LaRouche Balkans Plan Aired

Paolo Raimondi, Executive Intelligence Review Southeast European affairs specialist, was the featured speaker at a seminar on Balkan Reconstruction in Washington, D.C. June 23. The event was chaired by Debra Hanania Freeman, national spokesman for Lyndon LaRouche’s Committee for a New Bretton Woods, who introduced the panel of speakers. Raimondi was joined by Panamanian Congressman Miguel Bush; Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James; and Michigan State Rep. Ed Vaughn.

In her introductory remarks, Freeman referred to an April 7 policy statement, “The LaRouche Doctrine,” in which LaRouche asserted that the principal cause of the Balkans war was the ongoing collapse of the global financial system.

In fact, Freeman pointed out, the NATO bombing drove a wedge between the governments of the U.S., Russian, and China—the necessary pillars of any new financial order—especially in the aftermath of the NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy, which plunged U.S.-China relations to an all-time low. LaRouche, however, insisted it were still possible to make the Balkans the birthplace of a new era of peace and development, and called for a Marshall Plan for the region.

Economic Development Plan

Raimondi exposed the fraud of the debate that has erupted over “who will pay” for Balkan reconstruction. “There need be no money involved,” he said. What is required is credit creation, and recognition of the existing emergency, as LaRouche addressed it in the following three requirements: (1) An engineering corps to build bridges, roads, railroads, hospitals, and housing, before winter. (2) A special financial facility within the structure of a new Marshall Plan, to create credit. (3) Creation of a private contractors’ authority, where vendors are organized to supply raw materials, technology, and so forth.

This approach will create a huge export boom, and an enormous increase in productive jobs, just as we saw at the end of World War II.

Both Rep. Harold James and Rep. Ed Vaughn, who chairs the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus, endorsed the LaRouche plan. James cited Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address—“With malice toward none, with charity for all”—as a touchstone for the approach required today to heal the terrible wounds in the Balkan region. Vaughn added his hope that Balkan reconstruction will be unlike so-called “Reconstruction” in the South at the end of the Civil War, in which Lincoln’s