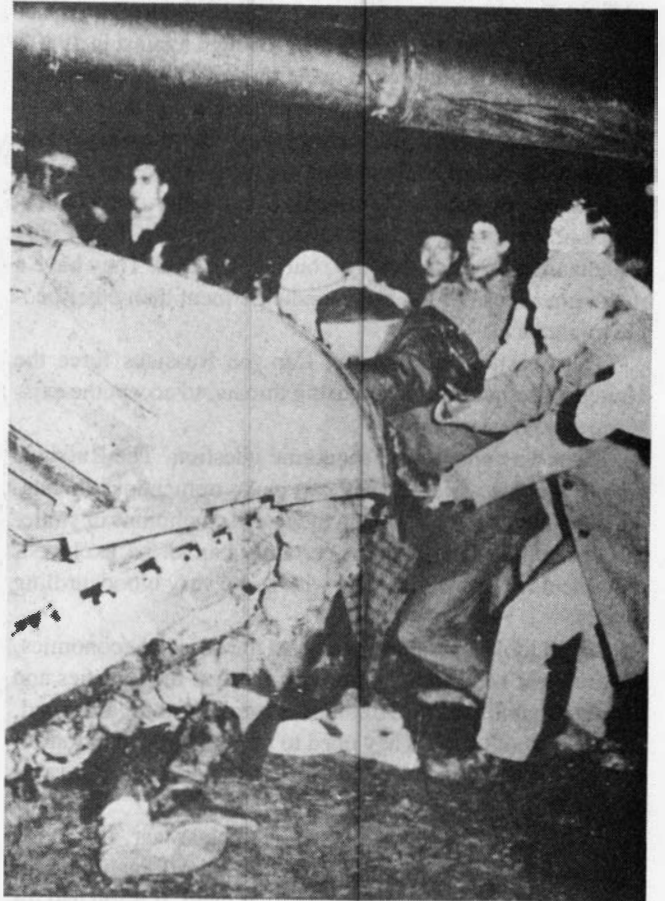
Q: From the Soviet military point of view, why would they move into the Baltic countries now? What would be the internal consequences?

Scherer: They want to do it now, because what they see is the greatest weakness on the part of the West. You know, for example, that in the transition from Bush to Clinton, 6,000 officials have been fired from the Executive departments; 3,000 have been brought back in, but they have no idea of what they are doing. There is complete unclarity and complete disunity among the western states about what should be done, so the Russians see all that.

Why do they want to go back into the Baltic in this big way? If you look at Latvia and Estonia particularly, you have a total of about 20,000 retired Russian generals, admirals, and colonels living there. They occupy the suburban villas where the Baltic people used to live. And they have a nice living standard there.

They have one field army command in that area, and you have the high command of the entire Baltic Fleet, which is a Red Banner Fleet. You have three fleet bases there, with guided missile cruisers, fleet submarines, and attack submarines.

Remember that Peter the Great conquered this area, the so-called Courland and the Baltic area, in the wars against Charles XII of Sweden. The nationalist Russians simply do not accept the fact that after 1918 these three countries became independent. Those are the only ice-free ports that the Russians have. They cannot get out through the Dardanelles



Soviet tanks crush Lithuanian civilians in the Vilnius massacre of January 1991. The Baltic states are again in the sights of Great Russian chauvinists.

or through the Skagerra [the body of water between Norway and Denmark which leads into the North Sea], but there, they can come out. The Russians are therefore compelled to try to catch the mouse and bite the mouse to death. This is a horrible fate.

Of course, the intellectuals in Latvia and Estonia know that anybody who goes high profile today and hangs out of the window will be sent to Siberia tomorrow. You have to listen very carefully to what the Ukrainians, the Poles, the Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians say, because you have to know that these people have a kind of feeling or a sixth sense for what is coming down the track toward them. This is bad, very bad.

Q: There are two sides to the economic problem. The Soviet economy is collapsing. Do the Russians have the capability to launch this war? Second, the economies in eastern Europe, particularly Poland, which had an industrial base, are collapsing. We have Lithuania now voting back in a communist government. Has it ruined these economies so badly that,

were the Russians to launch a war, would they have no capacity to react against that which they revolted against in 1989?

Scherer: First, your second question. All of these people in eastern Europe are terrified by what is coming in the Baltic—the Poles, the Czechs, the Hungarians, and the Romanians as a people. All of these places are hurrying to put in their application for NATO, European Community, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), any organization they can get into, out of pure fear. They have a much finer sense of their own endangerment than other people might have.

The question is, actually: Can the Russians force the United States and the West, using threats, to accept the existence of a Greater Serbia?

Then we come to the economic question. The Russians *cannot* wage a war, but they can make tremendous threats, and they have up to now been the world champions of strategic deception. Therefore, it certainly cannot be excluded, that one day they would start with some very bloodcurdling threats.

If you look at it scientifically, in the sense of economics, if a true war were to begin tomorrow, then the logistics and supply capability of the Russians, especially as regards food, would be about zero. They need to import 40 million tons of grain, either as food or as fodder for the animals. And you can cut that off very easily.

Of course I am not referring to a nuclear war. If it really heads to a nuclear war, then everybody's dead, including the mice. The birds are dead, everybody is dead. It is too bad for all of us.

The Russians today are not capable of forcing through conditions at the same level of what the Soviets would have been able to do. They have had six and a half years of Gorbachov's rule, from 1985 through 1991. What this has meant, is that the economic substance of the Soviet Union and Russia has simply been chewed up tremendously. What is left, is a residue, a relatively decent standard for the military-industrial complex. Therefore, there is a tremendous thrust at any price to maintain a very high level of military exports, because the engineers in the military-industrial complex do not want to give up their privileges, because the nation depends on them.

The economic situation in Russia has to be seen in a differentiated way. The Russians cannot provide themselves with food for any long period. Their transportation capabilities are relatively quite bad. In terms of distribution in the past winter, they have had another relative collapse. The military-industrial complex, as far as tank production, submarine production, airplane production, is still in relatively good shape, but they do lack spare parts. This entire military-industrial complex, which is spread out for strategic reasons over the entire country, is somewhat damaged and is certainly in danger, because the conditions for further export may not be fulfilled.

That is why Yeltsin had to travel to India. The big issue was that the Indian government had big debts left over from previous arms deliveries, and the Russians wanted to sell them new weapons. The task for Yeltsin was to go there, and come back and say to the military, "Look what I have done for you."

In sum, the economic situation *does not allow* the Russians to demand the conditions of a great power or to wage war. But if you have this kind of a military junta, they would be able to largely ignore the supply situation for most of the population. So you have to expect pretty strong *pressure* from Moscow, in regard to the conditions that NATO is about to set up.

Everything has two sides in this area. The processes are extremely differentiated. It would be silly to try to get around that. But to get any more detailed than this, would probably overtax us all, because we do not have the preconditions and we do not even know enough in detail, because this state is still relatively *impermeable* in its own way.

There is a question of whether it was a good idea to give them so much money. It would have been better to give some management training and some equipment. But not money. I cannot quite free myself from the idea that they have used part of that money to reorganize their military production.

Q: How do you see the old KGB intelligence apparatus? How does it function, what are its capabilities now?

Scherer: That is the devil personified, the devil incarnate. Nothing has changed. Only names have changed. Some of the top figures have been exchanged; underneath, the apparatus is doing what it wants. Espionage, in the sense of finding out everything about the western world, is continuing. Terrorism, agitation, cells—it is all still there.

They have also taken all their archives and everything that was not going to be opened up has been destroyed. What happened was that the archives of the old G.D.R. were taken out by the Russians in these huge transport trucks. They photocopied what they thought was important, and destroyed the rest of it.

I would say that this modern "Russian state" has not made *any* changes for the better in the area of intelligence agencies and espionage. The tendency is quite the contrary; it is to stay underground and wait, with the idea that the period ahead would bring better conditions for them.

In reality, it does appear that time is working in favor of the old communist *nomenklatura*. It does not look so good.

Q: How does Gorbachov fit into the plans of the geopoliticians? I think he is coming to Virginia in April.

Scherer: On the domestic front, Gorbachov is completely discredited. He is the traitor and the state prosecutors are considering whether they shouldn't indict him after all; seven of the 1991 putschists have all been liberated, freed. One of them, Marshal Yazov, has just granted a television interview

Eurasia's political geography



which he chose to conduct from his bathtub. He showed his hairy chest and said, "I am not guilty, but the others are!" That is the reality.

In the international dimension, you still have the impression that Gorbachov is highly regarded, at least to some degree, by the cultural conservatives or the orthodox conservatives here in the West. You have this Bertelsmann Publishing Co., which is the biggest publishing company in the

world and bought up various publishing concerns in the United States. They have a kind of visit contract with Gorbachov. If Gorbachov is supposed to give a lecture, then the lecture is organized by Bertelsmann, and they pay the honorarium to Gorbachov. He does have some ability to influence the western world, there is no doubt about that. As Einstein reminded us, it is more difficult to free people from their prejudices; in that sense, Gorbachov is dangerous.

He can always say, "What do you want from me? I really wanted this, but could not force it through." So he is in an advantageous position in the West.

But I would see Gorbachov's star as a single one. Gorbachov personally thinks that he could replace Yeltsin. He has said that. He offers himself, he says, "Look, this other guy is incompetent, I will come back." So there is a public controversy, which has a certain effect, between the two. They took away Gorbachov's big car, his armored limousine, and forced him to take this old, small, rusty car, a Volga. Gorbachov is in a very bad mood because he does not have his big car anymore. Yeltsin also reduced Gorbachov's pension by about 40%. Gorbachov has this foundation or institute, and Yeltsin forced them to leave the palatial quarters of the former Central Committee and to go into some old tumbledown shanty. There are two telephones and very primitive conditions otherwise.

Q: Can you describe the role and strength of the pan-Slav and Russian Orthodox Church factions?

Scherer: Pan-Slavism is actually an experience of the nineteenth century. That was its big moment. It was this southern Russian expansionism. The idea was that the Serbians would be an auxiliary against the Ottoman Empire. It was basically something that started in the mid-1850s after the Crimean War. Pan-Slavism became the expansionist ideology of a certain tendency in the Russian upper classes. . . . You have one thrust of pan-Slavism in the southern expansion of the empire, but then there is also a second line which goes in the direction of Germany. The Communist International (Comintern) leadership, after the civil war in Russia in 1921-22, Comrade Radek leading the way, played this kind of pan-Slavic card in Germany.

There was also a pan-Slavic element in the fact that [Georgi] Dimitrov from Bulgaria was called in to become the head of the Communist International. After 1929, the idea was that this southern expansionism ought to be downplayed in favor of the defense of the existing Soviet bastion. After the Second World War, pan-Slavism was calmed down a lot, because it was not needed. Now, in the most recent history, there it is again.

It started with a smaller group, but it has gotten bigger and bigger, with some of the people who think about being Great Russians and nationalists. You have to add, though, that in the universities, there is no pan-Slavic idea.

The main expression of pan-Slavism as it exists today, is the support of Serbia by the Russians. The weakness of this whole pan-Slavic thing, is that the "pan" does not pan out. The Russians are blocked, because first of all the Poles are the absolute enemies of all this.

The Southern Slavs developed in such a diverse and divided way, that you cannot get them all in pan-Slavism. You can only get the Serbs; and the necessity of taking care of nationalist impulses of the 98 peoples of the former Soviet

World press covers Scherer's warning

One week before the Congress of People's Deputies stripped Russian President Boris Yeltsin of many powers, Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), one of the founders of West Germany's postwar army and former head of its military intelligence service (the Militärische Abschirmdienst, or MAD), warned at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on March 9 that "Yeltsin is finished." Scherer's forecast was the subject of featured coverage in several papers around the world.

In a front-page article entitled "German Spy Chief: Yeltsin Set to Fall," the March 10 *Washington Times* described Scherer's forecast as follows:

"Boris Yeltsin's days as Russian President are numbered and an army takeover is a distinct possibility, the former head of German military intelligence has warned the Clinton administration.

"Gen. Paul A. Scherer, one of the founders of West Germany's postwar army, said yesterday his assessment is based on the reports of several western European intelligence agencies with which he has maintained contact. . . .

"He said he submitted his findings to Clinton aides, members of the U.S. intelligence community and congressional leaders. . . . In Washington, General Scherer . . . became a sought after personality after predicting the fall of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov, whom he described as an 'administrator of bankruptcy,' the disintegration of

Union, meant that you had to play down pan-Slavism. After 1989, you have 25 million Russians on the way from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and the Transcaucasus, all leaving the other non-Russian republics. They are all refugees. And so Moscow center could not propose old pan-Slavism as some kind of ideology.

But from my point of view, the concept of pan-Slavism means *nothing* today. The Russians do not say that the Serbs are pan-Slavs; they simply say these are Slavs like us. They say that the Serbs have the right to have a big empire.

I want to stress that the concept of pan-Slavism is just not current, it is a red herring.

Q: What is your estimate of the potential for Schiller Institute collaboration in Russia?

Scherer: I would say that the potential is there, not only in Russia, but also especially in Ukraine. Let us look at the

the Soviet Union and the explosion in Yugoslavia.”

The *Washington Times* quoted General Scherer saying that Russian military leaders are increasingly embittered, while “reforms are being defeated by the inability of reformers to reform.” “*Russia must explode*,” the general stressed.

General Scherer said that the failure of western powers to halt the carnage in former Yugoslavia might embolden Russian generals, who first gave the green light for building Greater Serbia. “The next crisis area” will be the Baltic states. Scherer asked: “If the West cannot cope in the Balkans, what can it do in the Baltics?” Already, Scherer said, a “Russian attack division” of special forces has been deployed near Latvia and Estonia.

Coverage in Britain

On March 14, the London *Sunday Telegraph* covered Scherer’s assessment in an item by Ambrose Evans-Pritchard entitled “Blind Loyalty to Boris Puts Clinton’s Future on the Line.” The article began:

“The mood at the White House has gone from calm, to worried, to apocalyptic in short order. First the CIA unsettled the Clinton administration with a string of warnings about the creeping coup by nationalists in Russia; then the Pentagon’s own intelligence branch, the DIA, lobbed its bombshell into the Oval Office, predicting that Yeltsin’s days in power were fast coming to an end.

“As if that were not enough, the former chief of German military intelligence, General Paul Scherer, passed through Washington declaring that Boris Yeltsin was ‘finished,’ and that ‘Russia must explode.’ He told White House aides that a division of Russian elite forces had been deployed near the borders of Estonia and Latvia.”

Coverage in Germany

On March 13, the *Hamburger Abendblatt* covered Scherer under the title “Coup Very Likely,” apparently based on reports of his Washington press conference from the Springer Auslandsdienst news agency. It reported that General Scherer had been meeting in Washington with advisers to President Bill Clinton and CIA experts, telling them that a military coup in Russia was “a very probable possibility.”

“Scherer, who takes credit for having predicted the collapse of Gorbachov, the collapse of the former U.S.S.R. and the war in Yugoslavia . . . [said:] ‘Yeltsin is a man of good will and apparently pro-West, but we must start from the assumption that he is finished.’

“In the opinion of the former MAD chief, many Russian generals see the failure of the West in Yugoslavia as an invitation for their own provocations. . . . Scherer called the Baltics and the Ukraine ‘the next crisis regions.’ ” The paper also quoted Scherer saying that there is “a progressive paralysis of Russian military power,” and that this situation could “force the Russian military into action earlier than anyone would expect.”

What all this coverage avoided, however, was that throughout his tour, General Scherer stressed the crucial role of jailed statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. The papers culled all references to LaRouche’s role as the leading architect of the Strategic Defense Initiative adopted by President Ronald Reagan, as well as LaRouche’s “Productive Triangle” proposal for massive infrastructure investment, centered in the area Paris-Berlin-Vienna. In his talks, Scherer referred to this program as a means of avoiding the global chaos that he otherwise forecast.

—Scott Thompson

strategic potentials. In the current borders of Russia, you have 145 million Russians, and 25 million Russians are left outside, among the other peoples. Ukraine has 53 million inhabitants, but of these 10 million are Russians. Kazakhstan has approximately 20 million inhabitants, but 12 million Russians. I won’t go through all of the smaller republics. What I want to just focus on, is the relative population strength of Russia and Ukraine.

These Russian and Ukrainian populations, in particular—if it comes to a question of appreciating a need for a Renaissance, of the need of reconceptualizing traditional values—they are actually much closer to that than western Europe. Imagine thousands of people coming together to hear a poem being read. That you will not find anywhere in the western world; but in Russia you will find it; and in Ukraine. People are concerned with living politics. They are people who love poetry. . . .

That is the tendency. The Russian individually is, first of all, quite musical. He has a tremendous alcohol problem, however. Very bad. That is the national disease. The Russians, of course, have this tremendous need to “make up for” the whole historical experience that the West actually could have offered them. There was no Reformation, no Counter-Reformation, no Romantic movement, etc. So their interest in the West is relatively big. Use that, and then you are on the right road.

I would say that the greatest potential anywhere in the world for the LaRouche organization would be in Ukraine. But you have to move fast, because in the meantime there are 200 sects that are at work. Why? Seventy-three years of atheist and anti-religious propaganda have simply left behind a kind of vacuum, and the people want to believe. A large part is willing to become superstitious. It is a promising kind of terrain to cultivate.