

LaRouche-Riemann model projects Colombia's growth

On August 7, Colombia's President-elect Belisario Betancur will take office amid great expectation in the country that a decade-long era of political and economic corruption may finally be brought to an end. Just two weeks after Betancur's upset victory over the Liberal Party's López Michelsen, on May 31, this magazine, in collaboration with the Fusion Energy Foundation, sponsored a seminar in Bogotá titled "Colombia 2000: A Program for Accelerated Development." The seminar, attended by corporate, academic, press and government economic and planning specialists, presented a detailed development program for Colombia between now and the year 2000.

Based on the econometric methodology of the LaRouche-Riemann computer model, the program includes a historical analysis of the recent performance of the Colombian economy with computer projections through the year 2000. The program itself, as presented by FEF Research Director Dr. Uwe Parpart, stresses the urgent need to direct investment into capital-intensive, high-technology industry and infrastructure. It also deals with the questions of energy and skilled labor shortages which threaten to become major bottlenecks for Colombian development unless they are immediately addressed. It elaborates an intensive educational program premised on the natural sciences as critical to the recommended industrialization process and contains a critique of the "import substitution" model of Raul Prebisch, which was adopted by Colombia several decades back.

The defeat of the Liberal Party machine in the recent presidential elections was due to the long-standing identification of its candidate, former President López Michelsen, with the speculative activities that have undermined Colombia's economy—in particular the burgeoning drug trade. If the incoming Betancur administration is to reverse these practices and revive the Colombian economy, it will have to be on the basis of an economic program such as the one we present here.

The LaRouche-Riemann model-generated development program for Colombia is available in its entirety from our Special Services Department. Please contact Peter Ennis, at (212) 247-8820, extension 749.