The outcome of the war in the Balkans will be determined in the precious days we are living through now, said Helga Zepp LaRouche to an audience of 150 in Washington, D.C. on May 5. Among the attendees were representatives from 17 foreign embassies.

Opening the meeting, Debra Hanania Freeman, Lyndon LaRouche's East Coast Presidential campaign coordinator, read a message from Lyndon LaRouche:

“Until this planet is ruled by a general commitment to a just, new world economic order among perfectly sovereign nation-states, this planet is on the road toward a global catastrophe, a plunge into a prolonged new Dark Age.

“Happily, crisis sometimes breeds solutions. The present spiral of global financial crisis has brought the world to new wars, such as the recent series of attacks on Iraq and the current Balkans war. However, the severity of the global financial crisis also produced a new form of cooperation among certain nations of Eurasia: China, Russia, India, Malaysia, and others. This combination of Eurasian nations represents in itself the majority of the human race, and the area of the greatest opportunity for future growth of the world economy as a whole.

“If the world wishes to escape the danger,” if it wishes “that NATO’s present military quagmire in the Balkans does not lead into a new form of worldwide warfare, then leading nations must create a new partnership in shaping the economic and other relations among the President of the U.S.A., some nations of continental Western Europe, and the growing Eurasia bloc centered around China, Russia, India, and other nations. Such cooperation, if based upon the principle of partnership among truly sovereign nation-states and their economies, is the only foundation on which the present tendencies toward a worldwide spread of NATO’s Balkan war can be reversed.

“Therefore,” said LaRouche, “I am optimistic—cautiously optimistic.”

The Basis for Peace

After reviewing strategic developments since the Institute’s March 24 Washington seminar, Helga Zepp LaRouche pointed to the implications of President Clinton’s April 15 speech in San Francisco, in which he called for a Marshall Plan-style reconstruction of Eastern Europe after the war.

A lasting, just peace in the Balkans, requires a return to at least the system of relations established under the United Nations. But, this must take place within the context of a New Bretton Woods System, characterized by two features: First, we must apply the lessons of the successful post-World War II reconstruction of Germany, as was done under the previous Bretton Woods system up until 1958, with the role of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau as a model for financing the rebuilding of the country. And, second, we must return to the commitment of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II to end all forms of colonialism throughout the world.

After reviewing horrific economic and social conditions prevailing throughout the Balkans and the nations of the former Soviet Union, and the history of the Balkan region—where wars,
partitions, and the re-drawing of borders have been used by the British to prevent mutually beneficial cooperation among peoples—Zepp LaRouche asked: How can peaceful relations ever be reestablished in this region? To answer this, she employed the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, which ended Europe’s bloody Thirty Years War, as an historical model.

Using principles later adopted by American President John Quincy Adams, wherein Adams asserted that U.S. foreign policy must be based on the notion of a “community of principle” among sovereign nation-states, the 1644-1648 Westphalia conference succeeded in bringing peace to a Europe divided among Protestant and Catholic, prince and emperor, nations and peoples. How? By assigning equal status to all warring parties; and, above all, by forgetting the past, for the sake of peace.

What we must do today, Zepp LaRouche implored, is to view each nation as we would our own family, because, as the Renaissance genius Nicolaus of Cusa said, peace in the macrocosm, can only be based on peace and development of the microcosm. If President Clinton, harkening back to the best traditions of America, could but seize this historical moment—if he were to develop a passion for the idea of an international community of peoples, and find the kind of passion for mankind that a parent feels for a child—then we will have a just peace.

Kosovar Albanian on U.S. Tour
For the ‘LaRouche Doctrine’

Feride Istogu Gillesberg, born in the Drenic region of Kosova, conducted an emergency speaking tour sponsored by the Schiller Institute from April 29 to May 17. The tour took Feride and her husband Tom, who is a member of the Danish Kosovar Society, from Falls Church, Va., to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Norfolk, Boston, New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston. The Gillesbergs are active with the Schiller Institute in Denmark.

Open a School, Close a Prison

In her talks, Feride described the process of “ethnic cleansing” in Kosova, conducted by British-connected dictator Slobodan Milosevic beginning early in the 1990’s, as the ethnic Albanian schools were closed, Kosova was stripped of its autonomy, and Kosovar men were rounded up to fight for the Yugoslav Army, against their will, in Croatia and Bosnia.

Throughout this period, she said, popular Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova, forming a “shadow government,” waged a campaign to win autonomy and independence for Kosova through non-violent activity. His campaign won support from Kosovar Albanians the world over, including her own parents, who live in Germany. Diaspora Kosovars pledged 3% of their incomes monthly to support teachers and schools, replacing those shut down by Milosevic. Their idea in doing this, Feride said, was, “For every school we open, a prison will close.”

Rugova’s movement had “moral power,” she said, “in the image of Martin Luther King and the U.S. Declaration of Independence,” and reflected the “desire of the Albanian people of Kosova for a recognition of the innate value of each person in the image of God.”

K.L.A. Is Milosevic Asset

In opposition to Rugova, Feride said, the Kosova Liberation Army (K.L.A. or U.C.K.) is now being touted by the U.S. State Department and the British. The K.L.A. is, in fact, a communist grouping, financed by drug-trafficking, which was heavily advertised in Kosova by the BBC before it even existed on the ground. “But Milosevic could never break the fighting spirit being carried on by Rugova,” Feride said, so the K.L.A. “provided the vehicle for Milosevic to get around this problem.” The K.L.A. was promoted, as Rugova was pushed to the sidelines by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, at Rambouillet.

Feride and Tom Gillesberg join Chicago rally outside British Consulate.