

Report from Rome by Our Correspondent

LaRouches welcomed in Rome

After a VIP tour of the Capitoline, LaRouche spoke at the meeting of Confindesa, an economic policy confederation.

While in Rome recently, Lyndon LaRouche, accompanied by his wife Helga, was honored by the City with an official tour of the sort reserved to visiting heads of friendly states. On Jan. 18, Prof. Paolo Possenti, on behalf of the Mayor of Rome, Pietro Giubilo, received the LaRouches on the steps of the Capitoline and led them on a tour of official Rome's most important places.

On Friday evening, Jan. 20, Mr. LaRouche was guest speaker at a meeting on conflicts between U.S. and European Community farm policies, held at the Italo-German Friendship Association. The meeting had been organized by Professor Possenti, as general secretary of Confindesa, the confederation of associations of various economic sectors, such as medium-sized farmers, artisans, and small industries.

In the audience were local and national politicians from the Christian Democracy, journalists, photographers, spokesmen of small food-processing industries, the head of the Italian branch of the Hans Seidel Foundation, and farmers from the United States, Germany, and France.

Possenti situated the meeting in the context of this year's European Parliament elections and the agricultural issues at stake. He greeted Mr. LaRouche as "a man held in great consideration here in Europe. . . . He represents those who want to improve the relations between Europe and U.S. . . . I fully share LaRouche's economic ideas." We hope, Possenti continued, that President Bush accepts the criticisms we Europeans have against the designated Agriculture

Secretary Yeutter, "whom we do not like," because after having impoverished American farmers, he wants to blame the EC.

"LaRouche has always stressed in his writings the values of Christian civilization," continued Possenti, describing how Wall Street's methods have destroyed American farming. He concluded by saying that indiscriminate measures such as Yeutter's are a Sword of Damocles hanging over U.S.-European relations.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Hon. Gerardo Gaibisso, elected to the European Parliament on the Christian Democracy's slate for the Third Electoral District of Italy and member of the EC's Agricultural Commission. Gaibisso thanked Confindesa and the Italy-Germany Friendship Association for giving him the chance to meet Lyndon H. LaRouche, of whom "I read the publications which I regularly receive." Gaibisso congratulated LaRouche for the "limited, but very important" electoral results of his political movement in the United States. He then said that he disagrees with LaRouche on the "Europe 1992" Single Market, but considers what LaRouche is doing as crucial.

Mr. Gaibisso briefed the audience on how the GATT negotiations in Montreal had collapsed: The Europeans, led by Commissioner Andriessen, had taken drastic measures, like the set-aside of 1 million hectares of land or setting milk quotas, hoping to find an open attitude from the Americans. But Yeutter's behavior demoralized the Europeans: "How many citizens in Europe know that reserves of milk and milk powder have col-

lapsed? . . . We killed 1.5 million milk cows." "To be friends does *not* mean to be subjects, but means to work on the same level."

Finally Lyndon LaRouche spoke. He said that the present drought is man-made; and Italy's ban on nuclear energy has provoked a situation where the drought might have worse results, as we have ruined the forests. In the past 20 years, we have been destroying agriculture, and agriculture improves nature; eliminating cultivated lands, we modify the weather, as in Sudan or Bangladesh. LaRouche said that he had discussed the problem at length with professors in Japan.

Then he named who controls the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Cargill, Armand Hammer, André—all friends of the Russians and determined to create a food shortage. First they prevent food production; second, they lie, saying that we have to stop subsidies. The truth is, there are no subsidies: We need parity prices, by which the price of an agricultural product has to cover the cost of producing it. "From my standpoint," he said, "each nation has the duty to keep parity prices for reasons of national security. . . . The EEC at the beginning worked in that direction."

"For us, food is an instrument of policy, a weapon in the positive sense towards the development of nations," continued LaRouche. After stating that Italy is still where the best pasta is produced, he explained that "our differences are our strength," because we work according to the European cultural tradition, and there is virtually no problem we cannot solve if dealt with together; therefore, trade war is idiocy.

The meeting ended with a discussion about promoting an informal movement to lay the basis for new U.S.-European relations in trade and agricultural policy.