

LaRouche denounces Panama invasion

The following are excerpts from a statement made by congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche early in the morning of Dec. 20:

"I have just reviewed over the past half-hour, the announcement of the U.S. invasion, which is virtually a de facto war launched against the 2 million population base of Panama, by the U.S. government under George Bush.

"This is a day of infamy. It will go down in history as such. It means a political backfire around the world, throughout the Hemisphere, which will lead in all probability to Mr. George Bush's resignation from office under threat of impeachment, before completing the term to which he is presently elected.

"This is an action in the spirit of Tiananmen Square. It is an action in the spirit of the shooting down—according to the British press—of 2,500 Romanians, by point-blank helicopter gunship and tank fire two days ago. It reflects the Scowcroft-Eagleburger mission to establish solidarity with the government of the Tiananmen Square butchers, most recently. It is an act of incalculable folly, demonstrating a U.S. government which seems to have completely lost its nerve and its sense.

"This is the kinder, gentler America, which had been promised.

"It must be added that this event comes on the same

day that British leading press, speaking for the Anglo-Saxon world, confess that the Great Depression of 1989-92 has begun. The United States is going into a depression, at the same time that the government of the Soviet Union has officially scrapped—from top to bottom—the policy known as perestroika. That policy, perestroika, and Mr. Bush's promise, implicitly or otherwise, that there would be no depression under George Bush, means that the two planks of the Bush administration's policy and authority have been destroyed. At the same moment that the *entire* program—Mr. Bush's program, to which he has been committed since the time of his election—has been scrapped by history, the U.S. government launches an insane act of desperation, sending soldiers to turn themselves into body-bags in Panama.

"That means that we in the Democratic Party, and those who are inclined to support the Democratic Party, must stop the silliness, and prepare to assume the responsibilities of elected political leadership. . . . Let's go back to policies of scientific and technological progress, and a commitment to provide the kind of opportunities and security for every individual in this country, and to the degree possible, around the world, of which we can be proud before the imagined eyes of our grandchildren to come.

"So, if Colombia's fighting a War on Drugs, maybe the United States should begin. But instead of beginning, it went down and tried to shoot down Manuel Noriega, whose files from the U.S. government admit he is the best anti-drug fighter in Central America, and the United States put into power, at the point of a bayonet, in Panama City, a puppet government which represents the drug-pushers of Panama."

the Contra resupply operations, according to the *Wall Street Journal* of Jan. 8, 1987. And the U.S. administration's chief spokeswoman in Panama, Mercedes Morris of the U.S. Southern Command, was arrested in 1988 by Panamanian authorities on drug possession charges.

Because of Bush's economic warfare measures, in 1988 Panama's economy experienced a precipitous 17% drop in its Gross National Product, the largest in modern history for a nation not at war.

But the sanctions also hurt the opposition. In a statement issued Dec. 7, the main opposition group, the Christian Democratic Party, part of the CIA-financed Democratic Opposition Civic Alliance (ADO-C), called for a dialogue with the PDF and stressed the need for "national unity" to force the United States to rescind its sanctions against Panama. The communiqué did not include the opposition's oft-repeated demand for Noriega's resignation. The Panamanian Catholic

Church hierarchy, which effectively functions as part of the U.S.-spawned opposition, also called for national reconciliation in a statement published on Dec. 3. The Church leaders said, "Once again, with added vigor, we condemn the unjust, immoral, and coercive economic measures against Panama, mainly coming from the United States of America."

The decision the U.S. took in May to send in additional combat troops into Panama and to change their rules of engagement "countermanding earlier orders to avoid a confrontation," also lost the U.S. significant support. Those troops, as President Francisco Rodríguez said in a speech Nov. 27, in violation of the 1977 treaties, were deployed to occupy a water purification plant that serves three-fourths of "the metropolitan population, including tens of thousands of U.S. citizens," hospitals, and even the office in charge of eradicating malaria, hence endangering "the health of the 50,000 U.S. citizens living in Panama."