

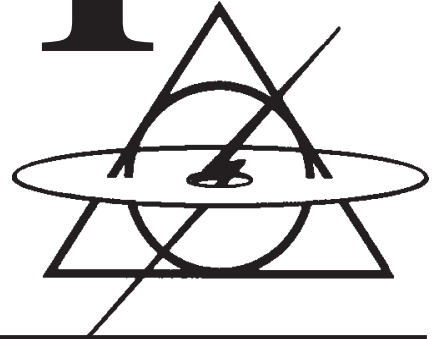


CONTACT

THE PHOENIX JOURNAL

Y2K—THE NEW MILLENNIUM

*KNOWING TRUTH IS NOT ENOUGH,
SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION*



VOLUME 28, NUMBER 11

NEWS REVIEW

\$ 3.00

JULY 5, 2000

On Independence And Sovereignty

6/29/00—#2 (13-318)

Hatonn—Erick San Juan has sent over a couple of really exceptional writings, so let me move right along.

[QUOTING:]

SOVEREIGNTY?

By Erick San Juan, Manila, Philippines, 6/28/00

Friends,

Early this year, a forum which discussed “The Limits of Sovereignty” was held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. In that gathering, the United Nations Organization’s “right” to take measures against any nation perceived to be a “rogue state” is upheld. This expected decision on the part of participants is but one more

confirmation of the insatiable urge for world domination, whether by force of arms, culture or religion.

Without including myths or even legends, the earliest historical records show that it was Egypt which first dominated the thought and outlook of the East, despite the fact that it was never a purely military state. But a warlike era, which we date from about 910 B.C., emerged with Assyria. Then came the short-lived rise of Babylon, followed by that of Persia under Cyrus the Great. Then came “a name that has never ceased to be synonymous with that of a vast empire and lordship of the known world”: Rome. Apart from being concerned with territorial gain, all such powers aimed also at imposing some political or social creed, the overthrowing of one standard tenet and the elevation of another, “a process that the ancients used to associate with the influence of the gods”.

But what is happening

nowadays is unprecedented in the history of mankind. Never has the nation-state been under terrible siege as it is at present. And those who are aware of the minutest developments in geopolitics have taken cognizance of it. In a speech delivered at the February 2000 conference of the Schiller Institute and the International Caucus of Labor Committees in Reston, Virginia, political scientist Dennis Small said:

“As of a few years ago, there were approximately 188 nations in the world. Today, 15 of those countries are gone. Of those 15, about 10 are in Africa. In addition to those 15 nations which are gone, there are another 25 or so which are on the chopping block.

“What is going on here is not a case of 15 individual countries that have been individually obliterated. Rather, we are witnessing the results of an overall policy directed by financial interests centered in London, with branches in New York’s

(Continued on page 2)

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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- More News From The New Russia.....page 4
- Philippines Update From Doris And E.J.....page 7
- What Price Gold?.....page 10
- The News Desk, by John Ray.....page 11

Wall Street, and many capitals of the world, a policy whose intent, whose purpose, is to erase the nation-state as the institution guiding the political destiny of peoples and to replace it with a structure of globalization, of a single, global, world government in the hands of this financial oligarchy. Their purpose is to create a situation where, as the crash hits, and financial disintegration spreads throughout the globe, that oligarchy will face no resistance whatsoever from the institution of the nation-state, and what it has represented for humanity over the course of recent centuries. They intend, in short, to CONTROL the ongoing disintegration."

What Mr. Small publicly stated four months ago is what we have been discussing in our articles, letters and speeches for the last ten years or so. At that time, we were the object of ridicule. A close associate of mine, a Franciscan tertiary, even suffered interdiction for accusing the "new" Universal Church of Cardinal Sin, Bishop Bacani, *et al.* of collaborating with the globalists and One-Worlders in their design to "impose the reign of Antichrist on this hapless world". It was only in 1991, when an ex-conspirator with the pseudonym "Dr. John Coleman" published his masterpiece, *Conspirators' Hierarchy: The Story of the Committee of 300* that the laughter of detractors began to wane.

In his book, Dr. Coleman states: "This Elite group that also calls itself the OLYMPIANS, absolutely believe they have been charged with implementing the following by divine right: (1) A One-World Government/New World Order with a unified church and monetary system under their direction; (2) The utter destruction of all national identity and national pride; (3) The destruction of religion and more especially Christianity; (4) Control of each and every person through means of mind control and what Brzezinski calls 'technotronics' which would create human-like robots; (5) An end to all industrialization and the production of nuclear-generated electric power in what they call 'the post-industrial zero-growth society', with the exception of the computer and service industries; (6) Legalization of drugs and pornography, thus weakening the moral fiber of the nations; (7) Cause by means of limited wars in the advanced countries, and by means of starvation and diseases in Third World countries, the death of three billion people by the year 2000, people they call 'useless eaters'; (8) To cause a total collapse of the world's economies and engender political chaos; (9) Penetrate and subvert all governments, and work from within them to destroy the sovereign integrity of nations represented by them; (10) To give the fullest support to supranational institutions such as the United Nations (UN), the World Bank-IMF, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the World Court and, as far as possible, make local institutions of lesser effect by gradually phasing them out or bringing them under the mantle of the United Nations; and (11) Organize a worldwide terrorist apparatus and negotiate with terrorists whenever terrorist activities take place."

To keep people everywhere from deciding their own destinies by means of one created crisis after another and then "managing" such crises, the OLYMPIANS, who truly believe they are equal in power and stature to the legendary gods of Olympus, need superpowers like Britain, the United States and Commonwealth countries led by Canada, Australia and New Zealand to

act as "enforcers" of the New World (Dis)Order. Mighty America, therefore, just like insignificant Philippines, must likewise be controlled with the intent and purpose of completely destroying it the way the Soviet Union and other countries were destroyed.

It is, therefore, preposterous to always accuse the United States as a nation which never runs out of hidden agendas. For what nation doesn't have its own agenda? Accept it or not, the American people are just as miserable as we are during these days of hyperinflation created by globalist subalterns like Alan Greenspan and his gang of free traders and market speculators. One can clearly see that they did not play a major role in the sudden acquisition of "independence" by East Timor from Indonesia. It is not the U.S. but Britain and the Commonwealth nations which are on top of the current dismemberment of Indonesia.

Lately, U.S. President William Clinton has expressed respect for the sovereignty of nation-states to the consternation of the Committee of 300. This is why Clinton had to be "neutralized" by means of Monica Lewinsky and other questionable individuals, proving time and again that "the world of politics is bedeviled by cliques working one against another", as becomes evident when we take note of the flaws that occur in official versions of the Gunpowder Plot, the murder of Abraham Lincoln in 1865, that of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria at Sarajevo in 1914, the drowning of the Kitchener in 1916, the shooting of President Kennedy in 1963, and even nearer to our own time, the mysterious end of Pope John Paul I.

America has its faults, but pointing a permanent accusing finger at the United States happens to be a favorite pastime of local Marxists, most of whom are dedicated not to Marxism but Zionism, also known as "Globalism". Their task is to disorient the local intelligentsia to easily lure them into accepting the "messianic legacy" of the satanic One-Worlders. Take the so-called "Indonesian Forum", which tackled the matter of peacekeeping, regional security and stability. It is chaired by UP (University of Philippines) Prof. Carolina Hernandez, a member of the Philippine Branch of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), a foreign policy think-tank of the Committee of 300.

The globalists' gameplan is to destroy the nation-state by ripping out that which is the soul of the body politic. In our country and elsewhere, the political and socio-economic results are not an error, a mistake or a foolish blunder. They are absolutely intentional. What is happening is being done deliberately, and the effects are the intended ones.

The three pillars of the nation-state are being dismantled: first, is the sovereign right of a nation to have its own currency, its own credit system, its own money. A country without a currency is not sovereign; the second pillar of a nation-state is to have a viable military, an armed forces to defend its existence; third, is that of territorial integrity. Today, the very idea of national territorial integrity is under assault. Look at Chechnya, Kosovo and the Balkans, where nations are being chopped to pieces. Then you have East Timor, which was stolen from Indonesia. They invaded Indonesia with troops from Australia, from the British Commonwealth, and split off East Timor.

According to Dennis Small, the globalists "also use indigenism, environmentalism, and all of the other new 'isms' that have been concocted to promote the idea that

national territorial integrity should no longer exist". **On this basis, the financial oligarchs are proceeding to chop countries into salami, and then govern them from the top, through their global institutions. This is, of course, very convenient for them, since they can then proceed with resource grabs, to seize the oil, the mineral wealth and other resources that were previously under national sovereign control.** Look who's in control of our natural gas and oil reserves.

Everywhere, the methods employed are the same. They pick a target country and then assault it through their hedge funds. They deploy George Soros, the world's leading proponent of legalized drugs, to obliterate the country's currency, to reduce it to rubble. Then, after they annihilate it, they come in to say: "You don't seem to have a viable currency. Would you like to borrow ours? We'll lend you the dollar. You can dollarize! No problem."

The same thing happens with the national military. First, the OLYMPIANS annihilate the military through budget cutbacks, through an international human-rights campaign, through non-governmental organizations. This way, they make the nation incapable of defending itself. Take the case of Colombia. The globalists have succeeded in demoralizing, downsizing and destroying its military. Then they come along and say: "You don't seem to be able to handle the problems with your own military. Would you like to borrow ours, or some UN Blue Helmet troops to help out? No problem."

Look at what's happening in our own country. You have the churchmen and businessmen falling into the spiders' web, calling on the Government and the military for a cease-fire in Mindanao, as if the case of Indonesia does not exist.

In the case of Indonesia, which is a nation that is disintegrating, a systematic attack on its currency, the rupiah, was carried out. In December 1997, the rupiah was worth about 30 cents per thousand rupiahs. In just a few months it dropped down to the level of 10 cents per thousand rupiahs. This is a two-thirds drop in the value of the currency. Then the globalists moved in, suggesting that the Indonesians link the rupiah to the dollar, and set up a currency board. Suharto said no, and you know the rest of the story.

Unemployment doubled from 4 million to 8 million in Indonesia within two years. And then, in a period of 18 months, the number of impoverished people increased more than fourfold, from 22 million to 96 million.

While the economy was being obliterated, the military institution of Indonesia, which was very essential to its existence as a nation-state, the national institution which held the country together, was placed under siege. After Suharto was ousted in May 1998, the military, through General Wiranto, was pushed, cajoled and then foolishly induced to initiate "reforms". And he played right into the trap, because the strategy of the demilitarizers, the people who want to wipe out this institution, is exactly that: to get rid of the people who are opposed to them, and then use the reformers who helped to make the change, and obliterate them as well. And that's what is now happening to Wiranto.

The Indonesian affair is simply a plain old resource grab, and fragmentation of the country. Various parts of the country—such as Irian Jaya, Aceh, and Maluku—are targeted, and ethnic and other problems

are being fomented.

The same is true with that of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan, the areas targeted for natural resources “grabitization”. Did it just happen that there’s a huge amount of oil sitting in these areas?

Eventually, we all have to make a choice. *Manila Times* columnist Herman Tiu-Laurel says that a recent report from *Stratfor* has virtually exposed the United States’ hidden agenda: “In the long run, the Philippines threatens to isolate itself from its Asian neighbors. Trade and territorial disputes, fueled by nationalistic undertones, will further weaken regional ties. The heightened isolation may lead to increased U.S. involvement in the Philippines. Unable to defend itself externally and internally, Manila may seek a return—for U.S. military involvement,” reads part of the *Stratfor* report.

But what about China? What is its agenda? A friend of mine who is employed by Lucio Tan is suggesting that the Philippines ally itself with the Chinese. How can we, when China has been waging irregular warfare against us, using drugs as their main weapon?

And what about China’s recent admission that there is a developing alliance between Islamic nations, China and Russia? What about the so-called “Survivor’s Club” now composed of Russia, China, India and Malaysia?

I wish to ask my colleagues in media a simple question: Why is it that none of the more outspoken journalists blame Malaysia’s lapse in security, when the foreign hostages were clearly inside Malaysian territory, when they were abducted by Filipino Muslims who have long been residing in Mahathir’s country? Do I smell a conspiracy somewhere? And why is a Malaysian hostage the first to be released by the Abu Sayyaf? There are more questions than answers.

Dr. John Coleman was one of the first intelligence operatives to detect the globalists’ plan to press for the spread of religious cults such as the Moslem Brotherhood, Moslem fundamentalism and the Sikhs, and to carry out experiments of the Jim Jones and “Son of Sam”-type murders.

How many in the audience today are aware that the late Ayatollah Khomeini was a creation of the British MI-6? How many know that the real Khomeini had only three fingers on his left hand, while the impostor had a complete set of fingers? It was the impostor who caused so much chaos in Iran after the Shah was deposed.

Who do you think created the MNLF, MILF and the Abu Sayyaf? Wasn’t Nur Misuari a self-confessed Marxist while still a student at UP? What about Hashim Salamat? Can the Government easily trust him when he treacherously murdered General Bautista?

In the book *The Technotronic Era*, Brzezinski talks about the “masses” as if people are some inanimate objects. **He gave notice of cloning and the use of robotoids, that is, people who acted like people and who seemed to be people, but who were not.** And what do we have today? In addition to “fundamentalism”, we now have the opiates of mass spectator sport, unbridled sexual lusts, rock music and a whole new generation of drug addicts.

The same is true with our grade-school

children. They are being brainwashed with the cult of Pokemon, the short form of “pocket monster”. This is why I told my friend Nancy Pacheco, the chief advocate for a gunless society in the Philippines, “Don’t worry about guns, my friend, because the pokemon-trained kids will kill you with fire, lightning, electricity or anything else.” And the more Internet connections to schools we have, the more little monsters there will be to increase the aggressions of our poor, innocent children.

Who shall we turn to now? Will it be God or mammon? Will it be freedom or slavery? Will it be protectionism or free trade? Will it be patriotism or globalism? The choice is ours.

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[END OF QUOTING]

Thank you, Mr. San Juan, and may your voice be heard in the cacophony and pandemonium of the purposely inflicted confusion as you, along with the world nations, watch in horror as all they have claimed for which to live and strive is drained away. This is exactly the plan and the very tool used by the would-be world dictators.

Those who would see truth simply find they dare not have input, lest they personally suffer the backwash of some threatening mongrels in the shadows.

One more generation, my children, and there will be no “second chance” for this ability for change. Already there are very few who will act honorably and within their own power as established to move forward, instead of deeper into the trap already strangling nation upon nation as surely as a forest fire out of control in a windstorm.

My team members have been asking around—as in “people on the street interviews”—to find out what people think. Would you guess, they don’t! It was interesting to note that Imelda Marcos’ building is the third building from this hotel and, unless we tell them, the people don’t have any idea.

They have sort-of heard of Mr. Tan and are apt to give you the wrong man, in fact. They don’t even really have any notion about the Zobels and the relationship to Ayala, for whom the mall is named and by whom it is owned—in which they work their lives away (hopefully), while praying to keep their meager jobs.

Ask the “average person” about the problem in Mindanao and you might as well be asking about the technology required to reach the Moon. You get “it’s something about those terrible Muslims” or “the Malaysians let some foreigners get kidnapped or something...”. But what about the Mindanao situation, you ask—and there is no reality to the connections at all.

One that is really interesting is that currently, as you enter any door of the mall, you have to have your packages checked, purses inspected, etc. Ask them why and you may have asked the \$64,000 secret question, and one response: “Stupid, isn’t it?”

No, it isn’t stupid, it is just so hopeless, for when you strap together four or five sticks of explosive strapped with a detonator, timer or whatever is chosen, it would probably be large enough to be noted by a poke in the old sack or backpack—but

sophisticated explosives? I doubt it. It is, however, a deterrent and our team likes it because they are now recognized by so many of the guards as to feel quite secure in their comings and goings across the street. The effort is always made to be non-political in all ways, respectful and appreciative of the care given and generally make sure to never give reason for suspicion or doubt.

It is extremely difficult to conduct life and business ALWAYS protecting the very nation from which life has been granted as to citizenship, while also serving the host nation as we strive to accomplish business interchange. We will not allow damage to be brought upon the U.S. through abuse or misuse of something over which there is ability to hold and share and all grow and thrive. The little traps are constantly laid to “change” just a word here or there—now, after full approvals of those very powerful people in the U.S. hierarchy have been made. And know that some days are more difficult than others. Furthermore, every day is a new revelation of how entrenched is this “New World Order” dictamonarchy, and how widespread remain the tentacles of the “Commonwealth” of Britain. Read it above, in Erick’s writing.

Yes, readers, our people get tired, frazzled and frustrated. Then they take a deep breath as “God” to take it and march on a bit further down the road in renewed intent.

The Philippines is the most effective place in which to make this new way work. Where else? Oh, many, many places among which at the top might well be Russia, for they too have mineral assets and holdings which could be used as a foundation for a stable monetary system. The idea of global money is OK, if it is based on global value, and it won’t matter what you call it. It is the empty foundation upon which manipulation has destroyed the global economy and thus the nations, which is the trick played and handily won. But no, the Philippines may not even be the easiest to serve because they still operate as a colony of types and the puppet-masters of the moment, today, are the IMF and WB.

There is a tranche of funds dangling like bait in the wind over the head of the Philippine National Bank, in which to put in enough money to get the \$100 million OUT, there is a demand for an “infusion” of \$250 million. The IMF and WB, of course, will get most of the \$100 million released anyway and, therefore, that which “SEEMS” to be a release of funds for the Philippines ends up, in actuality, almost nothing or minus—while picking up nice NEW interest payments full bore. Is there something wrong with whoever infuses the bank to simply turn over directly the \$250 million instead?

So, I ask you again, readers: ARE YOU FREE OR ARE YOU A SLAVE?

Can we do something as an alternative? Of course, and several alternatives at that, but that is not the question, is it? Readers, it is so convoluted as to stagger thought processes and nobody wishes to face TRUTH, for it is far too painful.

I would like to run the column by Torrevillas, “A primer on the Mindanao situation”, but I would like to not entangle it with this one. Please start a new program. GCH

dharna

More News From The New Russia

At CONTACT, we feel that it is vitally important to keep up with the news that reaches us from Russia, as there is no doubt whatsoever that this country will play a major role in shaping the future of all humanity on this planet. Unfortunately, the primary news sources for Russia—in English—are, by and large, controlled by the same sources as the Western media, so we have to glean the REAL news by reading between the lines in most cases.

There is a LOT going on in the “new” Russia under President Vladimir Putin, who has been going virtually non-stop in meeting with the leaders of other nations, renewing old acquaintances and striking up new friendships. The Russian people in general do not labor under the same delusions that Americans do regarding fantastic visions of some illusory anti-Christ—they lived under an anti-Christ regime and have cast it off, for the most part.

Three months into office, Mr. Putin appears to have served notice that his Administration will not tolerate the criminal activities which persisted throughout the Yeltsin regime. It is NOT that he is “after” the Oligarchs just because they are wealthy businessmen, nor is it because they are almost entirely “Jewish”. It is because they have been involved with criminal activities, something Western media conveniently ignores. Let’s look at a typically “spun” Western-media representation of Putin’s initial efforts.

[QUOTING:]

PUTIN’S THREE-MONTH RULE PUTS OLIGARCHS ON THE DEFENSIVE

AFP, 7/2/00

MOSCOW—Three months after President Vladimir Putin won power, Russia’s business elite is on the defensive, fearful of attacks from the authorities, courts and rival “Oligarchs”.

“Under Boris Yeltsin, the situation was frozen for several years, a bit like during the Brezhnev era,” said economist Christopher Granville [not Russian] of the Fleming UCB financial group [not Russian] in Moscow.

“Today, there’s no consensus any more, everyone’s position is in doubt and anything is possible in the fight for power,” he said.

“The Oligarchs’ current dilemma is simply that none of them understand the new rules of the game,” said Alexei Zabortkin, of the UFG finance house. **[The new rules are pretty simple: No more rip-offs!]**

Since June 13, when Russia’s leading independent media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky was arrested, several other Oligarchs have found themselves under attack.

However, in most instances, no direct link with the Kremlin has been proven, although **Putin vowed during his election campaign in March that the Oligarchs would disappear as a class under his rule.**

On June 20, prosecutors launched an investigation

into the 1997 privatisation of the Norilsk Nickel firm, the world’s biggest producer of nickel and palladium, a rare metal used in catalytic converters.

The mining giant is controlled by the Interros group of Vladimir Potanin, whom Putin hosted in talks at the Kremlin last week after receiving an open letter from the business magnate urging the President to intervene in the Norilsk case.

“It’s blackmail, Potanin was the first Oligarch to sign the letter of support by Russia’s leading businessmen for Vladimir Gusinsky,” said Alexei Venediktov, Editor of the Echo Moscow radio station **owned by Gusinsky.**

Seventeen captains of Russian industry and finance wrote to the prosecutor general expressing alarm over Gusinsky’s arrest and fears for the future of democracy, urging his release.

“Putin is going through the Oligarchs,” commented the *Kommersant* business daily, **owned by influential businessman [Oligarch] Boris Berezovsky.**

The Kremlin interview with Potanin resembled “a football coach inviting a striker to rejoin his team”, the paper said. **[That sounds like the honorable way to do things.]**

Other signatories of the Oligarchs’ joint letter have also come under pressure. Piotr Aven and Mikhail Fridman, who run the powerful Alfa group, saw their TNK oil firm raided by investigators probing another contested privatisation. **[Another “contested privatisation”? These guys went in and took control of resources and industries, making themselves almost “above the law” with their obscene wealth and control of influential media—all at the expense of their “fellow man”—so “contested privatisers” might be the nicest thing AFP could figure as to how to define them.]**

Moscow press reports link the raids to complaints from disgruntled rivals, and the Kremlin has not, so far, been directly implicated in the affair.

However, the hand of the Kremlin has been clearly visible in recent developments concerning Russia’s two biggest firms: the natural gas monopoly Gazprom and electricity generator UES.

On Friday, rising star Dmitry Medvedev, a close Putin aide, was elected to the Gazprom board and became its Chairman.

Medvedev ran Putin’s successful election campaign and is tipped to replace Alexander Voloshin as Putin’s chief of staff after serving his apprenticeship as First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration.

Political analyst Vladimir Pribylovsky said the string of recent attacks on leading Oligarchs [was] more likely [a sign] of an intra-clan power struggle rather than an orchestrated attempt by the Kremlin to weaken them.

“Putin would like to see everyone standing to attention, and he is waiting to see which group will come out the winner,” he said.

Adding to the sense of uncertainty is the fact that

some of the Oligarchs would appear to be more equal than others.

Those who reputedly retain some influence with the young Kremlin master—such as Berezovsky and Roman Abramovich—have not yet seen their business interests come under scrutiny, even though their personal fortunes have also been based on disputed privatisations.

“Putin wants to redistribute wealth to Oligarchs who are close to the authorities,” explained Venediktov. **[Do you want to bet?]**

[END OF QUOTING]

The closest we can get to the truth from Western media regarding this subject matter is when they interview (and, no doubt, “spin”—to the best of their ability, anyway) a Russian source directly. A little further on, we’ll have a closer look at the economic plan presented by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov, who was interviewed for the article that follows.

[QUOTING:]

RUSSIA’S PREMIER—PUTIN NO AUTHORITARIAN LEADER

By Elizabeth Piper, Reuters, 7/1/00

MOSCOW—Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov laughed off suggestions on Saturday that President Vladimir Putin was an authoritarian leader and said **the country needs a strong government to overcome its problems. [The referenced “problems” are, no doubt, very similar to those experienced by all sorts of other nations within the current world economic system.]**

Putin’s plans to tighten the Kremlin’s grip on the world’s largest country and use of his favorite phrase “the dictatorship of the law” have been taken by some commentators as a sign that the ex-KGB spy aims at taking on dictatorial powers.

Kasyanov, as Putin has done himself, denied such suggestions, saying Russia would continue on a market-oriented, democratic path.

“There is no sign that authoritarianism prevails in our country,” Kasyanov told ORT public television.

“When we speak about strengthening power in the country, it is completely different. Our life **and the problems we have lived through** show that the (older) system of government should be improved.”

Putin, whose no-nonsense reputation for getting things done got him elected earlier this year by a people sick of political deadlock and disorder **[Yes, confusion is the anti-Christ hallmark and Russians certainly do seem to want to be rid of the anti-Christ influence in their country.]**, has said he hopes only to improve the way the country is run.

One of Putin’s main wishes has to be to cultivate accord between the two houses of parliament and the Kremlin—a policy threatened by a recent veto by the upper house of his bill to radically change the way the country is ruled.

The bill, which would strip Russia’s mighty governors of their seats in the Federation Council, calls for the deepest changes to the way the country is ruled since Boris Yeltsin enacted the current *Constitution* in 1993.

Kasyanov shrugged off the veto in the Federation Council, saying cooperation would no doubt continue.

[And it has, as we present further on.]

“Today we live in a rather favorable situation when we find that we have a constructive dialogue with the Duma and the Federation Council,” Kasyanov said.

“This is political stability and an atmosphere of political trust. A mutual desire to help each other exists and I want to hope that we will continue in the same way.”

He said cooperation between the different decision-making bodies would also help improve Russia’s economy, which has been given a boost in recent months from high prices for its commodities and oil exports.

“Only half of the positive changes (in Russia) are due to the favorable situation on the world market,” Kasyanov, who presented a well-received new economic program to the Government last week, said.

“The other half is linked to fundamental changes in the structure of our economy... This growth will solve our deep problems.”

[END OF QUOTING]

Perhaps the example of Dr. Mahathir in turning around Malaysia’s economy and wresting it from the grips of the controlling Elite has been taken to heart in Russia? It certainly appears to be a distinct possibility, doesn’t it?

While the Oligarchs are the most visible representatives of the “old” way of doing things, another aspect of that “old” way is the management by financial controls with which we have become accustomed here in the U.S. Money is a powerful tool in the hands of the shrewd controllers and its power is most felt in and through political circles. How many votes does the ZOG here, for instance, control in this manner?

The Yeltsin Administration in Russia fostered growth in the power of regional governors of the resource-rich outlying members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Many of these regional governors, it appears, have used their powers to facilitate activities that are not in the best interests of Mother Russia—though they certainly do seem to benefit the criminally minded—activities such as money laundering, drug running and sponsorship of terrorism.

To rid the country of these criminal elements, Mr. Putin has just fought—and won—the right to fire regional governors for any malfeasance, as documented in the following AFP article.

[QUOTING:]

**PUTIN WINS RIGHT TO SACK GOVERNORS,
TUSSLE WITH REGIONAL CHIEFS DEEPENS**

AFP, 6/30/00

MOSCOW—Russian deputies on Friday gave Vladimir Putin the right to sack regional chiefs, bolstering the Kremlin master in his battle to banish local governors from parliament.

The bill, approved in the State Duma by **399 votes to 9**, also allows Putin to suspend governors under criminal investigation and dissolve local assemblies that approve laws that contradict federal legislation.

The law is the second of three key bills sponsored by the President, which aim to restore tight central control over the 89 often unruly regions that make up the Russian Federation.

On Wednesday the Federation Council, where

governors and the heads of regional parliaments sit, vetoed a Putin bill ousting governors from the upper house of parliament by February 1, 2001.

Duma leaders Friday threatened to overturn the veto unless the senior chamber compromised with Putin, who has signalled he could agree to a phased revamp of the body if senators back down.

“If the Federation Council does not create a conciliation commission after the veto is overturned, the President is ready to sign this bill into law and propose changes himself,” Duma speaker Gennady Seleznyov said.

Lawmakers later sent a message to the upper house urging them to set up a special commission, which would thrash out a deal.

Under the current bill, instead of sitting in the Federation Council themselves, governors would nominate a candidate for the upper house who must be approved by the regional assembly.

In addition, local legislatures would pick a second representative to the Federation Council, most likely the speaker who... sits in the chamber as of right now.

The bill incensed many governors, who saw it as a betrayal, given their support for Putin in the March presidential elections.

But Boris Gryzlov, leader of the pro-presidential Unity bloc in the Duma, said senators had been too “emotional” over the issue, and warned them to accept Putin’s olive branch or suffer a humiliating defeat.

“Without question, we have enough votes to overturn this veto,” he said on state-run RTR television.

A conciliation committee should begin work by Wednesday, he said, adding: “If the Federation Council doesn’t agree to this, then we’ll simply override the veto.”

Gryzlov said the main compromise would allow for the gradual replacement of the governors in the upper house once their term in office ended.

Seventy governors, heads of Russia’s regional administrations, were up for election this year, he said, meaning almost half the upper chamber would be renewed under the new rules, he said.

Putin has made the assault on regional leaders his first major political battle since taking office May 7, and analysts say it is a fight he can ill afford to lose without seriously damaging his political authority.

Regional leaders rose to prominence under Putin’s predecessor Boris Yeltsin, who granted them broad independence from Moscow in exchange for support in his long-running battles with the Duma.

[END OF QUOTING]

The reaction of Oligarch Boris Berezovsky to Putin’s efforts to decriminalize the country is quite revealing in itself, as we see in this piece, which came out just before the Duma voted overwhelmingly to support the demolition of the regional-government system.

[QUOTING:]

**PUTIN’S REGIONAL REFORMS MASK HIS
POLITICAL WEAKNESS: BEREZOVSKY**

AFP, 6/27/00

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin has shown his political weakness by seeking to railroad through parliament laws curbing the power of regional governors, arch-Kremlin insider Boris Berezovsky said Tuesday.

The new Kremlin chief had cowed parliament into submission, said Berezovsky, who accused Putin of masterminding a return to the Soviet past with his iron-fist tactics. **[Again, it was the likes of Berezovsky who perpetrated that insanity—but it’s not surprising that a Khazar would use these tactics.]**

Berezovsky used the state-run ORT television channel, whose board includes his daughter Yekaterina Berezovskaya, to launch the latest in a series of outspoken attacks on the Russian head of state.

“The President is displaying his weakness, that he is not capable of enforcing his authority, and enforcing existing laws,” Berezovsky said.

“The current whirl of activity shows Putin’s double weakness. He’s afraid that in a month he will not be able to get these laws passed,” he added. **[Because in a month Mr. Berezovsky could use financial “suasion” to change things?]**

Putin is seeking to strip regional governors of their seats in the Federation Council upper house of parliament, **membership of which gives them immunity from prosecution [making them perfect Khazarian tools].**

He has also urged deputies in the State Duma lower house of parliament to approve a law granting him the right to sack governors and regional assemblies that vote laws that violate the federal *Constitution*.

The speaker of the Federation Council, Yegor Stroyev, warned Tuesday that senators may veto the Putin bill ousting governors from the upper chamber, although analysts expect the Duma to overturn any veto.

While Berezovsky backed the principle, he accused Putin of violating democratic norms by changing the makeup of the upper house during the mandate of the sitting members.

And he said Putin should use existing laws to ensure Russia’s sometimes unruly regions complied with federal legislation.

Berezovsky charged that regional leaders were running scared of their Kremlin master while Duma deputies were putting personal ambitions **[ideals]** before important issues **[like his money]**.

“Recent events, we have all seen, show that the authorities are very aggressive,” Berezovsky said, an apparent reference to the arrest of media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky over a 10-million-dollar fraud case.

“They (the governors) are afraid that they will in turn be accused. But there is one important thing that they have not understood, and that is that once (the changes) go through, they will be attacked once again. It’s inevitable.”

A business mogul who used his close ties to the Administration of the then President Boris Yeltsin to amass a huge personal fortune, Berezovsky has cut an unlikely figure in recent months as a defender of democracy. [Democracy, as the Elite use it working through such as Mr. Berezovsky, is a tool of enslavement.]

For he was a driving force behind a cabal of business barons who clubbed together in 1996 to ensure Yeltsin’s re-election as President against a resurgent Communist Party led by Gennady Zyuganov.

The Communist chief blamed **the barrage of negative media coverage orchestrated by the pro-Yeltsin business elite** for his election defeat. **[Yep, the modus operandi of the Elite, alright.]**

[END OF QUOTING]

While NWO kingpin Mikhail Gorbachev visited the Vatican last week (and remember, Mr. Putin “forgot” to renew the invitation to the Pope to come and visit his country), we could imagine him wringing his hands and worriedly blurting out, “But it’s all falling apart! It’s just not working like we had planned at all!” Oh, well.

The next article will serve as a lead-in to the economic situation in Russia at present. We just HAD to include it, due to the supreme irony of the fact that the Mattoid element in the world, in its greed and power games, has actually bought Russia a little breathing space.

[QUOTING:]

CABINET, CENTRAL BANK PURSUE
COORDINATED POLICY—KUDRIN

Interfax, 7/4/00

MOSCOW—The Russian Cabinet and Central Bank are pursuing a coordinated policy to support the ruble and prevent the acceleration of inflation, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin told the press on Monday.

Commenting on the talks between President Vladimir Putin, Cabinet members and the leaders of the Central Bank, Kudrin said that “they dealt with the entire complex of economic measures to control inflation, to ensure the ruble’s stability, and to facilitate economic growth and preserve the export potential achieved lately. These measures include efforts to do away with the non-cash forms of settlements and barter, to enhance responsibility for payments to the budgets of all levels and to the extra-budgetary funds; and Government measures to exercise customs control over the import of raw materials and to enhance the efficiency of tax collection.

The participants in the meeting said that only recently the Russian economy lacked funds. Now funds are available for various reasons, including a growth in the world prices for energy resources.

An excessive cash mass is a source of inflation pressure, Kudrin said.

The State Statistics Committee is predicting that in June the rate of inflation will reach 2.5% against 1.8% in May. A growing inflation rate was caused, among other things, by **the Central Bank’s work to strengthen its gold and foreign currency reserves and buy exporters’ dollars**, he said.

The talks also dealt with measures required for slowing down the rate of inflation and for ensuring that the annual rate of inflation will not exceed 15%-18% on which the 2000 budget is based, said Kudrin.

[END OF QUOTING]

Wow! An “excessive cash mass”—thanks to the Elite engineers of the higher oil prices! Unfortunately, from an American perspective, this is being financed at the expense of the citizens under ZOG control. But it might help us to think a little the next time we pump our nearly-\$2 per gallon gasoline, for the side benefit might just be a little extra stability in the world.

Let’s focus a little now on the first hints that we have to go on regarding Russian economic reform.

[QUOTING:]

GOVERNMENT STRATEGY CLEAR,
TACTICS STILL TO BE REVEALED

By Viktoria Lavrentyeva, *Interfax*, 6/29/00

MOSCOW—The economic program approved by the Government on Wednesday differs from the previous ones in at least one thing. **For the first time ever, an economic program has been produced by Russia herself, not by experts of the International Monetary Fund or of the World Bank.**

Partly, that was one of the reasons why the Cabinet-proposed plan of action, which has taken six months to shape, was so welcome in this country and in the West. **[Let’s just say that the banksters have probably been holding their breath.]**

Although lengthy and nervous expectation inevitably leads to disappointment, the general goals declared in the program almost do not arouse objections.

Following almost a decade of economic slump, we have been promised economic growth at an annual rate of 5%, plus lower taxes, guaranties of the rights of ownership and more efficient social programs. Moreover, although the program was went through many hands, on the whole it has not lost its initial liberal charge. **According to the Thursday issue of the New York Times, the program has met the expectations and has become an example of present-day economic theory.** It is far more ambitious than all the programs the West has ever tried to get approved in Russia through difficult votes in the Duma and defying individual interests, the newspaper wrote. Russia’s long-term development program produced by the Center for Strategic Development has evolved into a Government program without any conceptual or ideological changes, Arkady Dvorkovich, the chief of the Russian Finance Ministry’s group of economic experts and himself an expert of the Center for Strategic Development, told *Interfax* on Wednesday.

However, as the program was being polished up it lost much weight and now has at least three faces: the long-term program proper, priority tasks for 2000-01 and a plan of priority measures for the same period.

The greatest interest has concentrated exactly on the plan of priority measures, as, ultimately, the Government will be judged by what it has done, not what it has said.

Curiously enough, this particular component has not been demonstrated to the public to this day. The only thing already known is that the list of these measures has been shown to the IMF and the World Bank, as this particular list will constitute the backbone of **a new program of cooperation with Russia’s international creditors.** “The list of priority measures was coordinated by a narrow group of people behind closed doors,” Oleg Vyugin, the chief economist of the Troika Dialogue and an author of the general concept of the program, said.

Possibly, the Government does not want to show all its cards until it learns the opinion of the IMF and the World Bank which, as we know, do not like to give out all details and specify everything to the paragraph.

“Obviously, the program will not please all simply because too much hope is being pinned on it,” Vyugin said. Roland Nash, a Renaissance Capital leading analyst, believes that the IMF has been slightly disappointed by the fact that so much time has been spent on the development of the Government program. He backed this program, however, as the most liberal and realistic program ever produced in Russia.

No official reaction to the program has arrived from

international financing organizations so far. *Interfax* has learned, however, that they have already criticized one of its main postulates—the concept of the pension reform and the introduction of a single social tax. In the West it was taken as “yet another burden” on the people. Foreign experts think that it would have been far more reasonable to establish a minimal and standard tax rate, and allow the population to determine the size of payments to the Pension Fund depending on their incomes. **[Let us keep in mind that a progressive income tax is a plank of the Communist Manifesto, which is in tune with the West—but is rejected in the new Russian economic reforms.]** Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov admitted that the pension reform had aroused the most heated discussion in the Cabinet. At the same time, the IMF and the World Bank are truly happy that Russia at last has its program. We are even glad, that it differs from the previous programs, as we want to see in it what Russia herself wants to see, a representative of an international organization said. But it looks like this euphoria will not last for long. Steven O’Sullivan [**not Russian**], the chief of the analytical department of the UFG international investment company, said that it is early yet to talk about whether [or not] the current Government program deserves to be backed by the IMF and the World Bank, as Russia has had many programs over the past ten years.

He also said that in the current setting both sides can wait and see how it will be implemented.

In July, IMF and World Bank experts are arriving in Moscow to discuss details of future cooperation programs with the Russian Government. The IMF and World Bank representatives in Moscow are predicting that the negotiating process will hardly end before the autumn.

The World Bank’s Director for Russia, Michael Carter, has told the press that theoretically, one mission would suffice for reaching an agreement. But in practice, at least three missions will be needed, he said.

Analysts are saying regarding the new program agreed upon by the IMF and Russia that everyone has put up with the fact that it will not be available until the G-8 summit in Okinawa. The sides will simply have no time to conclude an agreement. This will hardly be done before the end of July. In August the IMF and the World Bank have a recess, and in September their annual meeting will be held. The only consolation is that **Russia no longer needs IMF loans as badly as before.**

Regardless of how quickly the program will have been backed by the IMF, the main question: Will this plan of action be implemented, or will it remain an exhibit in a collection of bright but unrealized hopes? is still to be answered.

[END OF QUOTING]

As the world turns and the Elite squirm, we hope and pray that the great nation of Russia successfully rids itself of the criminal element—which is, after all, something that such as the IMF and World Bank should hold as preconditions for lending money to any country in economic trouble.

Some day, if the American people ever wake up from their stupor and follow Russia’s lead in eliminating the criminals from positions of power, then, perhaps, Americans and Russians might come together as trusting and trusted friends. Meanwhile, we can count on the criminal Elite to make this unification difficult, as they know that it spells the end of their control and enslavement of this world.

—Presented by CONTACT staff

Philippines Update

From Doris And E.J.

6/29/00—#1 (13-318)

By Doris and E.J. Ekker

Good morning. LIFE IS GOOD (especially when you get up off the sickbed and realize you can and shall walk again).

No “excuse” offered but I, Doris, have had a round of the Philippine Plague (actually a “new” diet that probably really works but I don’t recommend it). No further comment other than today offers the possibility of “living”.

I will make an effort here to respond to a pile-up of inquiries.

The first item is the last one received. We got home last evening without a printed copy of the e-mail, so the response here will be from memory.

Diane: As to your “Millers’ lawyer” call to Connie: That is pure unadulterated hogwash. NO LAWYER, even drunk, would ever represent himself in such manner. There are several things to do, however, and yes “our attorney” is waiting for a note (statement) from you regarding the matter.

There cannot be a prosecution for collection of debt without even a claim for collection of said debt with a full disclosure of what is outstanding and paid, and what the charge represents. Further, to represent self (as the caller apparently did) as anyone’s attorney (i.e., “I am Millers’ attorney”) and then THREATEN CRIMINAL PROSECUTION for failure to meet some obligation of 1995 wherein statutes would have run is totally absurd. [E.J.: Especially when the debt was paid.]

But there is more. Our attorney called this morning and among his more “amusing” tales is a letter from the attorney for the *Spectrum* groupie, who claimed “someone calling himself Vernon Young” from Incline Village had called the *Spectrum* office asking that he be sent a copy of the latest edition of *Spectrum*. The attorney lectured Brad re contacting a client of another attorney, etc., etc., also stating that “your clients” continue to write nasty things about *Spectrum*.

Anyway, Connie needs to make a “statement” and, Diane, find out what you can—ask Kathy about the “parasite kit loan” and let everyone know that it is being investigated. There must be an accounting sheet somewhere—Brent may have been involved in calculating or making the payments.

The “umbrella” is obviously to protect, somehow, the antics, and in the last presentation in *Spectrum* regarding Phoenix Institute, the players have revealed themselves quite clearly and panic time seems to have befallen that ant colony.

It appears to me that even the “receiver” is about to fold—that one who never identifies but claims Hatonn and Soltec. That person is in so much confusion and strain as to show all over the writings. No goals? How can you work for God and/or Hosts

and have no SOLID goals? Perhaps they can all just learn to ascend and it will work out someday? Then to complain of “lack” as in funds available after shooting the goose is ample “interesting” disclosure. How can anyone expect assistance when there are no goals visible? It seems to me that there must be goals to be attained beyond homage to self-ego-styled experts in the field of inter-galactic communications for editorializing and construction. But to represent an impostor as a lawyer is certainly a down-to-Earth game and just might make the judicial officialdom a bit more irritated than congenial.

The painful thing is to have to realize that they do not have a shred of character left, that they would hurt Millers even more than they already have just to try to scare Connie and Diane. That is pretty low.

When Brad gets the information from you on that phone call, he will call the attorney last given as representing Millers (in the house matters). He has not responded to Brad in months.

So WHO is making the calls? Well, maybe those “watchers”??? Fine, keep it up, for this game has already backfired.

My ultimate suggestion is simply to call Millers and find out if they authorized the call. If a lawyer is “threatening” criminal prosecution over a loan after five years, Millers would have to have the data.

To Ron re: Greek connection.

It is time to just make a connection with our partner in Greece. We recognize that that party will not have the “answers” but certainly does have a vested interest, as well as knowing these people involved, for a zillion years. It can be a very profitable connection as well—for both parties. It does get lonely in distant lands while “trying to be patient”. We think the prospect of making the business arrangements “work” is actually outstanding—if everyone KNOWS the guidelines, as in “requirements”. Our intent is not to be “distant” or “difficult” but I want to just say something here and now: OUR LIVES ARE ON THE LINE AND FRANKLY I DO NOT EASILY ACCEPT THE NOOSE FALLING ON OUR NECKS BECAUSE SOMEBODY IS NOT INFORMED.

In the Philippines, we are literally inching our way through the maze and traps are presented at every turn. So far, we have come through with neither taint nor ill will. Any representation amiss so far has been tracked right back to either deliberate or foolish MISREPRESENTATIONS by others.

We KNOW that as we began to make inroads here with the property in point, zillions of false documents flooded the globe—literally. We have seen some of them—but they are NOT even remotely “ours”. We have every scam and con game tried on us and ultimately the tricksters catch themselves in their own doings. TRUTH STANDS! The only question ever to arise is how difficult our task might be—not the lack of goal or mission. Temptations? Every day, in every

way—including simple fatigue and repetition. However, the total joy which comes with the “ah ha!” is without measure.

We got a real kick out of the paper this very morning when we noted that one of the major Taipans here is getting control of one of the gold mines. Now why “else” would anyone wish to gain a gold mine these days, when there is war and inability to bring that gold to tangible market?

Will everything that is done be worthy of God’s values? Probably not, but that is up to HIM, not me. When we also realize our guidelines and do not overstep our own boundaries, which offer protection, we do just fine—even if daily it seems otherwise. And, furthermore, when the message comes back from the powers that be, and even from distant places like Russia or Timbuktu that “hey, this is real,” we are humbled with gratitude to our Guide and Teacher. Also, by staying this course and never falling to any such temptation to play games, we have built, if nothing else, a reputation of integrity and honor which somehow doesn’t fit the wrapping applied by those persons in *Spectrum*.

Mismanagement of the Phoenix Institute? George Green started that Institute and he embezzled and stole from it. Then Ence was President and he stole and embezzled from it and thus and so. So, indeed, we didn’t ask for any such thing as “management” but we got it dumped all over us—and yes, we will do what we can to our last breath to make it work—period. And then? I plan to manage a rocking chair, hopefully on “a” front porch somewhere—or, being now homeless, perhaps manage some drifting, if there is still a nation to “see”.

The arms buildup around the globe is terrifying in the potential. How can the world not have war, when that is all for which the world is in preparation? The hole in the ground becomes ever more and more important: READ NEWS DESK ABOUT UNDERGROUND FACILITIES HERE AND THERE. EVEN THE CHEMTRAILS ARE FRIGHTENING IN THEIR TOTAL “POTENTIAL”. And remember something: While we sleep the world doesn’t stop, nor do the chemtrails.

And, on to the ones in South Africa working in total frustration with us, we beg understanding as pressures build constantly from every side to get hands on assets without actually performing properly.

We have literally had a TEAM of “simple businessmen” from Knights of Malta wanting lots of management assets and they would organize everything, distribute everything and they only wanted \$20 plus trillion for starters. And no, they do not give up and go away—they come back again and again, taking time and space enough to keep us sidetracked constantly—IF we allow it. Now, they claim to understand the “program” and will do it any way we wish. Well, we do not wish. See page 224, *Committee of 300* under the listing of “Past and Present institutions/Organizations and Those Directly Under Influence of the Committee of 300”. To even consider such a move would break, instantly, every agreement we have made.

Their program for the Philippines? Oh, just to get every Mayor and Governor all over the place to sign on and they would oversee the zillions of little plots for the people to live and produce, and “they take” from the production while being the erstwhile “landlords”.

Tired? YES! And yes, we can certainly read

V.K.'s cry in the dark over "this cursed thing...!" Can MAN handle success in Truth and Honor? Some days I wouldn't bet for it. But it wouldn't be here if it were not possible for more than due consideration. Even 15 years of hard instruction and information is not enough except to stay the course.

As to the African contacts—we, at least E.J., will meet with any who will travel to HERE to meet and confer as to ramifications of our program, hear and adhere to the necessary guidelines, etc. However, the pressures seem to be for unlimited haggling and more and more "prove it to us" dialogue. WE HAVE PROVEN IT AND BEYOND THAT THERE IS NOTHING. We are like everyone else, in that we HAVE TO WORK WITHIN THE NOW-WORKING SYSTEM—BUT WE DO NOT LET THE SYSTEM JUST WALK AWAY WITH ANYTHING BEYOND THE ALLOTTED SPECIFICATIONS. Can there be further negotiations? OF COURSE! This is because each CB has guidelines and there is always the haggling over discounting and who does what to WHOM. We don't have to bend or break. We have the set standard of operations, and where we are flexible is in the make-up of the agreements—and other things can be adjusted.

Since our "portion" of holdings remain within the "funding" country for future gain and use IN THE ALLIANCE for future funding of nations—but also requiring backing by hard collateral, even if through no interest charges, we don't deviate from the 50-50 split or the foundation of hard collateral, fully purchased, using VALID warehouse receipts or assets as determined. These things are necessary and for us MANDATORY to ensure that everything WE do is open—and our protection is our very integrity in the matter. Can we do this? Yes. It is far more easily accomplished THIS WAY than through secret dealings with the underworld. If the underworld wishes to deal with us, they have to have somebody come right out in the light to do the dealings. We are not policemen for the world or against the controllers or world powers. What we have is open, easily watched and totally legal. To my own recognition, it doesn't do a thing to the ongoing "bad kids"—unless, of course, God and Truth one day take the stage through involvement in a "better" way to live. People are tired to death of the crime and poverty of both mind and soul, along with the starved body.

Will we need HELP? Yes, indeed, but the guidelines will be met by those who "help" or they will be turned out. This will not be through "us"; it will be through those running the operations here and there around the place. Our portion? Well, to that point the "buck stops here"—beyond the point of the end of the joint venture—it stops with whomever is the other joint venture partner no longer attached. The program is structured that way for incredibly good reasons, so that we "butt out" of their business while maintaining our own interests, so that the alliance can grow and prosper in brotherhood. Now, for "our" part? Well, that is dedicated to the same purpose as always: to input into a growth in sovereignty of our own American Brothers—as we agreed to do with, yes, one Russell Herman.

Will these Native Americans run everything in the Spirit of Great? Some will—some won't—but by and large it will give opportunity for something to grow up through the construct now befallen America from the Arctic to the Antarctic. Furthermore, YES, INDEED, the same structure of not only allowing, but demanding, that they run their own affairs—as long as they meet the same basic guidelines to ensure equal VALUE in what

they establish. Nobody has to overthrow anything to accomplish growing within a prospering system of equality of opportunity. If individuals abuse the opportunity—then THEY will stand responsible for the shortcomings, and I suspect "NATIVE LAW" will have the strength required to disallow such abuses.

Do "we" have the answers? No, but when faced with the next step, we get the help we need—and thus far it has been perfect. This task CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, but we, like you, can't see when it will be so. Our perception is that we get abundantly closer with every step—every day.

But, can we continue as we are with the myriad of "stuff" hitting back home, as in these recent "legal" games of lies? It is truly annoying but rather interesting to see what people will do in their evil attempts to do whatever it is they think they are doing. Misrepresenting self as a lawyer is truly a no-no and Rick already, along with Bilger and buddies, are sitting in pre-wired hot-seats for doing exactly that prior to now.

I don't wish to dump anything more on Ron but the kids of the rainbow did so already, by advertising his contact information and suggesting everyone interested just call him. Well, I hope he is swamped because what callers will get is the TRUTH and I don't really think the *Spectrum* Kids actually want that known. The truly good thing in my life today is that suddenly the antics are KNOWN and it isn't "just" "those old nasty Ekkers".

As for being exceptional business brains, come on, people—we never claimed to be wizards at business enterprise and, frankly, I never tried same. The very ones who have broken the law and TAKEN the loot are the ones claiming "mismanagement" and their "claims" have even been "mismanaged". Remember something we have learned very, very well: Half-truths are still LIES! AND, a small business corporation or a massive global corporation suffer the same rules and regulations and unless people appreciate that fact, it is not mismanagement on the part of those who DO.

Might it not be time that that group of *Spectrum* people make a living the old-fashioned way: through working? I would think the old Phoenix Institute "host" has been sucked dry by those parasites feeding off it and still trying to deaden it further because it no longer can offer up its blood for their stylized rituals. Perhaps they can all "learn to ascend" but I remind us all of a question posed by one Commander Gyeorgos Ceres Hatonn: "How many people have YOU seen ascend?" Nobody claims to have watched even Baba, Chopra, Lama or Robert Schuller do that trick.

Carol, SA: Please keep accounts, etc. limited as to access, for there will always be the ones ASSUMING rights and we cannot play in that kind of a game. People come along and because a thing is a gift from God, they think that they are somehow "singly chosen" to grab it and make it work their way. These people wear themselves out, get crosswise with everything and leave you less well than when they came forth to RUN THINGS FOR YOU. We have experienced people coming from across the nation to "straighten things out" at Tehachapi. They left, taking assets with them and left the place ultimately more devastated every time. And yes, there are lots, also in SA, who have worked diligently along the way—I even remember a bunch of banana holders who have served. But, there has to be someone in the hot-seat that says "no more", or "be patient" or, "Hey, what's the deal or rush" and/or "Now, just who are you?", etc. When we accept "the cup", we

accept the contents as well, and sometimes the "contents" are pretty bitter but it comes with the job. We do not even pretend to manage other than OUR business as accepted and can only expect others who have accepted a direct call for service to do the same. We have walked the fire-pit (in it) and we aren't going to do it again. That is called "learning". People who truly understand this message are not angered or insulted—they are grateful because intelligence will also keep them out of the fire without a bucket of water.

This may seem a real nasty responsibility—but yes, we need access to working capability—but not just scattered committee reconstruction programs. We do not go out grabbing or pulling people into our circles—they usually move in and finally take over the entire circle and we end up OUT—after, of course, paying the costs for the lessons. This program MUST NOT EVER FALL TO THAT TYPE OF MANAGEMENT. And no, in these days of wine and roses, we do not mind being the "bad guy" because, confound it, we are through with the Mr. Nice-Guy donkey phase. Please do not read into these words anything not said here. I don't need "between the lines" dialogue for misinterpretation. Just realize that we have to depend on our core person in each circumstance, for we can't be everywhere to ensure anything, nor would we be if we could.

We note that a seemingly small thing becomes an interesting fact: If a bank, for instance, utilizes our program—they instantly become upgraded to AAA status. Then, those old "give me a guarantee from a AAA bank... and we can change the world...". Ah, but, not in the old steal-the-world assumptions of the cheats and manipulators. Perhaps a lot of wheeler-dealers are going to have to get a job. I, too, always wanted a fairy godmother—but I must have asked the wrong question because I got God instead. That old: "Be careful what you ask for, you might get it!" and that impulsive: "Here am I, send me," should require a lot of second thoughts BEFORE dallying with them.

Today, as old as we are and as weary of the lessons, we stand stronger than history itself, for we are confident we failed in our attempts before now—and this time we are stronger, wiser and certainly more capable. We may well still be ignorant—but we are, NOW, rarely stupid.

I remember one day Sister Thedra told me something I shall never forget: "There are some mountains, my dear, that must be climbed all alone." She also wrote to me and said, "Let nothing deter you, for this is truth and it must be done. No matter what comes." And, surely enough, it came but we are sustained—through Grace, for there is little else. However, the "alone" part is surely wrong—for we have the ones, just like Carol, who have walked every step of that mountain climb right alongside and made the next step possible through their own contributions of whatever is required to make that next step. If we were ever ego-involved, it went down that mountain slope long ago. Moreover, when we reach the crown of the hill, we will ALL be there and I expect to hear a voice that says something like: "I am well-pleased... ", etc. Only there won't be anything about "servants", for it will read "FRIEND"—"good and faithful friend".

ABOUT CONTACT

There is no way to express the pride (yes, that word) we feel about that paper. People here TREASURE IT and if the box is a day late, we get more calls than at the paper at home base. We have

people who make special trips up to two hours—just to get a copy. They then take it and share until it is worn out. And yes, we do “think” we know what it is to put it together and get it out. And yes, that in addition to all the other things that must be done on top of it. We are blown away by the *News Desk* items—and I actually feel informed. I guess, also, it is so gratifying to us to have John and Jean Ray doing that incredible task and their vote of confidence which is visible from everything we touch or do in this, the grand mission impossible. It truly does, from time to time, bring reality to a rather insane possibility. It is so big that it has to be OF GOD. As well, I guess, E.J. still doesn’t hear well but Alzheimer’s hasn’t, truly, gotten him yet. Why, just this morning he was remembering his days as a little child on the ranch dragging around his prized possession, but I forget what that was. Well, I really do remember but I wouldn’t betray such a trust by telling.

E.J. is downstairs meeting with people, one of whom is our closest colleague, who came with “good news” but so many others showed up that it is still in holding, until the crowd clears a bit.

I ask that this suffice for my report on Beautiful Downtown Manila from the high-rise. We are, basically, fine, and suggest everyone read up on food poisoning and attend your possibilities, for we find it can cost a week or so and makes you WISH you were dead while experiencing—and surely, don’t eat

something just because you “don’t want to waste it”. And with all the complaints, I feel I was really looked over, for this was a REAL BLUNDER that did not come with “just the annoying” syndrome but was really quite frightening and I think we saw a miracle in colloidal reality. Just the thought of going to a hospital over here was as frightening as anything. That could possibly be from the terror of the expense involved! On a weekend, yet. These poor people over here just have to die if they can’t make it on their own—even their home remedies are now property of the global chemists, who even patent the trees. Medicine and such as supplements are anywhere from double to quadruple the cost in the U.S.

One day a colleague doing great and wondrous things for us came by and was “coming down” with “flu”. He was getting worse by the minute and E.J. just came upstairs and said he had to give him something because, literally, what he was doing for us that day nobody else could do. We sent him a bottle of mixed colloids. Not only did he abort the whatever-it-was, but he has never been so well and asked if we could just share a bit more with him—because he was using just a few drops every day and “it is amazing”. Of course, it reminds us that just a little actually goes a long way. I, for instance, took less than two ounces of mixed colloids and sipped them over about five minutes and I know that stopped the proliferation of the microbes, and they had me tied in knots.

In the paper this morning there was an American man ARRESTED in Cebu for saying bad things about the President of the Philippines by calling the system corrupt, the president corrupt, etc. We perhaps need to be respectful of our hosts. The main point I might make is that with Bill Clinton in “power”, to suggest another president of anywhere is “corrupt” is not so wise a gesture of friendship. It is probably much like the bad child: “He may be bad, but he is my bad kid...”.

The point of this little message, however, is built on the realization that we certainly ARE visitors and we act as such. In the same context, though, we certainly are observers. There is seeming desire to be “American” but there is a very large resentment to same. God save us from ever doing things to merit that distaste.

I will close this off and do some catch-up from Erick. We are truly honored that he continues to share with us. There is a myriad of problems here but there is an excuse, as this is a poor, developing nation trained and drained by those who came and destroyed. What, I wonder, is our [in the U.S.] excuse for our plight?

And in closing, I realize that all are curious as to whether or not there really is good news, or just more news or “any news”. I’ll let you know in the next writing, on a scale of one to ten.

God truly blesses us all—we just have to look for it.

What Price Gold?

7/1/00—#1 (13-320)

Hatonn—It is with great appreciation that we thank John Ray for again ferreting out the very information we greatly need for expressing what we need as backup from “accepted” gold authorities/money analysts.

If you study this presentation carefully, you will find the buried abuses—but you will surely see the merit in our program through Global Alliance Investment Association (GAIA). If you take the trip down the ink trail, you will find that according to today’s money supply, you should be finding gold priced somewhere around \$25,000/oz. So, would this not be about the most superb collateral to place under any lending transaction, anywhere in the world today?

Corruption has so distorted the entire world economies as to be shocking but just “being shocked” does not even start to set anything to right.

It is also with appreciation to Jason Hommel, *GOLD EAGLE*, 6/30/00 that I ask this to be set to disk, so that his research can be presented in a published document for public consideration.

[QUOTING:]

GOLD PRICE UNDER DIFFERING SCENARIOS

By Jason Hommel, *GOLD EAGLE*, 6/30/00

Many people argue that gold is undervalued, but by how much? What are some rational higher prices, and how can we determine these other prices? To answer [these questions] I have envisioned different scenarios to determine relative values of gold at varying parameters.

I started with the high price of \$850/oz. in 1980 because this reflected the U.S. Government’s 1971 decision to let the price float up from \$35/oz. in the free world markets. Things changed after 1980, when short selling was allowed to add a new paper supply of gold, which held back this free-market price.

Indubitably, gold protects against inflation. Since Money Supply (M3) has grown over time, it seems logical that the price of gold should also increase. Assuming an increasing gold price—in an environment devoid of short selling in the past—allows one an insight into what the price of gold might have been. The power of compound interest is difficult to picture in one’s mind, so I used an Excel spreadsheet to determine the hypothetical values that gold could have increased to over the last 20 years, given different rates.

What if in 1980 the U.S. Government decided to stop the runaway gold price by returning to a gold standard? **[H: Please read that again, for people who are even in the financial world still think the U.S. currency is backed by gold. NO. The U.S. currency (dollar) is backed by NOTHING.]** What if it artificially fixed the price at \$850, but allowed the “fixed exchange rate” to slowly increase at a known standard, a fixed 3% per year increase, to provide both monetary stability and monetary growth? A 3% fixed annual growth rate is still lower than the rate of inflation and average interest rates levels during the period. **Amazingly, gold would have grown to over \$1500 an ounce by 2000.**

What if in 1980 the U.S. Government used a different rate? What rate? How about letting gold rise as fast as M3? This works out to a 6.7% annual increase from 1980 to 2000. This would be a different sort of fixed gold standard, because each dollar of M3 money creation would result in an increase in the official price of gold. **Amazingly, we see that the price of gold could have been fixed at a certain rate, and it would have grown to over \$3000 an ounce by 2000.**

To be sure, the actual price of gold has decreased from \$850 to about \$274 over the last 20 years. This averages out to a 5.5% annual decrease. In light of the inflation of M3 money growth, today’s pathetically low gold price is unrealistic.

As long as gold can be legally purchased with dollars, each dollar in existence is a potential claim on gold. The U.S. holds 8,139 [metric] tonnes of gold in reserves. In 20 years, M3 has risen from 1.8 trillion in 1980 to 6.6 trillion in 2000. If you divide the M3 U.S. dollar totals by the U.S. gold reserves, you have a dollar price for gold. In 1980, this means that there were \$6,966 dollars that had already been created for every ounce of gold held in the U.S. reserve. **In 2000, there are \$25,221 in M3 that have already been created for every ounce of our nation’s 261,674,730 oz. gold reserve.**

What kind of growth rate takes \$850 in 1980 to \$25,000 by 2000? An 18.5% annual rate. Thinking in these terms, then, **a rise in price to \$25,000/oz. does not seem so unrealistic.** Those 20 years of gains seem typical of a wise investment. Even Warren Buffet has done better than 18% for his investors for over 20 years. Who says gold does not pay interest?

At \$850/oz. gold, the U.S. 8,139 tonne gold reserve is worth \$222 billion. At \$274/oz. gold, the U.S. gold reserve is worth \$71 billion. Needless to say, if our dollars can never be worth more than the gold of our reserve, our nation’s gold reserves are worth exactly the same as M3. At about \$25,000 oz. gold, the gold reserves are worth the \$6.6 trillion of M3 today.

NIXON’S 1971 GOLD DEFAULT AND GOLD REVALUATION WAS THE RESULT OF \$70 BILLION HELD OVERSEAS, AND THE U.S. GOLD RESERVES OF 8,139 TONNES BEING VALUED AT \$10 BILLION (AT \$35/OZ.). IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOLD DEFAULT/REVALUATION TOOK PLACE BECAUSE GOLD WAS VALUED 7 TIMES LESS THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN. TODAY, USING M3 DIVIDED BY THE GOLD RESERVES TO ARRIVE AT ABOUT \$25,000/OZ. GOLD, GOLD AT \$274/OZ. IS VALUED 94 TIMES LESS THAN IT SHOULD BE. WE ARE READY FOR ANOTHER GOLD REVALUATION.

[H: Check it out, friends, and you are going to find that the IMF bunch still gets its gold for that mid-\$30 price. However, selling is something else, isn’t it?]

In my analysis I used OFFICIAL statistics for M3 and the U.S. gold reserves. These numbers are real facts that cannot be refuted. The sad part is that the dollar figure may be higher, and the gold figure may be

lower—given the fact that no official audit of the U.S. reserves has occurred since 1971. **If there are more dollars and less gold, then the gold price could eventually far exceed \$25,000/oz.**

Since the Washington Agreement of September 1999, other gold analysts have shown that U.S. gold export figures have averaged 100 tons a month. With this much gold leaving the U.S. on an average month, the allegations are that our Government is secretly dumping our nation’s gold reserves to prevent the dollar from devaluing. This condition cannot last very long and the price to be paid will be horrible, when we realize we have sold our gold for less than 1% of its true worth, and for what? At the most, 8,139 tons of gold being dumped on the world market at a rate of 100 tons a month will last a maximum total of 81 months, or 6.7 years, starting in September 1999.

Perhaps you might assume that gold will never go back to full dollar parity of \$25,000/oz. because of the thought that the people manipulating gold and the free market are just too smart, powerful and wise, and that our nation’s gold reserves are NOT being liquidated. You might then naturally assume that once the short selling stops, gold will rise to reach the percentage of parity that it did in the climb to \$850 back in 1980, or, in others words, 12% of the \$6,966 dollars in M3 for each of the 8,139 tonnes. **TODAY, THEN, WE MIGHT EXPECT THE PRICE OF GOLD TO REACH 12% OF \$25,000, WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO OVER \$3000/OZ. FOR GOLD IN 2000.**

Perhaps all this figuring will allow the prudent investor to know at what price gold might be considered overvalued in the gold bull to come.

CAN GOLD REALLY BE VALUED SO HIGHLY?

It is imperative to recall that once in the past the total stock market valuation of the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) was one trillion dollars. Today, the NYSE market cap is about \$15-20 trillion, while the total stock market valuation of all the world’s gold companies is 1/20th of what it once was; that is, less than \$50 billion.

Yes, the gold price is going to go back up again, this next time more violently than ever.

My complete study plus Excel tables for the various growth rates since 1980 may be found at the author’s web-site at: <http://www.geocities.com/bibleprophecy/goldrates.htm>.

Feel free to copy and share this article with whomever you feel might appreciate its contents. This article is NOT copyrighted.

By Jason Hommel, <group@spintheweb.com>
[END OF QUOTING]

People of the World, you are going to have to do something, lest you topple. Remember that God offers the way—you must take it. And, yes, if you wish to simply re-evaluate the very asset itself using these nice new dollar-figures, be my guest, for the asset is based on GOLD and when gold is set in place as solid collateral, there is no further consideration of risk. Yes, indeed, we ARE willing to do this—instantly.

And NO, the world economy or that of the U.S. or anywhere else on Earth, needs not collapse under this program. IT IS, however, up to you what comes next, for you have access to the chicken AND the egg—for GOD CAME FIRST!

GCH
dharma

The News Desk

By John Ray

FRENCH REFUSAL TO SIGN DECLARATION SOURS DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE

Central Europe News, 6/28/00

WARSAW (AFP)—France on Tuesday refused to adopt a declaration avowing the universality of democratic values, further souring the world's first-ever international conference on democracy already beset by a Franco-U.S. row and the arrest of a Peruvian opposition figure.

"One hundred and eight countries showed up to support democracy, but only 107 actually did," a senior U.S. official said bitterly of the French decision to disassociate itself from the declaration, which describes democracy as a universal right and urges its promotion and protection.

"France reads the *Warsaw Declaration* as a promise to further a valuable democratic debate, not as a diplomatic pledge for the democratic states to act as a group," the French delegation said in a statement explaining its stance.

Several other, smaller countries also did not sign on to the declaration but Polish officials hosting the meeting as well as the American delegation said those nations' reasons were technical and that only France had raised material objections.

The two-day conference, dubbed "Towards a Community of Democracies", was envisioned by organizers, particularly the United States, as a forum for the exchange of ideas on the subject of governance and a rallying point for safeguarding democratic rule.

While some 70 foreign ministers and top officials from more than 100 countries did manage to address those goals, the French decision coupled with the Peruvian's arrest demonstrated the difficulties in achieving consensus among the world's democracies.

The Franco-U.S. dispute became public on the opening day of the conference, when French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine repeatedly raised Paris' objections to the *Warsaw Declaration*.

U.S. officials said they knew of France's position but were angered by Vedrine's persistence in what they described as "trashing the entire conference", a pet project of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

On Monday, Vedrine raised his reservations on at least four separate occasions—in his opening speech to the conference and during three meetings with journalists, including one specially arranged with reporters accompanying Albright.

"The bottom line is that the Western countries [the British-Israeli-American Axis countries] think a little too much that democracy is a religion and the only thing you have to do is convert (people)," Vedrine told reporters in Albright's entourage.

"External intervention can have very destructive results," he said, maintaining that an evangelical

approach to advocating democracy could backfire completely. "Let's not give too many lessons to other countries," he added.

Though Vedrine insisted he was not criticizing the conference, U.S. officials reacted angrily to his remarks.

In her closing speech, Albright did not directly refer to Vedrine, but made a point of stressing that the conference was not meant to proselytize and pointedly alluded to her French counterpart's comment about religion.

"We did not come to Warsaw to impose democracy," she said. "Dictators impose, democracy is chosen. Nor is democracy a religion, but it is a faith that has lifted the lives of people in every corner of the globe."

Others were more blunt.

"I honestly cannot understand France's objection," said Morton Halperin [of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)], Director of the State Department's office of policy planning, which played a major role in organizing the conference.

Another senior official recalled that French intervention in colonial America and U.S. intervention in revolutionary France had helped create democracy in both countries.

"This conference is about what they did for us and what we did for them in the 18th Century. Whatever happened to 'liberté, fraternité, égalité'?" the official asked in a sarcastic reference to France's famed national slogan.

Though annoyed with the French, U.S. officials were perhaps more troubled by the arrest of a Peruvian opposition figure, Baruch Ivcher, on a warrant issued by the Government of Alberto Fujimori, whose recent re-election they have blasted as being severely flawed.

Ivcher, who was released by the Poles following intervention from senior members of Albright's delegation, was picked up when he arrived in Warsaw in Saturday on an Interpol warrant requested by Peru.

U.S. officials said Peruvian authorities were unable to explain the charges against Ivcher, a vehement Fujimori critic who owns an independent television station and was travelling on an Israeli passport.

However, one official said he had been stripped of his Peruvian citizenship last year and appeared to be being "questionably" prosecuted under a law making foreign media ownership in Peru illegal.

[JR: Defining democracy today is like Clinton defining "IS"—but its root words mean "mob rule", which is highly significant in an age of mass mind control. Albright states that "Dictators impose, democracy is chosen." To me, both are an imposition on liberty and freedom. It is interesting that comments were made that democracy is being promoted as a religion or a universal right. As an illustration, which guise

applies in "Jewish" Israel? To be Jewish—is it a state, nationality or religion? It seems to constantly change, so it is whatever Jews say it is, depending on the circumstances at the time.]

NWO PANEL IMPLIES RIGHT TO INTERVENE, "REPOPULATE"

The Watchman News, 6/10/00

A recent article by the *Associated Press* starts off asking "people of Earth" to imagine a world in which oppressive dictators are systematically removed by outside states or in which governments too incompetent to protect their citizens are ordered dissolved, like companies gone bankrupt.

Such is the vision of experts at a conference held last week on world migration. They say globalization demands greater moral responsibility, and intervening in sovereign nations is a plausible response to the misery that drives populations beyond their borders.

"It is no longer a world where there are some 'us' and the rest are 'others'," said Aristide R. Zolberg of the International Center for Migration, Ethnicity and Citizenship at the New School for Social Research in New York. "We can no longer turn our backs and say 'These are not my people.'"

The two-day forum, which ended Thursday, was organized by the Universal Academy of Cultures and headed by Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel. It brought together writers such as Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, UN administrator for Kosovo Bernard Kouchner and anthropologists, sociologists and immigration experts.

Their task was to consider the vast movements of humanity, from immigrants to refugees to political exiles—"to better hear the cries of the world", Wiesel said—and reflect on the obligations of the world of tomorrow.

As nations today try to stem the tide of newcomers, panelists said a greater sense of obligation to the uprooted must define future actions. Beyond expanding the rights of immigrants and refugees in the adopted nation, there is a growing movement to right the situation at its source, in the homeland—what some contend is the right to intervene when a dictator threatens or persecutes citizens or simply fails to protect the people from other forces.

"If a government willfully mistreats its citizens, it forgoes the right to have its sovereignty respected," Zolberg said. An "incompetent government" that fails to protect citizens "is equivalent to a bankrupt firm", he said, and implies the right to intervene to protect the fundamental right to live in peace.

Experts at the conference also suggested that the profile of future immigrants around the globe could radically change, with rich nations welcoming outcasts as their own populations dwindle due to low birth rates and aging.

Joseph-Alfred Grinblat, chief of the UN Mortality and Migration section, says there is a need for immigration in Europe by 2050 simply to maintain population levels. Europe will have about 100 million fewer inhabitants in 2050 than in 2000,

he said—628 million people, down from 729 million.

A similar press release by the United Nations last year has suggested the same repopulating tactics for Canada and the United States.

In order to grasp the full scope of this proposal, a press release by *Reuters* on June 14th stated that “No region on Earth was spared last year as deadly conflicts ignited around the globe and almost two-thirds of the world’s nations were accused of human-rights abuses,” according to an Amnesty International report.

The human-rights organization said it documented rights violations in at least 144 countries. Cases of summary execution were recorded in at least 38 nations, the detention of “prisoners of conscience” in 61 countries and torture in 132.

“For the majority of the world’s population, 1999 brought repression, poverty or war,” Amnesty International said in the report. “In country after country, imprisonment, torture and political killings were used by governments to silence opposition and maintain their hold on power.”

The report said human suffering was not confined to trouble spots such as Sierra Leone or Kosovo, but also countries like the United States, Japan and Switzerland—criticized for allegations of police brutality or cruel treatment of prisoners.

The U.S. came under criticism for executing 98 prisoners and for allegations of police brutality and racism and sexual abuse in prisons. Amnesty also pointed to allegations of excessive police force against demonstrators at the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle in December.

Israel was condemned for continuing the controversial practice of demolishing Palestinian homes built on the West Bank, China for cracking down on the Falun Gong religious sect, and Pakistan for failing to investigate reports that hundreds of girls and women have been slain in so-called “honour killings”.

The human-rights group also criticized a half-dozen African nations for forcibly recruiting children to fight in the continent’s battles and condemned rebels in Sierra Leone for amputating the legs and arms of thousands of civilians.

Now remember, Zolberg said that “an incompetent government that willfully mistreats its citizens or fails to protect them is equivalent to a bankrupt firm”, and “it forgoes the right to have its sovereignty respected”.

This is perhaps the first open introduction to a “one world government” being released to condition the citizens of Earth. And virtually all so-called watchdog groups had missed it.

[JR: The proposal to right the wrongs and to create balance and harmony among nations is a utopian—halcyon—idealistic concept. It could become a reality, if the ones proposing it weren’t the very ones who created the chaos, misery and human-rights abuses worldwide. It is not surprising that the U.S., “the land of the free”, has made the list—ask those in federal prisons today who questioned our government’s constitutional authority, like Ron Carlson, Yori Kahl or the WACO survivors, to name a few.]

CHINA SKIRTS TAIWAN ISSUE, PUSHES U.S. TO DROP MISSILE PLAN

By John Diamond, *Chicago Tribune*, 6/23/00

BEIJING—Hoping to capitalize on the momentum of last week’s summit meeting between North and South Korea, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pressed Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Thursday to open talks with Taiwan, the island territory Beijing regards as a breakaway province.

“The United States would like to see a resumption of the cross-strait dialogue, and the efforts to reduce tensions,” Albright said. “More will be gained through flexibility and appeals to shared interest than could possibly be achieved through efforts to intimidate.”

China made no promises on Taiwan, criticized a possible missile-defense plan for the island and urged the United States to abandon its own national missile-defense plan, saying it would destabilize the nuclear deterrent.

In a polite but not overly warm atmosphere, Albright sought to improve U.S.-Chinese relations still riven by last year’s bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during the 1999 air campaign over Yugoslavia.

Throughout a day of meetings with top Chinese officials, Albright highlighted positive aspects of the U.S.-Chinese relationship.

In every meeting, she opened by describing the Clinton Administration’s success in winning House approval for Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China, seen as a vote of confidence for China’s entry into the World Trade Organization.

“The more integrated China is into the world economy, the more it plays by global rules, the more incentives it will have to find and promote peaceful solutions for regional problems,” Albright said at a news conference.

Albright met separately with Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, Vice Premier Qian Qichen and Premier Zhu Rongji, China’s No. 2 official, before meeting with Jiang.

State Department officials acknowledge that a casualty of the embassy bombing was not only cordial relations with China but also progress with Beijing on promoting human rights and restraint in the export of Chinese missile technology. The Administration has had no talks with China on either of these issues since the bombing.

In an indication of the Clinton Administration’s desire to improve ties with China, Albright publicly praised the Chinese leadership for committing to an array of international arms-control initiatives. She did not discuss new reports that Pakistan, with Chinese help, has restarted a factory manufacturing Chinese-designed M-11 missiles. Administration officials would not say whether Albright brought up Israel’s pending sale of radar planes to China.

The mood of Albright’s visit was restrained. There was no formal welcoming ceremony for her at Beijing’s airport and no diplomatic dinner. Instead, she had a working luncheon with her counterpart, Foreign Minister Tang. She stayed at a downtown Beijing hotel, not at China’s guest palace, often made available to visiting delegations.

For their part, the Chinese leaders repeatedly mentioned the brevity of Albright’s visit: one full day

of official talks followed by a morning of meetings with American business representatives and then a flight to Seoul.

“Given the short time you are here, I might describe your visit as a lightning visit or a whirlwind visit,” Premier Zhu told Albright during a photo opportunity.

“I especially wanted to be the first high-level visitor after partial passage of PNTR [Permanent Normal Trade Relations],” Albright told Zhu. “I think we accomplished a lot.” In May, the House approved the normal trade relations. The Senate has yet to vote....

...Jiang thanked Albright and President Clinton, specifically, for the effort on behalf of normalized trade relations and urged Senate passage as soon as possible.

On Taiwan, Jiang “emphasized the importance of the one-China principle and that once the one-China principle is acceptable, then anything can be discussed”, the State Department official said.

Administration officials and Taiwanese were hoping that last week’s historic summit between North and South Korea [would] have a spillover effect on the tense China-Taiwan relationship. Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian earlier this week proposed a summit meeting with Jiang.

China’s leadership was not budging.

“As far as they’re concerned, it’s a unique issue and analogies and historical comparisons don’t work,” Albright said.

The United States maintains a “one-China” policy in which China and Taiwan would be united. But Washington insists it must be done peacefully. Beijing is worried that the United States would use a theater-range missile shield to protect Taiwan.

The senior State Department official said the Administration expects nothing so immediate and dramatic as a summit meeting between Beijing and Taiwan. Albright said talks could begin at a lower level, and the official said such simple matters as cooperation on transportation and mail delivery would help.

“This could be a very significant confidence-building measure,” the official said. “You can’t get it until you are talking with each other. So you’ve got to get talks started.”

U.S. officials expected China to raise the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal from the Korean Peninsula now that relations between North and South Korea are warming. Albright said U.S. troops are a stabilizing influence in Asia and that it is too soon to tell whether the improvements in Korea will become permanent.

Albright also was braced to hear repeated concerns about the U.S. national missile-defense program. It came up only in her meeting with Foreign Minister Tang.

At the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, however, Chinese Ambassador Hu Xiaodi proposed a treaty outlawing arms in outer space, a proposal that appeared aimed at the U.S. plan for a national missile-defense system.

Hu referred to the U.S. missile-defense effort as “a program aimed at the domination of outer space” and said “every possible measure should be taken to terminate the ongoing perilous developments”.

In Beijing, the Chinese focused their concerns on U.S. research being conducted with Japan into theater missile defenses that could protect South Korea,

Japan and Taiwan. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has used short-range missile tests as part of a campaign aimed at intimidating the independence-minded Taiwanese.

Officials in Taiwan on Thursday said they expected China to conduct live-fire military exercises near the island later this week. U.S. officials said the subject did not arise in Albright's talks.

Defense Secretary William Cohen will travel to Beijing next month in hopes of improving contacts with the Chinese military that were severely strained by the embassy bombing.

"I expect that the next six months will be very busy and, I hope, a very productive period," Albright told reporters in a news conference.

[JR: Albright's "soft" diplomacy urging flexibility rather than intimidation as regards to Taiwan didn't fool the shrewd Chinese. She had to skirt or avoid several provocative Chinese initiatives with Pakistan and the recent developments of our own missile program. The U.S. space weapons program should sound an alarm and not only to the Chinese and the Russians—it's our planet, too, earthlings! P.S. Cohen is due in China in July to smooze them some more.]

LOSER IN ZIMBABWE LOOKS TO FUTURE

By Paul Salopek, *Chicago Tribune*, 6/28/00

HARARE, ZIMBABWE—Morgan Tsvangirai seemed remarkably chipper for a man who had just lost his nation's most important election since independence.

His underdog opposition party had just suffered a narrow defeat—57 seats to 62—in a historic parliamentary race against the creaky ruling party of strongman Robert Mugabe.

Campaign workers wandered in an exhausted daze through Tsvangirai's subdued party headquarters. And earnest calls were cascading in from concerned supporters, some of them in tears.

But Africa's most improbable new revolutionary—an inexperienced, self-effacing union organizer whose motorcades tend to get lost in the back streets of Harare—was already planning his next bold assault on political office. Tsvangirai wasn't just planning to topple Mugabe. He wanted his job.

"This election changed the political landscape of Zimbabwe forever," said Tsvangirai, receiving visitors in a tiny office that seemed more fitting for a small-time accountant than one of the Africa's emerging political leaders.

"We have restored a spirit of hope to this country for the first time in years," he said, making public his plan to run in Zimbabwe's 2002 presidential contest. "I relish the thought of facing Mugabe in a race."

A year ago, the idea of a relatively green opposition figure challenging the 20-year-old dynasty of Robert Gabriel Mugabe would have seemed a sour joke in this country—the equivalent, say, of a local pothole politician threatening to unseat a national titan such as Fidel Castro. **[But then, Mugabe has threatened to take over the Elite's diamond-mining operations—so, who do you suppose is behind Mr. Tsvangirai?]**

But few people are laughing these days in Zimbabwe, least of all Mugabe himself. With Tsvangirai's opposition Movement for Democratic Change snatching away one-third of parliament's 150

seats from Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front Party, it never will be business as usual again in Zimbabwe, experts say.

Though the opposition did not win the absolute majority required to control the parliament of one of Africa's most pivotal nations, Mugabe has lost the rubber-stamp voting block he needs to amend the *Constitution*—something he tried doing earlier this year to expand his presidential powers.

More important, the huge turnout of opposition voters despite a deadly Government bullying campaign has dealt a crippling blow to the ruling party's credibility. Mugabe's ZANU-PF lost virtually all of Zimbabwe's urban constituencies, where educated workers have borne the brunt of a disastrous economic crisis.

"Our next parliament is certain to prove very lively but, hopefully, lively in a positive way," Mugabe, 76, said in a televised speech Tuesday night that contrasted sharply with his poisonous attacks on the opposition during the elections. In his speech, Mugabe stressed national unity and pledged to work with the new parliament.

The man largely responsible for this unprecedented state of affairs is an unlikely David to Mugabe's Goliath. Modest, more comfortable in sports shirts and leather jackets than suits, the 48-year-old Tsvangirai represents a new breed of politician in Africa: a pragmatic everyman who has jettisoned ideology to focus on nuts-and-bolts issues that would concern a typical city alderman—power outages, decaying roads, school fees and skyrocketing grocery prices.

By contrast, Mugabe's regime is widely seen as big on slogans but hopelessly corrupt and bumbling when it comes to delivering services. In recent months, even luxury hotels in downtown Harare were lit by candles because the Government couldn't afford to buy electricity from neighboring South Africa.

As unemployment hits 50 percent, thousands of young men and women have appeared around the city, making hungry wages by flogging everything from firewood to fish.

"This election has been a reaction to 20 years of Mugabe's arrogance," said Masipula Sithole, a political analyst in Harare. "Mugabe sees himself as an African god, a world statesman. Morgan is a man of the people, a transition man from our liberation era to a more mature form of democracy."

Tsvangirai was able to hammer together the nation's first successful opposition coalition in only nine months, Sithole said, because Africans have grown weary of the tarnished promises of the continent's nationalist old guard. That said, Tsvangirai lost his own bid to join parliament over the weekend when he was defeated in a rural constituency, a traditional Mugabe stronghold. He said he looked on the loss as a hidden blessing, allowing him time to campaign for the presidency.

Without question, the bricklayer's son who spent his formative years as a mineworker—not a freedom fighter—brings a homespun humility to Africa's often hyperbolic brand of politics. Born the eldest of nine siblings, the low-key opposition leader completed the equivalent of a high school degree before being forced to work to help support his family.

He was a mine foreman at 23 and from there rose through the ranks of the miners' union to almost

single-handedly revive Zimbabwe's comatose labor movement.

His blue-collar style jars against Mugabe's polish. While Mugabe moves from place to place in a helicopter or a motorcade of Mercedes-Benzes, Tsvangirai gets about in friends' sedans, often sheepishly losing his way while campaigning in Harare's dusty back streets.

The man many voters simply call "Morgan" plunges into friendly crowds without bodyguards. His modest house on the outskirts of Harare has become a political command center, with what seems like a dozen cell phones ringing.

"He has never led a country, and his lieutenants are college students," said one Western diplomat. "But people trust him. They connect with him as a man of the people."

"Morgan will last because he represents change to us," said Casper Tsvangirai, the opposition leader's younger brother. "But even I believe that he must never get too much power, like Mugabe."

[JR: Mr. Tsvangirai, with his newly formed MDC Party, is a ray of hope for positive change in Zimbabwe. It will no longer be possible for President Mugabe to evade the issues and his commitments to the people. Tsvangirai will be right there to remind him.]

BARAK'S DEAL PUTS PEACE IN JEOPARDY

By Suzanne Goldenberg, *The Guardian*—UK, 6/23/00

JERUSALEM—Israel's Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, narrowly survived his coalition crisis yesterday, but is left with an unstable Government that could sabotage his efforts to make peace with the Palestinians.

Mr. Barak's year-old Government was rescued from 10 days of political chaos when four cabinet ministers from the ultra-orthodox Shas Party withdrew their resignations, moments before the expiry of a 48-hour grace period yesterday afternoon.

Their return to the fold comes with a heavy trade-off: the departure from the Government of cabinet ministers from the Meretz Party, which has [consisted of] the most enthusiastic supporters of peace with the Palestinians during the last seven years.

In the end, it came down to arithmetic. Shas, which combines Jewish fundamentalism with an ethnic pride movement for Jews of Middle Eastern origin, has 17 seats in the Israeli parliament. Meretz has 10. So Meretz, whose head-on clash with Shas over education policy started this crisis rolling 11 months ago, had to go.

They tendered their resignations on Wednesday night, saying they wanted Shas back in the coalition so that Mr. Barak had a Government to carry on with the peace process. They also promised to continue to back his peace efforts.

Meanwhile, in the western suburb of Jerusalem that is the stronghold of the Shas movement, they brought out the champagne yesterday to celebrate the departure of their enemies.

But secular Israelis are sickened by the machinations of recent days, which saw a desperate Mr. Barak held to ransom by his largest coalition partner. The manoeuvring has greatly damaged his image as a leader capable of shepherding his people through the hard decisions ahead.

The decorated General capitulated to virtually all of Shas's demands: extra cash infusions for its religious schools, legalising its pirate radio network, and giving the Party a greater say in a peace process Mr. Barak once regarded as his personal preserve.

Yesterday, Mr. Barak shouted down the hecklers at a meeting of the Labour Party central committee to say he had little choice. "I know it pains some of our members, but I am convinced including Shas in the coalition is the right thing for the State of Israel."

However, Palestinians say the crisis—though it leaves Mr. Barak's Government still alive for the difficult weeks that lie ahead—could wreck the chances for peace.

"The end of the coalition crisis comes completely at the cost of the peace process and the Palestinians," said Ghassan Khatib of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre. "This is all bad news. We had little hope of an agreement this September, and now even that little hope is vanishing."

He added: **"When Barak is choosing Shas instead of Meretz, then he is choosing peace with the rightwing of Israel at the cost of peace with the Palestinians.** He will be less able to undertake a deal which can be acceptable to the Palestinian side."

Shas has been more open to the peace process than other religious parties, justifying a withdrawal from the occupied West Bank to its followers as preserving Jewish lives. However, many of its constituents—who were born in Arab countries—take a far more hawkish line, and Shas appears sensitive to the prospect of being the only religious party to sanction returning land to the Palestinians.

Yesterday, the Shas Chairman, Eli Yishai, gave notice to Mr. Barak that the Party's return to the fold was conditional, and it would not promise to back a peace deal.

"From our standpoint he understands that we will not be able to give automatic approval to the process. We want the peace to make progress, we want security for the country," he told Israel Radio. "We have not committed to the results of the process," he added later. **[JR: Well, if the manipulation of Barak sickens Israelis, how do you think the Palestinians feel about these maneuvers? Somehow, someway, the Knesset always finds a way to create a crisis or put a strain on relations to forestall any forward movement in the peace process. It is all too contrived, devious and evil in nature.]**

ISRAEL ON BLACK LIST OF MONEY LAUNDERERS

By Dov Alfon, *Ha'aretz*, 6/23/00

PARIS—On a list of 15 countries "encouraging money laundering" published yesterday by a special investigative committee originally set up by the G-7, Israel features prominently and may face international sanctions in the coming months.

The publication of the list was preceded by three days of intense negotiations between the United States, Japan and the European Union, and was leaked to the French daily *Le Monde*, which published it yesterday. It is still unclear if the 26-nation Finance Action Task Force (FATF), as the investigative committee is known, initiated the leak or was forced to hasten the list's publication, which was originally scheduled for

Monday.

In addition to Israel, the "black list" includes Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Russia, Panama, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, the Cook Islands, Dominica, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Panama, the Philippines, St. Kitts and the Grenadines. The exclusive list was chosen with diligence from a "gray list" which included 31 suspect states, among them Cyprus, Gibraltar, Monaco and Antigua.

The difference between the two lists is that the "gray" one includes countries whose banking laws are tougher than those of countries on the "black list".

According to a spokesman for the FATF, Israel is on the list of 15 because it lacks legislation to counter the laundering of crime monies, including the fact that it does not require the declaration of cash deposits, and also because of "controversial" figures given by commercial banks. The spokesman added that Israel informed the committee that it planned legislation on these issues for the next month—a month too late for the FATF.

A source in the French Ministry of Trade told *Ha'aretz* yesterday that the list in which Israel has found itself is "the worst club in which to be a member in the international economy today".

RUSSIAN CAPITAL FLIGHT FALLS

UPI, 6/20/00

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin's brief rule has brought a crackdown on illegal capital flight from Russia, with a senior official announcing Tuesday that "only" \$300 million a month was being whisked out of the country every month, compared with between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion per month just over a year ago. **[That's an 80% reduction, with Putin in power for less than 3 months. What might he accomplish over the years of his presidency?]**

Leonid Ratmanov, who heads the Russian Interior Ministry's Department for Fighting Economic Crimes, said improved monitoring of **[the Oligarchs']** import-export operations by police had resulted in a significant decrease in the volume of illegal transfers being made to offshore bank accounts.

Ratmanov estimated that between \$130 billion and \$140 billion had left Russia illegally in the past decade, with most of the transfers being made during the last six to eight years. [Is it any wonder that the people of Russia are impoverished? Thank goodness these criminal activities are being shut down!]

Ratmanov said capital flight had been monitored, with particularly large sums deposited in accounts in the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and the Seychelles, as well as in Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany and the United States **[the new Israeli homeland]**.

Last year, a major scandal involving the Bank of New York erupted over allegations of billions of dollars in funds originating in Russia being laundered through bank accounts in New York.

[JR: The U.S. and Britain are really into the money laundering through the Elite banking systems but since they are running the show, it doesn't get a mention. It is a wise move by Putin to stem the flow of capital out of Russia. A similar policy has helped Malaysia regain solvency—it will work for Russia, too.]

CONGRESS URGED NOT TO LINK ISRAEL AID WITH ARMS TO CHINA

Jewish Bulletin, 6/16/00

WASHINGTON (*JTA*)—The Clinton Administration is pressuring members of Congress to ensure that U.S. aid to Israel is not jeopardized by Israel's plans to sell military technology to China.

Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, has said he would block the cost of the sale—\$250 million—from the nearly \$2.8 billion Israel receives in U.S. aid.

The Administration's effort to block the linkage—and reach a deal with Callahan—comes despite its own public opposition to the sale to China, which it says could endanger U.S. interests in the region.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke with Callahan on Monday and appears to have come close to a deal to stop the proposed cut, according to an official.

Albright also publicly reiterated the Administration position.

"I want to make clear that although the United States has real concerns about the proposed Israeli sale of Phalcon aircraft to China and we are discussing the matter with the Israeli Government, we do not believe that linking this issue to our assistance to Israel is the appropriate way to proceed, and we will oppose any effort on Capitol Hill to do so," she said at a State Department briefing Monday.

Albright's statement came as Callahan's committee was preparing to debate the foreign operations bill. The measure includes \$1.92 billion in military and \$960 million in economic aid to Israel.

The official said Callahan had agreed not to push for the decrease in Israel's aid if Democrats on the subcommittee agreed not to push for early disbursement of the entire aid package to Israel.

Early disbursement, an almost automatic practice in past years, allows Israel to receive its aid at the beginning of the fiscal year, giving it a financial advantage.

It is not clear why Callahan, who has expressed concern about the China deal based on national-security interests, would be satisfied by removing Israel's early disbursement.

Callahan had said he would not block the aid if Defense Secretary William Cohen could assure Congress that the Phalcon sale to China would not endanger American security. Cohen spoke with Callahan last week and asked him not to link the military aid to the Phalcon sale, according to officials.

Callahan's office could not confirm the deal, and last-minute maneuvering appeared likely to continue up until the subcommittee meeting.

AIPAC, which is working hard to stop the Callahan proposal, calls the issue a high priority. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has been lobbying Callahan as well as other members of Congress and the Administration.

"We are opposed to linking Israel's aid under any circumstances because once it starts it never stops," said AIPAC spokesman Kenneth Bricker. **[We wish that were so.]**

Sources say Callahan's move to block aid is unlikely to survive the legislative process.

The Senate has already passed its form of the bill, which includes the full aid package to Israel with no conditional language and no cuts.

[JR: The Israeli lobby must be VERY influential in Washington to receive \$2.8 BILLION from the U.S. in foreign aid. The next article shows just some of the leverage AIPAC has in manipulating Congress.]

WORLD BANK CUTS PROPOSED

Jewish Bulletin, 6/16/00

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Several U.S. lawmakers are proposing to reduce U.S. contributions to the World Bank unless the international body stops the approval of millions of dollars in loans to Iran.

The measure, led by Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Thousand Oaks) and backed by some Jewish groups, would reduce dollar-for-dollar the U.S. appropriation to the World Bank by \$231 million, the amount the global institution plans to provide to Iran.

“This would force the World Bank to think twice about loaning money to Iran,” said Don MacDonald, Sherman’s aide.

In a letter to Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Sherman said the trial of the “Iran 13”, the Jews accused of spying for Israel, is symbolic of Iran’s failure to change its policies. He also noted Iran’s continued support of terrorism.

Congress has acted on similar proposals in the past. In 1994, the foreign aid bill reduced the U.S. appropriation to the World Bank by \$460 million, the amount of the loan package approved for Iran....

...The \$800 million U.S. contribution to the World Bank goes to a global development branch, which provides long-term loans at zero interest to extremely poor countries.

MacDonald acknowledged that some members of Congress would be reluctant to support the measure because it would result in a cut in World Bank funding to nations with few resources.

But if the lawmakers’ proposal is adopted, the \$231 million taken from the World Bank’s international development arm would be transferred to a U.S. counterpart agency, which also supports poorer countries.

While the letter first circulated last week, by Tuesday the proposal had support from only eight members of Congress. If it fails in subcommittee, according to Sherman, there will be a bigger push to get an amendment introduced in the full House Appropriations Committee.

Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called the proposal a “useful step”.

“We support efforts to send a strong message to Iran,” he said.

[JR: This was just a tit-for-tat retaliation after other U.S. legislators threatened to withhold the same amount of “aid” to Israel that Israel was getting for their unauthorized sales of U.S. technology and U.S. AWACS-radar-type planes to China. However, the Israeli lobby has much greater powers in the U.S. (of Israel) Congress and in this Administration to block any cutting of aid to Israel.]

ARMS DEALERS FLOCK TO WOO BEIJING

South China Morning Post, 6/28/00

(AFP)—An international armaments exhibition that opened yesterday in Beijing features several prominent suppliers of military hardware, including Israel, who hope to ink deals with the People’s Liberation Army.

Key European manufacturers like Acatel, Racal Electronics, Marconi and Thomson crowded into the show, sponsored by the PLA, at the Beijing International Exhibition Centre, along with a host of Chinese companies and several American firms including Agilent Technologies, Tektronix and Teradyne.

But it was the joint Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) and Israeli Ministry of Defence stand that outclassed all others with its display of advanced surveillance radar systems, models of Rafael and Barak missile systems and a newly developed laser-guided, anti-tank system.

China is known to be interested both in anti-missile missile technology and laser-guided weaponry. “Of course, we are interested in developing our relationship with the Chinese military. We firmly believe that there are many areas where we can cooperate,” IAI spokesman Noam Zafirir said.

IAI was also hoping to introduce to China its EHUD air-combat simulator training systems, which could help enhance the integration of China’s Air Force, Navy and Army into a coordinated force capable of “winning a limited war under hi-tech conditions”, he said.

Although the Israeli display carried video footage of a Phalcon Advanced Warning And Control System [AWACS] mounted on a Boeing 767, Mr. Zafirir refused to discuss the sale to China of the system, which Israel is fitting to Russian-built Il-76 transport planes. The U.S. has pressured Israel to cancel the sale, which it fears could tip the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait. **[JR: The potential market of the Chinese draws all the greedy dealers. That is the big carrot that China promotes to assure the best deal possible. As always, the Israeli marketing merchants will be first to go where the money is to turn a good profit, no matter how much it hurts the U.S., their major benefactor. Israeli loyalty is only to Israel. It has always been that way, so why is anyone surprised?]**

RUSSIA, CHINA ATTACK WAR COURT

By Harmonie Toros, NewsDay, 6/20/00

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia and China on Tuesday accused the international war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia of anti-Serb bias, after the court’s president proposed new reforms to speed up prosecutions.

The Security Council session once again showed the clear split between NATO allies and Russia and China over issues involving the former Yugoslavia.

“Unfortunately, in the activity of the tribunal, we have seen political ambitions that have emerged and a clear anti-Serb line has been adopted,” Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov charged, after a briefing by tribunal President Claude Jorda.

Lavrov said the court had “predetermined for itself the culprit in the Yugoslav tragedy”, and accused it of turning a blind eye to crimes committed by Croats or Muslims.

“You are affected by politics too much,” deputy Chinese Ambassador Shen Guofang told Jorda.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke [member of

the Bilderbergs, Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission] immediately came to the court’s defense, calling the criticism neither “justified, valid [nor] productive”. He noted that Russia and China participated in the 1995 Dayton peace process that ended the 2½-year war in Bosnia and led to the court’s establishment.

“The United States strongly supports the international tribunal and stands behind its goal to see war criminals brought to justice [unless the criminals are mottoid minions],” Holbrooke said.

Jorda rejected the criticism from Russia and China, saying the court’s judges were impartial and had to be trusted.

“I would like to remind you that the 14 judges have no involvement with any of the states involved in the conflict,” Jorda told a news conference after the council meeting.

During the council session, Jorda said that the tribunal had no obligation to indict or try an equal number of Serbs, Croats and Muslims. That would only politicize the court, he stressed.

In his briefing, Jorda warned the council that the court could still be judging cases in 2016 if reforms—including creating a new pool of judges that would preside over occasional trials—are not carried out.

Jorda said that with increasing cooperation by the countries involved—Croatia’s new pro-democracy Government has chosen to cooperate with the tribunal—and with the growing number of arrests, the court could soon be processing more than 200 cases.

“The workload of the tribunal is now so heavy that should no remedy be found immediately, the institution’s very credibility will be put into question,” Jorda told the council.

Speaking on behalf of the court’s judges, Jorda proposed that professional legal specialists handle the pre-trial phase, from the arrest of the indictees to the first hearing of their trial, instead of the judges.

Jorda also urged the council to consider establishing a pool of reserve judges, which would be called on as soon as a case is ready for trial, if necessary, and just for that trial.

The court was established by the Security Council, which must approve any reform to its structure or mission.

Jorda said the creation of the reserve pool would be cheaper and more effective than calling in more permanent judges to the court.

[JR: There is still a bias here against the Serbs, as they have not cooperated as Croatia has. The judges will follow the dictates of the Power Elite, so how can they be impartial? Note the reprimand from the globalist, Holbrooke, to Russia and China about their objections, since they both participated in the court’s formation in 1995.]

UN, WORLD FINANCE BODIES SET GOALS TO FIGHT POVERTY

By Geir Moulson, Nando Times, 6/26/00

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations teamed up for the first time with world financial institutions Monday on moves to halve extreme poverty in the next 15 years.

Developing countries, disappointed by the lack of action following previous pledges, told a special session of the UN General Assembly it is “time to end the rhetoric”.

The world body, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development presented goals for enrollment of all children in primary school and a two-thirds cut in child mortality by 2015.

The joint study, "A Better World for All", marked the first time the four international organizations had worked together to review progress on social issues.

"Poverty rates can be cut in half by 2015 if countries follow policies that reduce social and gender inequalities and create income-earning opportunities for the poor," the report said.

The report resulted from a request by the Group of Eight leading industrial nations ahead of its July 21-23 summit in Okinawa, Japan, Annan said.

Delegates at the weeklong session conceded that little progress followed a 1995 UN conference in Denmark, where nearly 120 heads of state and government pledged to eradicate poverty.

"The world has spent a lot of time discussing the need to establish social safety nets and a new financial architecture to control capital flows and speculative operations," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen told the gathering. "It is regrettable that so far there is no concrete tangible outcome."

"It is time to end the rhetoric and grapple with concrete actions to resolve the cost-cutting issues currently faced by the world economy."

UN members failed in their pledge to lift out of poverty the 3 billion people—half the world's population—who live on less than \$2 a day, national leaders conceded.

"Our commitments have not been fulfilled. That is a sad fact," Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said. "We could have done better, much better."

UN figures indicate the number living in absolute poverty—less than a dollar a day—has grown to 1.2 billion from about 1 billion in 1995.

Based on current trends, the report said, more than 100 million school-age children will be deprived of an education in 2015.

Cutting rates of child deaths has been slow, especially in Africa, often because of the AIDS virus, it said.

Officials from other developing countries called for more efforts from the rich countries to write off debts and provide development assistance.

Ghana's President, Jerry Rawlings, warned that without more development aid, "our people will emigrate to your countries and will add to the refugee, the social security problems of your very own countries".

Only four countries—Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden—met a long-standing target of contributing 0.7 percent of their gross national product to overseas aid, the report noted.

About 15 heads of state or government, mainly from Africa, are attending what the United Nations is calling a "social summit". Representatives of 168 governments and nine observers are expected to speak during the week.

[JR: The UN receives a 0-minus on their report card for relieving the misery of the world. The cycle of poverty is promoted and continues because the UN's policies prevent self-development in impoverished countries—and the UN also controls their assets and supports the dictators that protect

the globalists' interests. I agree, it's time to end the rhetoric—you hypocrites!]

SECOND TYCOON UNDER FIRE
FROM RUSSIAN PROSECUTORS

Reuters, 6/22/00

MOSCOW—The head of one of the world's largest metals producers asked President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to shield him from prosecutors threatening to seize his company, as talk spread of a Kremlin war against tycoons.

Shares in Norilsk Nickel, a huge mining complex near the Arctic Ocean that is the world's top producer of nickel and palladium, plunged 10 percent following Tuesday's news that prosecutors aimed to reverse its privatization.

The case against Norilsk follows the arrest last week of Vladimir Gusinsky, a media magnate who controls Russia's only nationwide independent television network, and some newspapers and liberal politicians suggested a link.

"If they can arrest Gusinsky, what is to stop them from declaring null and void... all privatization deals in general?" wrote the daily *Kommersant*.

Newspapers said [**the Elite-controlled ones, anyway**] the two cases suggested a crackdown on tycoons hostile to a narrow group closely aligned to the Kremlin.

Wednesday Moscow's arbitration court sent the Norilsk case back, asking for it to be split into several sections, leaving the firm's fate unclear.

Vladimir Potanin, a former First Deputy Premier who became one of the wealthiest and most powerful of Russia's "Oligarchs" when he won control of Norilsk in the mid-1990s, sent a letter to Putin asking for his help.

"Unfortunately, Norilsk Nickel has suffered a blow. The price of the company's shares has fallen significantly, which cannot but have an impact on the entire Russian market," he wrote.

"A quick, just, unbiased decision on this question would help normalize the situation surrounding Norilsk Nickel and would certainly be a good sign for investors whose investments are so needed by our economy."

Potanin was one of 17 industrialists who signed an open letter last week calling for the release of Gusinsky, the executive who was charged with fraud and freed on condition that he not leave Moscow.

Potanin told Gusinsky's NTV television Wednesday that he had no grounds to conclude that there was a political motive behind the case against Norilsk, and that he expected to have his day in court and win.

"The prosecutor's office is fully entitled to investigate," he said. "I have simply drawn Vladimir Vladimirovich's [Putin's] attention to the fact that this situation is at the center of the public's attention."

"The prosecutors are supposed to be defending the interests of the state," Potanin said. "Is the normal functioning of a large, tax-paying enterprise not the interest of the state?"

Norilsk was one of the businesses privatized in the mid-1990s under a shares-for-loans plan whereby banks offered the state loans in return for the right to manage shares in companies. The loans were never returned, and the stakes were later tendered and then bought by structures close to the lenders.

[JR: The Khazarian Oligarchs have made a greedy

grab for the assets and industries of Russia through their connections at the IMF/WB. The media spin that these cases are the act of a revengeful few in the Kremlin is to deflect the seriousness of their position. Putin wants back what was taken—and to clean out the corruption in Russia.]

EU PRAISES PUTIN, OFFERS LOW-KEY
WARNING ON PRESS, CHECHNYA

Daily News, 6/19/00

FEIRA, PORTUGAL (AFP)—EU leaders reiterated support for Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit here Tuesday, while issuing a low-key warning on media freedom and the situation in Chechnya.

"A strong and healthy partnership must be maintained between the Union and Russia based on common values, notably respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms," leaders of the 15 member states said in a statement concluding two days of talks in this northern Portuguese town.

The EU, it added, "offers its support to the efforts being made by President Putin and the new Russian Government to modernise and reform their country".

"Democratic institutions, the rule of law, a market-oriented economy with an effective regulatory framework and tax structures and accession to the WTO are the only means of building and sustaining the investor confidence necessary for the successful development of the Russian economy." [Gee, how would Dr. Mahathir respond to this BS?]

The bloc "stands ready to assist Russia in meeting these aspirations", the statement said.

EU leaders, however, reminded Russia that "independent media must be given a chance to play an important role in an open and democratic society" but made no specific reference to the controversial detention of Russian media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky last week.

Turning to Chechnya, where Russian action has been criticised but not sanctioned by the EU, the summit urged Moscow to stand by previous pledges on the breakaway republic.

"These include avoiding the excessive use of force and any spillover of the conflict, pursuit of a political process including elected Chechen representatives, effective independent investigation into human-rights abuses, cooperation with the Council of Europe, support for the OSCE Assistance Group in resuming its mandate and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid."

At a Russia-EU summit last May, Putin vowed to punish Russian soldiers guilty of abuses in Chechnya but warned that human-rights concerns would not stall Moscow's bid to restore order in the rebel republic.

That summit was the first between Putin and the EU leadership team.

In March, the Union imposed mild sanctions on Moscow to protest the Chechnya crackdown, cutting the quota for steel imported from Russia by 12 percent and freezing some technical aid.

The Union is Russia's largest trading partner, accounting for 33 percent of Russian commerce and providing a third of foreign investment. Moscow enjoyed a trade surplus of 10 billion euros (9.3 billion dollars) with the bloc in 1999.

Putin meanwhile began wooing European leaders

last week with a quick series of visits and a suggestion that Europe join Russia and NATO in building a regional anti-missile center in Moscow.

[JR: Putin has been successful in gaining support of the EU membership in strengthening Russia's position again as a world leader. It seems he has also deflected their focus on his purging of the Oligarchs who took over Russian media and resource industries. This bear won't dance to their Yiddish tunes.]

CRITIC ACCUSES PENTAGON
OF TRYING TO SILENCE HIM

By David Abel, *Boston Globe*, 6/24/00

As the debate heats up over whether [or not] the United States should build a national missile defense, one of the program's leading critics, an MIT professor, is charging the Pentagon with trying to silence him.

This week, three agents from the Pentagon's Defense Security Service arrived unannounced at Theodore A. Postol's office at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They said they came to show the outspoken physicist classified documents, Postol said.

But Postol said he refused to look at the papers stamped "SECRET". Recalling the Army's attempt to classify his critical analysis of Raytheon Corp.'s Patriot missile after the 1991 Gulf War, he believes the agents' visit was a ruse to prevent him from speaking out further against the proposed antimissile system, which has already cost at least \$60 billion.

"I definitely saw this as potential for entrapment and a means of intimidation," said Postol, so miffed that he wrote a letter to John Podesta, President Clinton's Chief of Staff, after the Wednesday morning visit. "By showing me classified information, they could say I was talking about classified information. I saw it as a means of abridging my *First-Amendment* rights."

The surprise visit came more than a month after Postol, once one of the military's top science advisers, made headlines after a letter he wrote to the White House detailed potential pitfalls in the Clinton Administration's missile-defense plan and exposed what he says is evidence of a cover-up.

In the letter, the 54-year-old professor explained why he and many scientists believe current technology is incapable of defeating a ballistic-missile attack. The essence of his dissent is that the system being developed can't differentiate a potential enemy's decoys from its warheads. **A few balloons, he said, might be sufficient to fool current or future antimissiles.**

But shortly after the letter arrived at the White House, officials sent it to the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Office. Officials there promptly classified Postol's findings, even though the letter had already been posted on the Internet. The move echoed the Army's attempt to muzzle him after the Gulf War, Postol said.

Although Postol says he never received a call before the Pentagon agents popped into his office, and accuses the security service of improperly handling secret documents, a Defense Security Service

spokeswoman said the agents repeatedly tried to contact the professor and followed strict protocol in presenting the information.

Caryl Clubb, a Defense Security Service spokeswoman, said the agents went to Postol's office to deliver a letter from the Service's deputy chief of staff for industrial security. The document detailed areas in which Postol's White House letter contained classified information, she said.

"The purpose of our visit was to prevent the further disclosure of classified information," Clubb said. "We in no way, shape or form meant to get him to stop speaking out."

But Postol and others describe the visit as a tactic they say the Government has used before to silence informed dissidents with high-level security clearances. A scientific adviser to the chief of naval operations in the 1980s, Postol has top-secret clearances at the departments of energy and defense.

Yet all the information he assembled in his White House letter, he contends, came from a lawsuit filed by a senior engineer against the military contractor TRW Inc., which accused the contractor of sending the Pentagon fraudulent performance reports about a key portion of the antimissile system.

If Postol had consented to view the letter, he said, he would be obliged not to talk about its contents, even if the information was identical to what he previously published. The penalty for revealing the contents of a classified document ranges from the loss of security clearances to a prison sentence.

"This entire episode is Kafkaesque," said Democratic U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey of Malden, who said he plans to ask the General Accounting Office to investigate. "First, you have the Government classifying a report raising questions about potential fraud... then you have Government agents showing up at the author's office, trying to force him to read a classified document that he doesn't want to read."

Joseph Cirincione, Director of the Nonproliferation Center at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said it "appears they were trying to force-feed him classified material for reasons other than his education on this matter".

Jennifer Weeks, a former congressional military analyst who runs a project on nuclear policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, said the episode might have been a clumsy attempt to explain the missile program to Postol.

"I think it's plausible this was an effort to silence him," she said. "It also may have just been a dumb, badly managed way of showing him classified information."

Postol, though, has no doubts.

"This wasn't an accident," he said. "They knew what they were doing."

[JR: Kafka would love the irony of it all. This is a clumsy attempt by the Government to entrap an individual who is qualified enough to question the funding of a system that has yet to prove itself. After \$60 billion spent, it has only been tested once and yet the Administration insists to move ahead with it. There must be some big campaign contributors behind this.]

U.S. QUIETLY DROPS "ROGUE STATE"
FROM FOREIGN POLICY LEXICON

AFP, 6/20/00

The United States has quietly dropped the use of the term "rogue state" from its foreign policy lexicon in favor of the broader categorization "state of concern" to allow greater flexibility in its dealings with those nations, the State Department said Monday.

Spokesman Richard Boucher said "rogue state"—a description commonly but not officially used for the seven countries designated by Washington as state sponsors of terrorism—"has outlived its usefulness", noting reforms and changes in the behavior of several of those nations.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, speaking earlier on a national radio program, mentioned the change in passing while speaking of North Korea, sanctions against which were formally eased on Monday.

"We are now calling these states 'states of concern' because we are concerned about their support for terrorist activity, their development of missiles, their desire to disrupt the international system," she said.

But Boucher, noting the change had evolved over several months, said "states of concern" is "a better description or a different description because a single description, one size fits all, doesn't really fit anymore". "This is not a cookie-cutter approach," he said of the manner in which Washington was seeking to engage countries that take positive steps or punish those who do not.

"It's an attempt to say that we have to deal with each situation as it comes... it's a recognition that we have seen some evolution in different ways in different places and that we will deal appropriately with each one based on the kind of evolution we're seeing," Boucher told reporters.

The change does not affect sanctions that are placed on the seven designated terrorism sponsors but reflects a recognition that some are progressing in U.S. eyes and could no longer be fairly identified as "rogues", he said.

In addition, despite maintaining a decades-old embargo on Cuba, the United States has eased some restrictions to encourage "people-to-people" contacts with civilians on the communist island and there is a strong effort in Congress to lift sanctions further.

The only other country on the state sponsors of terrorism list, Iraq, appears not to benefit at all from the change from "rogue" to "state of concern".

[JR: As Shakespeare (Bacon) said: "...false face must hide what a false heart doth know". To reverse the obvious failures in diplomacy by our State Department, we have to change the terms we use against our perceived (targeted) enemies. "States of concern" is so much more politically correct and refined, don't you think? By the way, a "rogue" is a scoundrel, rascal or slang for thief—not a non-conformist state.]

KHATAMI: "UNITE AGAINST WESTERN
DOMINANCE"

BBC News, 6/23/00

The Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, on his first visit to China, has called on Asian civilisations to unite against Western dominance.

In a speech to several hundred students at the

prestigious Beijing University, Mr. Khatami said both their countries were cradles of human civilisation with cultural and spiritual bonds that reached back over many centuries.

He insisted that the cultural, economic and political systems of the world could not be left to the whims of the dominant powers—a clear reference to the U.S. and its Western [Khazarian] allies.

“In the current process of globalisation, the needs of the under-developed countries should not be overlooked,” he said.

He paid tribute to Asia as an international force to be reckoned with and praised the Chinese people.

“The power of Asia is the power of the world. The future belongs to hard working and courageous people of the world, and the people of China are hard working, courageous, meticulous and clever, and I foresee a very bright future for them,” he said.

Mr. Khatami visited the Forbidden Palace, the former home of Chinese emperors, and will go over the weekend to the mainly Muslim city of Kashgar in western China.

Beijing is concerned about the spread of militant Islam in western China and hopes the Iranian President can help improve the security situation in the region.

Chinese officials tend to portray Islam as thriving under communist rule, but Xinjiang Province is a cauldron of tensions in which religion is increasingly playing a role.

Uighurs, ethnically Turkic Muslims, have been waging a simmering rebellion against Chinese rule there.

While the separatists once drew inspiration from Iran’s Islamic revolution, they more recently turned to militant forms of Sunni Islam propagated by Afghanistan’s Taliban.

It is unclear what Mr. Khatami can do to help, as most of the aid for the militants comes from Afghanistan, not from Iran.

Although the 170-strong Iranian delegation includes defence officials, Beijing says the visit has “nothing to do with the issue of military cooperation”.

China is a major source of arms for Iran, but both sides insist that will not be on the agenda this time around.

A joint communique said China and Iran were “committed to a world free from nuclear, biological or chemical weapons” but upheld their right to the peaceful use of such technology under international supervision.

President Khatami arrived in Beijing on Thursday on a five-day state visit as a guest of President Jiang Zemin.

Both governments are eager to improve relations and economic ties, and on the first day of the visit the two leaders signed a number of cooperation agreements.

If all the deals are realised, China could become Iran’s biggest trading partner.

According to China, bilateral trade grew to \$1.3 billion in 1999.

“I believe that the visit of the President of Iran will be beneficial to the improvement of bilateral relations in all areas,” Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said on Friday....

[JR: The intractable U.S. foreign policy has provided China with alliances that are improving her status in Asia and the Middle East. The U.S. has coincidentally, as of today (6/27/00), removed North Korea, Iran, Libya, Sudan and Cuba from the rogue

states list—correction—“states of concern” list. Coincidence? NO!]

PENTAGON SAYS CHINA PREPARING FOR HIGH-TECH WAR AGAINST U.S.

USDefense.com, 6/23/00

UNITED STATES—China is preparing for a high-tech war against the United States and key Asian U.S. allies by building a modern military force incorporating information- and laser-weapon technology.

In an unclassified version of a larger, classified report issued to Congress by the Pentagon Thursday, U.S. officials said Beijing is building up military forces in preparation for a possible conflict with the United States over Taiwan.

According to a report in Friday’s *Washington Times*, the unclassified version of the annual report to Congress states that “a cross-strait conflict between China and Taiwan involving the United States has emerged as the dominant scenario guiding [People’s Liberation Army] force planning, military training and war preparation”.

The report said Chinese central planners are entertaining the notion of speeding up military construction and development after the U.S.-led NATO campaign against Yugoslavia last year.

Because of the U.S. bombing of China’s embassy in Belgrade, the report said, China is discussing ways to “offset U.S. power, to include accelerating military modernization, pursuing strategic cooperation with Russia and increasing China’s proliferation activities abroad”.

If the United States were to defend Taiwan in the face of a Chinese military invasion, Beijing would be compelled to “employ all means necessary in the hope of inflicting high casualties and weakening the intervening party’s resolve”, the report said.

Oddly, a separate *Associated Press* report on the same unclassified version of the Pentagon’s assessment report said Department of Defense planners believed that China was not very likely to attack Taiwan “because the Chinese believe war would jeopardize their economic growth and world standing”.

However, the *Times* said, “the review in the past has pitted defense planners who have sought to play down the threat from China against other officials who contend the United States must prepare now to deal with China’s growing military power”.

That could explain the differences in perception of the Pentagon’s report.

Nevertheless, the report outlines China’s development of new weapons and high technology including information warfare, laser and anti-satellite weapons, and new missiles, ships and aircraft.

Pentagon officials, even prior to Thursday’s report, have said China is acquiring an array of weapons designed for—or which could be used for—a “pre-emptive strike” against Taiwan, including bolstering ballistic missile forces on the mainland’s southernmost military region facing the island democracy.

According to the *Times*, the report states that Beijing’s missile force will “grow substantially” with new missile facilities being built opposite Taiwan. The new bases mean China could attack the island “with little or no warning”.

“Should China decide to attack Taiwan, Beijing’s

goal would be to erode Taipei’s will to fight with sufficient alacrity to avoid escalation of the conflict and potential third-party intervention in the hope of forcing a political resolution in Beijing’s favor,” said the report.

Currently, however, both press accounts said the Chinese have limited capabilities to launch amphibious, air and ground attacks against Taiwan.

Last month, though, a Chinese “white paper” discovered by U.S. intelligence and military officials said Beijing was planning a fall blockade of Taiwan, in anticipation of a later invasion, if Taipei continued to refuse reunification with the mainland under its “one China” principle.

Quoting the Pentagon assessment report, the *Times* said, “A PLA amphibious invasion of Taiwan probably would be preceded by a naval blockade, air assaults and missile attacks on Taiwan. Airborne, air-mobile and special-operations forces likely would conduct simultaneous attacks to the rear of Taiwan’s coastal defenses to seize a port, preferably in close proximity to an airfield.”

U.S. officials who have seen the classified version of the report say the public version appears to have been modified to play down the more ominous elements of Chinese military activities, such as Beijing’s recent threats against the United States and Taiwan, the *Times* report said.

Chinese military writings this year have also suggested that Beijing is prepared to use nuclear weapons against the U.S., if Washington intervenes against it on Taiwan’s behalf.

[JR: We keep focusing on China to keep you updated as to our relations with her and Russia, which are tenuous at best. The Chinese can block our access through the South Pacific and East Asia with assistance from Russia. This is a serious scenario for the U.S., which might not be able to always control the situation the way it has in the past.]

RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR LEAVES SECURITY COUNCIL OVER YUGOSLAVIA BAN

By Edith M. Lederer, *Nando Times*, 6/23/00

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Complaining that “gagging people’s mouths” sets a dangerous precedent, Russia’s UN ambassador walked out of the Security Council on Friday after its members refused to allow Yugoslavia to participate in a debate on the Balkans.

“To discuss the Balkan problems without the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is nonsense,” Russia’s UN Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said after the 15-member council voted 7-4 with four abstentions to bar Yugoslavia’s UN envoy from the meeting.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke had urged council members to exclude Yugoslavia’s representative, Vladislav Jovanovic, saying, “he represents a government whose senior leadership has been indicted for war crimes”.

“We recommend that the council state clearly and unequivocally that it rejects the policies of hatred and war espoused by the Belgrade regime, that it does not tolerate abuses of human rights, and fully supports the efforts of the war-crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia to prosecute all—I repeat all—of those who have been indicted,” Holbrooke said.

After the vote to bar Yugoslavia, Lavrov reminded

council members that under the *UN Charter*, even a state that is not in the United Nations has a right to participate when it is a party to a situation under discussion in the Security Council.

“A very dangerous precedent has thus been created when states that are unpalatable for political reasons are being isolated from participation in the work of the United Nations,” Lavrov said.

“Gagging people’s mouths is not the best way to discuss the acute international problems in this way,” he declared.

Stating that without Yugoslavia’s participation the council meeting had lost “its practical meaning”, Lavrov then got up and left the council chamber. A lower-ranking diplomat sat down in Russia’s seat shortly afterward.

The 7-4-4 vote reflected not only the long-standing divisions in the council over Yugoslavia but uneasiness among some of the 10 elected council members over excluding a key party to a matter before the council.

Russia and China had traditionally been Yugoslavia’s strongest supporters on the council. The United States, supported by its Western allies, has opposed any dealings with the Yugoslav Government led by President Slobodan Milosevic, who has been indicted for war crimes.

Argentina’s UN Ambassador Arnaldo Listre, explaining his abstention, said it did not imply any support or sympathy for the Belgrade regime but was based “on serious doubts” about the appropriateness of denying Yugoslavia’s participation.

Ukraine’s UN Ambassador, Volodymyr Yel’Chenko, who supported Yugoslavia’s participation, noted that last week representatives of rebel groups fighting in the Congo sat at the council table, reflecting the importance of including all key players to a dispute.

The procedural vote overshadowed the briefings by Carl Bildt, the special envoy to the Balkans of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Javier Solana, the European Union’s foreign and security policy chief.

[JR: What a hypocrite! Holbrooke would do well to practice what he preaches—like rejecting the policies of hatred and war. The exclusion of Yugoslavia clearly establishes the U.S. and its allies as the sole arbitrator for the Balkan region. Yugoslavia is now targeted as the Iraq of Eastern Europe.]

CASE TO TEST A TWIST IN STATE’S HATE-CRIME LAW

Star Tribune, 6/23/00

APPLETON, WISCONSIN (AP)—A Seymour man accused of making anti-Semitic remarks when he allegedly hit a woman is being charged with a hate crime.

The fact the woman and her husband, a co-worker of the accused man, aren’t Jewish doesn’t prevent prosecution of the case as a hate crime, Outagamie County Assistant District Attorney Mitchell J. Metropulos said.

William A. Cheslock was charged with felony battery and disorderly conduct as hate crimes.

A judge Friday set Cheslock’s arraignment for Tuesday. Cheslock is free on a \$1,000 signature bond, authorities said.

According to the criminal complaint, Cheslock, 29, a shop worker at Baum Machine, often taunted a co-worker with anti-Semitic remarks and accused him of not doing his job.

At a company Christmas party last year, Cheslock punched the co-worker’s wife, a Roman Catholic, in her face and made numerous anti-Semitic remarks about her husband, a Lutheran, the complaint said.

Cheslock’s attorney, Alan Tarnowski, said his client vigorously disputes the allegations. “I think it’s just a matter of a big misunderstanding, really,” the attorney said.

Metropulos said the law is very clear that Cheslock can be charged with a hate crime.

“If (the perpetrator’s) motivation was driven by hatred because of someone’s religion, the law applies regardless of the victim’s true religion,” the prosecutor said.

Wisconsin Attorney General James Doyle said the state’s hate crime law was changed in the early 1990s to address exactly such tangled situations.

If convicted of the charges, Cheslock could be sentenced to a maximum of three years in prison.

Without the hate-crime enhancer, the maximum punishment is a year in jail.

[JR: I guess there aren’t enough Jews to protect in Wisconsin, so they have to make a broad revision in their hate-crime law. They can just prosecute by inference. It looks like the rats have moved into the cheese state.]

FOREIGN POWERS PROBING U.S. NETWORKS: OFFICIAL

By Jim Wolf, *Excite News*, 6/19/00

WASHINGTON (*Reuters*)—A top aide to President Clinton said Monday that unspecified hostile countries were probing U.S. computer networks for ways to spark mayhem if war broke out.

“This is not theoretical. It’s real,” said Richard Clarke, the White House National Security Council staff coordinator for security, infrastructure protection and counter-terrorism.

For years, Clarke has been warning of the threat of an “electronic Pearl Harbor” in the form of blitzes on the computerized infrastructure that increasingly binds the United States.

In remarks to a cyber-security conference, he said several countries were carrying out “electronic reconnaissance today on our civilian infrastructure computer networks”.

They were “looking for ways that they could attack the United States in a time of war”, Clarke told the session organized by the American Enterprise Institute, a public policy research group in Washington.

He declined to identify any power allegedly carrying out such surveillance and also declined to contradict a fellow panel member, Richard Perle, who singled out North Korea by name.

Perle, an Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy from 1981 to 1987, said U.S. authorities had detected “intrusions” into U.S. networks from North Korea, the last Stalinist bastion. He said North Korean hackers had left behind a malicious code designed for possible activation as a kind of Trojan Horse.

Pressed on the source of his information, Perle

handed the question to Clarke, who said he would leave it to the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, George Tenet, to declassify the identities of alleged culprits.

CIA and other national-security officials have told Congress that China and Russia are among countries allegedly developing “information warfare” capabilities to deal with lopsided U.S. conventional force strength.

For its part, the U.S. Defense Department plans to make cyber blitzes on a foe’s computer networks a standard tool of war, Air Force General Richard Myers, now the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in January.

Clarke, in his comments to the conference, said he was trying to prod Congress and the public to ward off a potential computer attack “in which cities have lost electrical power and telephones, gas pipelines are blowing up across the country, trains have been derailed across the country”.

“A lot of people are going to be willing to throw civil liberties out the window” after any such computer attack, he said.

“I don’t know that we had enemy aircraft flying over Pearl Harbor day after day before the attack for reconnaissance,” he said. “If we did, we might have done something about it.” **[He doesn’t know history well enough to know that the attack on Pearl Harbor was NO SURPRISE.]**

“Well, we have the equivalent today of enemy aircraft flying over the target... doing electronic reconnaissance on our networks.

“And I cannot understand how we as a nation don’t see that and don’t react,” Clarke added, faulting the Republican-led Congress for failing to fund new cyber-security programs called for in Clinton’s budget for fiscal 2001, which begins Oct. 1.

Earlier in the day, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno urged high-tech companies to step up cooperation with law-enforcement officials battling cyber crime.

Acknowledging private-sector qualms about divulging security breaches, she vowed to minimize the impact of federal investigations on cyber-crime victims.

“Today, I call on leaders in the high-tech industry to address this problem and take concrete steps to report and encourage others to report cyber-crime incidents to law enforcement,” she told a “Cyber Crime summit” in Herndon, Virginia, outside Washington.

[JR: A cyber attack on the U.S. is as real a probability as any missile attack and would probably be more effective. The technological geniuses have provided the military with secret weaponry that would both startle and boggle the minds of most of us.]

RUSSIA, CHINA AGREE ON ISSUES OF STRATEGIC STABILITY— RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Interfax, 7/4/00

DUSHANBE—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov has said Russia and China see eye-to-eye on strategic stability and on keeping the 1972 *ABM Treaty* intact.

“Our position and that of China are the same,” Ivanov told journalists in Dushanbe after Tuesday’s meeting of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Five countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia, and Tajikistan).

Commenting on the meeting, Ivanov said that “the final document will quite obviously reflect the positions of all five states in the support of strategic stability, with the retention and preservation in its entirety of the *ABM Treaty*.” The Russian Minister noted that U.S. initiatives to deploy a national anti-ballistic missile system were not addressed at the meeting.

A general document drafted at the session will be added along with a declaration on the need to keep the 1972 *ABM Treaty* intact, the Minister said.

STATS SHOW “FEDERALIZATION” OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

By M. Hedges, *Scripps Howard News Service*, 5/31/00

The first comprehensive gathering of federal arrest figures portrays a growing federal law-enforcement presence in the United States, with increases in the numbers of federal agents, prosecutions and convictions.

Fueled by an expanding war on drugs and greater efforts to curtail illegal immigration, the number of federal criminal court cases rose nearly 13 percent between 1997 and 1998, part of an expansion of federal police power that concerns critics.

Federal agents arrested 106,139 in 1998, according to Justice Department statistics.

Almost half of those apprehended were for drug law or immigration violations. More than 43,000 people were sent to federal prisons that year, for an average sentence of almost five years.

The figures were released Wednesday by the Bureau of Justice Statistics as part of the first-ever comprehensive compilation of federal arrest data, according to Bureau Director Jan Chaiken.

There were 83,000 federal law-enforcement officers in 1998, including 33,000 in four Justice Department agencies that conduct nearly three out of four federal criminal investigations: the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Marshals Service.

That number has risen steadily since 1993, when there were 69,000 federal agents, with about 24,000 of them in the DEA, FBI and immigration and marshals services.

In one year, from 1997 to 1998, the number of people brought to trial in federal court rose from 69,351 to 78,172, a 12.7 percent increase.

Of those, 87 percent were convicted, usually as a result of a guilty plea.

The past decade has seen a steady rise in the percentage of those convicted in federal court who go to prison. In 1998, 71 percent of those found guilty were incarcerated, compared to just 60 percent in 1990.

The average sentence for the 43,041 convicted in federal court was four years, eleven months.

Some analysts and legal experts see in the statistics a confirmation of the “federalization” of law enforcement in America.

“Under our constitutional system, the federal Government is supposed to have a very limited crime-fighting role,” said Tim Lynch, an analyst with the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington. “But for the past 20 years, it seems every session of Congress has escalated the drug war, and that has led to an increase in federal agents, federal prisons and the federal court system.”

Edward Mallett, a Houston lawyer and the incoming President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said, “What is being reported here is pretty much what one would expect... The federalization of some formerly state offenses accounts for some of this.”

Mallett said that in Texas, as the number of federal law-enforcement agents involved in anti-drug and anti-immigration activities has grown, the threshold for triggering a federal crime has fallen.

“Cases federal prosecutors would have declined a year ago, they are prosecuting now,” he said. “They used to turn down drug prosecutions under five kilos; now they’ll prosecute for an ounce and a half. They’re looking for work.”

Since 1990, the number of people being held in federal jails awaiting trial or deportation has grown rapidly from just over 140,000 to more than 200,000. The number of inmates in federal prison is up more than 90 percent for the same period, from 57,000 to 109,000.

One striking figure in the report, according to legal experts, is the high number of guilty pleas—more than eight out of 10—among people prosecuted by federal attorneys.

Joseph diGenova, a former U.S. Attorney in Washington, said mandatory minimum prison sentences passed by Congress several years ago have changed the dynamic of federal prosecutions.

Most defendants in a federal prosecution try to aggressively challenge an indictment, but once charged, immediately plea-bargain rather than risk stiff sentences, diGenova said.

Lynch, the Cato Institute analyst, said the growing number of federal prosecutions in America “represents a self-fulfilling prophecy. It is the success of a bureaucracy. As you federalize more crimes and expand federal law, you increase the number of arrests and convictions.”

STOP, IN THE NAME OF THE HOLOCAUST

The Sunday Times—UK, 6/11/00

[Even Jewish people are becoming aware of the outrageous nature of claims of “the” “Holocaust”, a trillion-dollar lie designed to be used as a cloaking device for the Elite controllers to hide behind.]

“I sometimes think,” writes the American academic Dr. Norman Finkelstein, “the worst thing that ever happened to the Nazi Holocaust was that American Jewry discovered it.”

The quotation comes from Finkelstein’s explosive and bitterly angry book *The Holocaust Industry*, to be published here next month. It accuses those who exploit the Holocaust of telling lies, conniving in Israeli atrocities, and of naked greed. The pursuit of reparations from Swiss bankers and others is damned as “an outright extortion racket”. The ruthless industrialisation of the Holocaust has encouraged the rebirth of anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States. And, in conversation with me, he said the fascination with Holocaust memorials and museums—the latest being the permanent exhibition at London’s Imperial War Museum, opened by the Queen last week—was “a kind of circus”.

If any of this had been written or said by a non-Jew with no direct experience of the Holocaust, it would

have been savaged as anti-Semitism or, worse, Holocaust denial. But Finkelstein is a Jew—though non-observant—both of whose parents were survivors of the Warsaw ghetto and concentration camps. All the members of their families were wiped out by the Nazis. Even so, his views make him an outcast among the American Jewish establishment and define him, for many, as an enemy of Israel. So, why has he done it?

“I will not have,” he shouts down the phone from New York, “the suffering of my parents used for any ulterior purpose, whether it be the prevention of the assimilation of Jews or the defence of Israel.”

Finkelstein’s father never spoke of his experience, but his mother spoke of little else. Yet, he recalls, even she was disgusted at the rise of the Holocaust industry in America. There were, he says, only 60,000 Jewish survivors of the camps and 20,000 of those died in the first week after liberation. Yet, in the 1960s and 1970s, many of his parents’ friends started claiming to be survivors. Soon everybody was a victim of the great martyrdom.

“I’m not exaggerating when I say that one out of three Jews you stop in the street in New York will claim to be a survivor. And, since 1993, the industry has been claiming that 10,000 survivors have been dying every month. That is completely impossible. It would mean that there were 8 million survivors in 1945, but there were only 7 million Jews in German-occupied Europe before the War.”

Finkelstein says the Holocaust industry was born at the time of the Six-Day War in June 1967—before that both the Holocaust and Israel were scarcely mentioned in American public life. But it was not born, as many have said, out of fear for the survival of Israel; rather it sprang from American strategic interests. Israel became the American surrogate in the Middle East and the Holocaust was evoked morally to justify the alliance. Israel became the defender of U.S. values and, since America at that time was losing the Vietnam War, it was a more effective defender than America herself.

The American Jewish Elite embraced the cause of Israel and created the contemporary image of the Holocaust. Finkelstein highlights the power of this Elite by pointing out that Jewish income is almost double that of non-Jews, 16 of the 40 wealthiest Americans are Jews, 40% of Nobel prize-winners in science and economics are Jewish, 20% of professors at main universities are Jewish, as are 40% of partners in law firms in New York and Washington.

Led by campaigners such as Simon Wiesenthal and Elie Wiesel—Finkelstein claims the latter gets a minimum lecture fee of \$25,000 plus chauffeured limousine—the industry insists on the unique nature of the atrocity. It can be compared, they say, to nothing else. Finkelstein—rightly, I believe—identifies this as the intellectual heart of the matter.

Wiesel and others insist that the Holocaust stands outside history and rational discussion. The only final response is silent incomprehension. This position has become so extreme that any attempt to compare it with other episodes of human cruelty—Finkelstein mentions the deaths of 10 million Africans in the Congo as a result of the Belgian ivory and rubber trade—is often met with accusations of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

The result is that America is dotted with Holocaust museums and memorials, but there is none for the many more victims of Communism. There is not one

even for the gypsies and the mentally and physically disabled who died under Nazism. Finkelstein says that a higher proportion of the gypsy population of Europe died than of the Jewish.

And, at his most scathing, Finkelstein points out that there are no memorials to the millions who died in the slave trade or in the genocidal campaign against the American Indians. The presence of the Holocaust Museum in Washington “is particularly incongruous in the absence of a museum commemorating crimes in the course of American history”.

“My parents would never have claimed that the Holocaust was unique,” he says, “they would have said that it made them sympathetic to the suffering of other oppressed people.”

The danger of the uniqueness argument is that it blinds us to the possibility of other forms of evil. People see the Holocaust museums and memorials, they see the face of Hitler, and they think that that is what evil is like. The truth is that evil also wore the masks of Stalin, Lenin, Mao and Pol Pot. And, if we are convinced that evil must wear jackboots and a little moustache, we may not recognise it the next time round.

Finkelstein adds that the leaders of the Holocaust industry use the uniqueness argument to convince themselves of their own virtue. If this particular suffering and martyrdom were worse than any other for the victims—including indirect victims such as contemporary Jews and the whole state of Israel—then who dares say a word against the moral stature of those who daily remind us?

So, is he right? Well, in one key sense, he must be. The Holocaust cannot be unique. Every starved, tortured and murdered person, of any race, has something in common with the victims of Auschwitz. The idea that one historical event is different from all others is plainly irrational. It is also dangerous because it silences discussion and analysis of the Holocaust, and when that happens we lose our ability to learn anything.

“The challenge today,” writes Finkelstein, “is to restore the Nazi Holocaust as a rational subject of inquiry... The abnormality of the Nazi Holocaust springs not from the event itself but from the exploitive industry that has grown up around it... The noblest gesture for those who perished is to preserve their memory, learn from their suffering and let them, finally, rest in peace.”

But is he right that the Holocaust industry is entirely self-serving, corrupt and destructive? It is true that it has produced absurd fantasists like Benjamin Wilkomirski, who have persuaded publishers and scholars of the truth of their fabricated tales of survival under the Nazis. Many of the claims of those who pursue reparations are plainly outrageous, and I do not doubt that the political ruthlessness with which many of these claims have been enforced is, as Finkelstein says, encouraging a new wave of anti-Semitism.

But there is, in his book, a serious problem of tone. It is a rant, and Finkelstein is a man obsessed. Those who know nothing of these matters are likely to doubt the scholarship that underpins such savagely expressed conviction. They may also feel that there cannot be that much wrong with the desire to remember the 5.1 million—Finkelstein’s figure is typically fewer than the 6 million claimed by others—who were unquestionably murdered by the Nazis. However questionable the intellectual climate that inspired it, the Imperial War Museum’s exhibition is an impressively sombre

experience that cannot be gainsaid. It happened, and this is how it happened. It is a fair criticism to say that other awful things happened, and they should be remembered, but that does not in itself deny the legitimacy of the exhibition. Finkelstein would have been more persuasive if he had accepted that much of his opposition’s case.

Nevertheless, his attack on the Holocaust industry could well have far-reaching effects. An acceptance of his broad case would, ultimately, weaken American support for Israel, as it would undermine the sympathy created by the idea of the unique suffering of the Jews. It might also, by removing the cultural adhesive of the Holocaust experience, accelerate the process of assimilation—the dilution of Jewish identity primarily by “marrying out”—which has already resulted in the “loss” of millions of *diaspora* Jews in the United States and elsewhere.

Finkelstein is not too concerned about either of these outcomes. He would like the Israeli case to be more rationally considered and, though he acknowledges the ethnic loss involved in assimilation, he prefers the Martin Luther King position that people should come together irrespective of the colour of their skin, their race or their beliefs.

I’m not so sure. I like the Jews and I like Israel and I do not have to close my eyes to its shortcomings. If the Holocaust has become a brand name—which, I agree, it has—then that is a big problem. But there are some babies you really don’t throw out with the bath water, and Jewishness is one of them.

The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering, by Norman G. Finkelstein, is to be published by Verso on July 20, 2000, £16.

SMALL FRY STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP WITH BIG FISH AT WTO

By Naomi Koppel, *Associated Press*, 6/25/00

GENEVA—Renald Clerisme is the first to admit he doesn’t always understand what’s going on at the World Trade Organization. How can he, when he can’t be everywhere at once?

Clerisme is head of the Haiti delegation to the world’s top rule-making body for trade. He’s also the entire delegation.

Haiti, with 7 million people, is one of many poor countries that lack sufficient representation in an organization whose decisions influence commerce, consumer prices and jobs around the world.

In contrast to rich and powerful nations, whose WTO delegates take limousines to work and have staffs of two dozen or more, representatives from places such as Haiti are poorly equipped to fight for trade rights.

Clerisme works from an office above an appliance shop in a shabbier quarter of Geneva about a mile from the WTO’s lakeside headquarters.

The Haitian delegation doesn’t have a car. So, while European Union Ambassador Roderick Abbott and other diplomats ride in chauffeur-driven limousines to work, Clerisme takes the bus. And of the WTO’s 137 member countries, 29—mostly in Africa and the Caribbean—have no permanent representative in Geneva at all.

Clerisme scrambles to attend meetings because the WTO has more than 30 different committees, subcommittees and working groups on its schedule, covering subjects from textiles to patents to the environment. Several meetings may take place at once.

“I feel that I don’t understand very fully what is going on,” Clerisme said. “Sometimes they will deal with things I don’t know anything about.”

The WTO was created in 1995 on the theory that open markets benefit everyone. Its binding decisions determine how trade is conducted between nations and what restrictions countries can impose to protect their own producers.

But the dichotomy in WTO representation can overpower its poorest members.

One key issue is the eagerness of large nations to export products at below-market prices to poorer nations, squeezing domestic businesses. “Dumping” goods can help an exporter corner a local market and may sometimes result from production subsidies by governments.

Clerisme says WTO dispute settlement—where a country can air a complaint and a panel of experts issues a legally binding judgment—could help combat rice dumping, a big issue in Haiti.

But Haiti can’t use the system because it doesn’t have lawyers with enough understanding of international trade law, he says.

“The question that arises is how much influence has a small country got over WTO decision-making processes? Very little, indeed,” said George Williams, who is Ambassador for the Caribbean island of Dominica in London and gets to Geneva for about six days a year.

The WTO has sparked riots from Geneva to Seattle and protests in other places in part because of the impact economic globalization has on the world’s poor.

For their part, Clerisme and other WTO representatives from developing countries believe free trade can help their people. But the expense of running diplomatic missions in Geneva is a barrier to reaping those benefits. Western diplomats estimate it costs their governments \$300,000 a year to keep each of them here.

Japan has the largest delegation, with 21 diplomats and lawyers listed in the WTO directory. The United States has 13. That doesn’t include secretaries, technicians and drivers. The EU is harder to count because it lists only 10 names, but it can muster a much larger force when it includes the staffs of each of the 15 member nations.

The big nations also have major support in their home capitals. **The U.S. trade representative in Washington has up to 170 staff and a budget of \$70 million. That’s about two-thirds of Haiti’s entire yearly export earnings.**

Clerisme says he is reluctant to disagree with other countries if he is unable to understand an issue.

“If they ask you to join a consensus, in the end you finish by accepting something that is not in your interests.”

WTO Director-General Mike Moore came into office last September promising to help countries that can’t afford to have a permanent delegation in Geneva. Moore, who is from New Zealand, describes himself as a Pacific islander who knows the problems of small, isolated nations.

“Many can’t afford to subscribe to all the newspapers,” Moore said in an interview. Others can’t even pay for fax paper.

Moore spoke on a day when a discussion over whether to admit the West African island nation of Cape Verde to the organization had to be postponed because nobody from the country was able to attend the meeting. Cape Verde, with a population of 405,000, is classified with Haiti as a “least-developed” country.

Since his arrival, Moore has put in place training courses and “Geneva Weeks” for delegations with little or no regular representation at the WTO. The WTO even tries to provide newspaper clippings to needy missions.

But for Clerisme, it’s a vicious circle.

If trading opportunities do not improve for his country, it won’t be able to afford to send a bigger, better-trained staff to Geneva. And without a bigger staff, he cannot see how trading opportunities will improve.

“I think Mike Moore is doing his best,” Clerisme said. “But it comes down to our bilateral and multilateral partners. We will carry this problem with us for a long time.”

RUSSIANS REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF NATO

By Vladimir Isachenkov, *Associated Press*, 6/27/00

MOSCOW—Russia remains deeply suspicious of NATO and reluctant to cooperate with the alliance, despite recent hopes of a thaw in relations, officials told parliamentary hearings Tuesday.

“We aren’t convinced by NATO’s claims that its expansion doesn’t threaten Russia,” said Col. Yevgeny Buzhinsky, who represented the Russian Defense Ministry at the hearings in the lower house of parliament, or State Duma.

Despite strong protests by Russia, NATO incorporated Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in March 1999. Moscow views the expansion as a major security threat, and is particularly dismayed by aspirations for NATO membership voiced by the three former Soviet Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Russia froze all links with NATO last year to protest the alliance’s air campaign against Yugoslavia. It then restored some contact in February, when NATO Secretary-General George Robertson visited Moscow. President Vladimir Putin, elected in March, even said that Russia may seek NATO membership.

Nevertheless, suspicions remain about what Russia describes as NATO’s attempt to enforce its will on the continent.

“We will strongly oppose the alliance’s attempts to play the role of a global policeman,” said Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Gusev.

Gusev and Buzhinsky also voiced suspicions about NATO’s Partnership for Peace program, which aims to boost friendly ties with the armed forces of countries near NATO’s borders.

“We are concerned by the nature of some military exercises under NATO’s Partnership for Peace program,” he said, suggesting that Russia should seek an agreement with NATO to limit military activities that may raise another party’s concern.

Russia, which had been a member of Partnership

for Peace before the Yugoslavia dispute, conspicuously stayed away from Partnership-led naval exercises off the coast of the Ukrainian city of Odessa last week.

Analysts said the Kremlin policy toward NATO has been chaotic and ineffective.

“A sharp turn from denouncing NATO as an aggressor to making a bid to join it can hardly be called wise,” said Sergei Rogov, director of the United States and Canada Institute, an independent [?] think-tank. “How can we complain against others joining the alliance if we bid for it ourselves?”

[We see Mr. Putin’s bid to join NATO as the extension of an olive branch, in the hope that the world can retain its balance through this cleansing process.]

US-RUSSIA TALKS SHED NO LIGHT ON RUSSIAN MISSILE DEFENSE PROPOSAL: PENTAGON

AFP, 6/29/00

WASHINGTON—Russia shed no new light on its idea for a “boost phase” missile-defense system in talks with U.S. officials in Moscow this week, but agreed to further discussion of the ballistic-missile threat, the Pentagon said Thursday.

The Russians also agreed to take part in joint theater missile-defense exercises with the United States, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said. The talks, which began Monday and ended Wednesday, covered the gamut of U.S.-Russian defense cooperation, he said.

“I think it’s fair to say that we had a very good discussion, but we did not make firm progress in the area of national missile defense or the *ABM Treaty*,” Bacon said.

The Pentagon has been keenly interested in Russia’s idea for a “boost phase” missile-defense system since Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested earlier this month that Russia and NATO work together on an umbrella to protect Europe against missile attack.

Russian military leaders indicated in talks in Moscow with U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen June 13 that they are working on a system to shoot down long-range missiles as they rocket toward space in the first minutes after launch, or the “boost phase” of the launch.

Russian officials have asserted that their concept would not violate the landmark 1972 *Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty*, which does prohibit the kind of national missile-defense system the United States is contemplating.

The vagueness and timing of the Russian proposal—floated during an intensifying debate in the United States and Europe over the deployment of the U.S. system—has raised U.S. suspicions that it is a ploy to drive a wedge in the alliance.

In the follow-up talks led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Ted Warner and the commander of Russia’s strategic rocket forces, Colonel General Vladimir Yakovlev, the Russians brushed off U.S. requests for more information about their plan.

“We expressed interest in learning more about their system and said we would very much like to sit down and discuss it further with them, but they did not make any promises to do that and the ball is really in their court now in terms of proceeding with further

discussions on boost-phase intercept,” Bacon said.

They did agree to hold further discussions on each side’s view of the missile threat, Bacon said, but it was unclear when those talks would be held.

Separately, the two sides agreed to resume joint theater missile-defense exercises, which the two countries last held in 1998.

U.S. and Russian teams will take part in a command post exercise in Fort Bliss, Texas, in which each side will practice procedures for launching interceptors against short- and medium-range missiles, Bacon said.

U.S. EXPERTS ON CHINA URGE CLINTON TO DELAY MISSILE SHIELD DECISION

AFP, 6/29/00

WASHINGTON—The United States could prompt China to accelerate its nuclear weapons program if it goes ahead with its proposed anti-missile defence shield, influential U.S. academics warned President Bill Clinton on Thursday.

In a letter to the President, the text of which was released here, 45 scholars and former U.S. diplomats urged Clinton to delay a decision on whether to develop the national missile-defence (NMD) project.

A delay would permit a wide review of the project’s possible implications for U.S. security policy, they said.

“U.S. plans for NMD are viewed by China as a sign of increased hostility toward their country,” said the letter, signed by academics including former U.S. ambassador to China Arthur Hummel.

“Current plans for NMD deployment are likely to serve as a catalyst for China to accelerate nuclear weapons modernisation.

“It believes that even a simple missile-defence configuration will leave its nuclear arsenal vulnerable.”

The letter, coordinated by the Council for the Livable World Education Fund, an anti-nuclear arms group, also warned that deploying NMD could make it more difficult for the United States to engage China on other issues, including Taiwan.

Supporters of NMD argue a limited system is needed to protect the United States from attack from potential enemies like North Korea.

Opponents of the scheme warn that it could convince Russia and China that their nuclear deterrents are obsolete, and lead them to upgrade their arsenals, so triggering a new arms race.

Clinton said Wednesday he had not yet decided whether to go ahead with the shield, despite reports he is ready to approve preliminary construction on the project.

“I have not yet formulated a position which I am prepared to go to the American people with,” he said. But he added that he would be able to do so “sometime over the next several weeks”.

The Washington Post newspaper reported on Wednesday that Clinton was considering a “limited green light” for the system, a move which the United States could argue would not violate the *Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty*.

Such a stop-gap solution would allow initial construction to start on the project, but would postpone a final decision on whether to deploy the system until Clinton’s successor has taken office next year.

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