

ECAAR Leaders Present Papers at Canadian Conference

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ECAAR co-sponsored a session on the “Economic Causes and Consequences of the War in Yugoslavia” at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Economics Association on May 30, 1999 at the University of Toronto. The organizers of the session were Brian MacLean of Laurentian University and James K. Galbraith of the University of Texas and Chair of ECAAR-US. The session was chaired by Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, president of the Jerome Levy Economics Institute.

Two papers were presented: The Mistakes in Yugoslavia and the Dangers in Russia by Michael D. Intriligator of UCLA and Vice Chair of ECAAR, and The Failure of Economic Reforms in Yugoslavia and Eastern Europe by Richard F. Kaufman of the Bethesda Research Institute and former General Counsel of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

Intriligator said the NATO action in Yugoslavia had contributed to the outrageous ethnic cleansing and refugees pouring out of Kosovo. It had also changed NATO from a defensive alliance to an offensive one, and he said the air strikes were a clear violation of the United Nations system since there was no mandate from the Security Council. He further stressed the extent to which the air strikes had distracted the attention of national decision makers in NATO states from the catastrophic economic and political situation in Russia.

Kaufman traced the impact of externally imposed economic policies in Yugoslavia. External debt from the 1970s, and later IMF conditions led to disintegration since these required austerity programs from Belgrade, when there was a desire for more autonomy in the richer republics (Croatia and Slovenia).

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