The Rambouillet Accord: A Declaration of War
Disguised as a Peace Agreement

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The official line in the big business media is that the Pentagon had no choice but to rain bombs and missiles down on Yugoslavia because the Milosevic government refused to negotiate over the issue of Kosovo, a region of that country where ethnic Albanians make up the majority.

The reality was very different: The Rambouillet accord, the US/NATO “peace plan” for Kosovo, was presented to Yugoslavia as an ultimatum. It was a “take it or leave it” proposition, as Albright often emphasized back in February. There were, in fact, no negotiations at all, and no sovereign, independent state could have signed the Rambouillet agreement.

Appendix B of the accord would have opened the door for the occupation of all of Yugoslavia.

The accord provided for a very broad form of autonomy for Kosovo. A province of Serbia, one of two republics (along with Montenegro) which make up present-day Yugoslavia, Kosovo would have its own parliament, president, prime minister, supreme court and security forces under Rambouillet. The new Kosovo government would be able to negotiate laws of the federal republic’s legislature (unlike US states) and conduct its own foreign policy.

All Yugoslav federal army and police forces would have to be withdrawn, except for a 3-mile wide stretch along the borders of the province. A new Kosovo police force would be trained to take over internal security responsibilities. Members of the former Serbia, Albanians, Hungarians, Romans and Montenegrins alike. In the name of “peace,” NATO has killed thousands and destroyed hospitals, homes, schools, universities, bridges, power and water treatment plants, factories, and more. In the name of “protecting human rights,” the launching of the air war has triggered a refugee crisis displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

Now, as the bombing and its terrible toll escalate, the threat of a US invasion of Yugoslavia looms. A ground war will mean the deployment of hundreds of thousands of troops.

Now is the time to act! We are urging you to join us in the newly formed Emergency Mobilization to Stop the War. Hundreds of thousands of us marched against the sanctions that have killed more than 1.5 million civilians in that country. Now, the Pentagon is embarked upon another bloody intervention, in violation of all international law, and against the interests of the people of the Balkans and the people of this country as well.

The Emergency Mobilization to Stop the War is planning major activities to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people who will say in a loud and clear voice: “Stop the bombing! Stop the war! Bring the troops, ships and planes home now! Money for jobs, healthcare and education, not for war!”

On Saturday, June 5, there will be a mass march from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the steps of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. April 17 will be an International Day of Protest, with demonstrations taking place in at least 100 cities across the country and around the world.

Yugoslavia is the fourth country—along with Iraq, Afghanistan and the Sudan—bombed by US military forces in the past eight months. Now we are at the edge of an even wider and more destructive war. We must act urgently to build a broad and deep movement that says “NO” to this madness. Join and endorse the Emergency Mobilization today. Circulate this appeal to your co-workers, neighbors, campus, church, mosque, synagogue, union and community.

ENDORSE THE CALL TO ACTION!

Emergency Mobilization to Stop the War
Nationwide March on the Pentagon

June 5, 1999

Add your name to the growing list of endorsers for the Emergency Mobilization to End the War National March on the Pentagon June 5, 1999 by visiting the web page below and filling in the online form: http://home.earthlink.net/~npcboston/jun5end.htm

US/NATO bombs and cruise missiles are raining down on Belgrade, Pristina, Novi Sad and other cities, towns and villages in Yugoslavia, falling on Serbs, Albanians, Hungarians, Romans and Montenegrins alike. In the name of “peace,” NATO has killed thousands and destroyed hospitals, homes, schools, universities, bridges, power and water treatment plants, factories, and more. In the name of “protecting human rights,” the launching of the air war has triggered a refugee crisis displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

Clearly, US policymakers never intended for Yugoslavia’s leadership to sign this document, it was just another step in the preparation for war. The role of Rambouillet in this process was to put the onus, unfairly, on the Yugoslav side for the failure to achieve a peaceful resolution, in order to justify the massive bombing of the entire country.

The Rambouillet Accord was, in truth, a declaration of war disguised as a peace agreement.

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APPENDIX B

Appendix B, the “Status of the Multi-National Military Intervention Forces,” includes extraordinarily intrusive provisions for Yugoslavia as a whole.

Section 6a. “NATO shall be immune from all legal process, whether civil, administrative, or criminal.”

Section 6b. “NATO personnel, under all circumstances and at all times, shall be immune from the Parties, jurisdiction in respect of any civil, administrative, criminal or disciplinary offenses which may be committed by them in the FRY (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).”

Section 7. “NATO personnel shall be immune from any form of arrest, investigation, or detention by the authorities in the FRY.”

Together, Sections 6 and 7 comprise the old, hated, colonial concept of “extraterritoriality,” under which the colonizers were immune from being tried by the courts of the colonized country, even if they committed—as they often did—rape, murder and mayhem.

Section 8: “NATO personnel shall enjoy, together with their vehicles, vessels, aircraft, and equipment, free and unrestricted passage and unimpeded access throughout the FRY including airspace and territorial waters. This shall include, but not be limited to, the right of bivouac, maneuver, billet and utilization of any areas or facilities required for support, training and operations.”

Section 11: “NATO is granted the use of airports, roads, rails, and ports without payment of fees, duties, dues, tolls, or charges occasioned by mere use.”

Section 22: “NATO may, in the conduct of the Operation, have need to make improvements or adaptations to any area, road, rail or navigable waterway in the territory of the FRY.”

At the end of three years of this arrangement, the “final status” of Kosovo would be resolved through “negotiations” (Chapter 4, Article II). In reality, Yugoslav sovereignty over the region would end the day the agreement was signed.

The Rambouillet accord would have turned Kosovo into a colony in every respect, a colony of the United States, the dominant power in NATO.

But it also would have gone a long way toward subordinating all of Yugoslavia.