

## LaRouche: Overhaul Mideast policy now!

Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Aug. 20 demanded an immediate and revolutionary overhaul of U.S. policies toward Israel and the Middle East.

In submitting his policy-document to this news agency, LaRouche denounced "the continuing Soviet-appeaser roles of both Secretary of State George Shultz and Assistant Secretary Richard Murphy" in Middle East affairs. However, he described the recent Middle East visits of Vice-President George Bush as "positive overall," despite Bush's "unfortunate clash with Egypt's President Mubarak over the issue of IMF conditionalities."

Positive changes in U.S. policy toward both Israel and the Middle East generally are in progress, LaRouche thinks; but, "action in these directions is moving much too slowly, and there is still dangerous vacillation on a number of the key issues involved."

The candidate criticizes the Reagan administration, "for failing to give clear and positive support to Prime Minister Peres' 'New Marshall Plan' proposal, and for failing to realize that the harsh IMF conditionalities which the U.S. State Department is imposing upon Egypt, Tunisia, and other nations, could destroy already collapsing U.S. influence in the Middle East very soon."

LaRouche emphasized, that he continues to be supportive of the administration's earlier "Reagan Plan," and efforts to revive this kind of policy-thinking today. He fears that the administration has not appreciated fully the way in which Alexander Haig and George Shultz sabotaged the "Reagan Plan," paving the way for such events as the threatened, Syrian-directed holocaust of genocide against Lebanese Christians today.

LaRouche, widely regarded as sympathetic to Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres, reports that he has been in occasional contact with Peres and Peres' circles on these issues for years. "The thing which must be stressed," he qualifies, "is that a wide range of leading Israelis, in addition to Peres' current within the Labour Party, are thinking in the same general direction today. There may be shadings of difference, as to exactly how the 'New Marshall Plan' effort should be shaped and implemented; but, most U.S. observers would be astonished if they knew the range of political currents in Israel thinking in this direction."

LaRouche emphasizes, that there is a clear convergence of thinking among leaders of Israel and some of its Arab neighbors. He proposes: "The United States must concentrate on assisting President Mubarak and Israel's 'New Marshall

Plan' backers, to reach practical agreements of a kind which will set the trend for all so-called moderate Arabs. If that works, the Middle East can still be saved. If not, the entire eastern Mediterranean will soon become a Soviet lake."

LaRouche is convinced that President Reagan could gain the support of a bipartisan majority for the New Marshall Plan proposal. "One of the reasons certain liberal Democrats are reacting with such hysterical desperation against me now, is that their polls show that I represent approximately one-quarter of the Democratic voters at this time. About fifteen percent of this support is described as 'hard core,' with more than twice that number seen as leaning toward supporting candidates known to be associated with me. Whenever the President and I might tend to converge on important policies, there is potential for support from a bipartisan majority."

On his own political strength, he added the following information. "My intelligence sources inform me, that the Soviet government rates my present support among Democratic voters at between one-quarter and one-third of the total. That is one of the reasons that Moscow has been thrown into confusion by the President's recent letter to Secretary Gorbachov.

"Sources such as Assistant Secretary Richard Perle and William Schneider have been assuring Moscow's friends in the West, that the Strategic Defense Initiative might not survive the end of President Reagan's second term. Also, Moscow had been convinced, through Western channels, that SDI 'population defense' was being scrapped in favor of Zbigniew Brzezinski's point-defense of missile sites. Now, since President Reagan's affirmation of a commitment to early deployment of an effective SDI 'population defense,' some Moscow leaders have lost confidence in the Soviet

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U.S.A.-Canada Institute's reading on U.S. politics.

"Any time Moscow sees the President and me agreeing on a major policy-issue, especially since the recent growth of visible support for my policies among Democratic voters, Soviet leaders worry, fearing that they may be forced to back away from some of the more aggressive Russian postures."

For similar reasons, LaRouche's thinks, that if he and Mr. Peres could sell President Reagan on a New Marshall Plan policy, Moscow might pull back Syria, and back off from some of its other Middle East adventures.