
After the Release of Nelson Mandela

LaRouche: We shall not forget Africa or the martyrs of African development

The release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela from a South African prison on Feb. 11 prompted economist Lyndon LaRouche, a jailed political prisoner himself, to reaffirm his commitment to the development of Africa in a Feb. 12 statement. LaRouche questioned whether the release of Mandela would lead toward positive developments or Dionysiac frenzy since, as development programs come closer to realization, their advocates, such as Jürgen Ponto and Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the heads of the Dresdner Bank and the West German Employers Association, respectively, who were assassinated in 1977, are eliminated by terrorists backed both by Moscow and Western oligarchs.

On Feb. 13, LaRouche also warned that there are malicious forces opposed to the economic development of the southern Africa region who might seek to trigger a New Dark Age, a "Sarajevo," by assassinating Mandela.

"The release of Nelson Mandela ends one problem in South Africa, but brings another to the fore," LaRouche said. "The question now is, how do we fulfill the just aspirations of the people of the southern Africa region as a whole?"

"The problem is developing a high-technology structure, to build up the basic economic infrastructure and the social, that is, educational and medical infrastructure, required to elevate the entirety of the population of the region, beginning with South Africa itself, to a level of cultural potential and economic potential for proliferation of small, relatively high-technology firms, and including the development of an independent flourishing African agriculture to match the quality of the Afrikaaner farms in that region.

"This is a great problem," LaRouche warned. "It is a political problem, it is a social problem; it's not a racial problem as much as it is a tribal problem. The importance of Nelson Mandela's role at this time and the people around him, is that he has the potential to become a unifying figure together with people like Kwazulu chieftain Buthelezi, and other leaders, to address the national economic requirements and regional economic requirements, and to pull people away from a kind of Dionysiac explosion which will happen unless something is done to give the newly won freedom a positive economic and social direction."

Mandela appeals for discipline, calm

Taking a positive step, Mandela made a powerful appeal for discipline to a crowd of over 100,000 people which he addressed on Feb. 13 in Cape Town, Soweto. He called for calm and unity, and condemned crime and mindless violence. "Not a single hair, not a single window will be broken when we leave this place," he said.

Mandela also strongly urged blacks to go back to school and study, despite the inadequacies of the segregated South African education system.

"I have been greatly shocked by the statistics of crime," Mandela also declared. "The level of crime in the townships is unacceptable and must be eliminated as a matter of urgency."

Addressing social needs of blacks, Mandela called for an end to the inferiority of black housing, education, and social services. "Our people need proper housing, not ghettos like Soweto."

Mandela said on Feb. 12 that the ANC would address white fears about their future in a one-person-one-vote South Africa. "We understand those feelings and the ANC is concerned to address that problem and to find a solution which will suit both blacks and whites in this country," Mandela said. "No man or woman who has abandoned apartheid will be excluded from our movement toward a non-racial, united, and democratic South Africa, based on one person, one vote on a common voters' roll," he said. "Let each and every one of you and all of the people give the enemies of liberty no space to take us back to the dark hell of apartheid. It is only disciplined mass action that assures us of the victory we seek."

In the first government reaction to Mandela's speeches, Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Gerrit Viljoen said, "This statement bodes well for the possibility of reasonable discussions in the negotiating process."

Viljoen criticized remarks Mandela made upon being released from prison that "Our resort to the armed struggle in 1960 . . . was a purely defensive action against the violence of apartheid. We have no option but to continue." But, said Viljoen, "We must give the ANC a chance to sort their views out." The ANC executive committee is scheduled to meet

during the third week in February, and an ANC conference is scheduled for June, when a leadership framework for the movement, split for decades by exile and imprisonment, is likely to be formed.

Mandela characterized South African President de Klerk as "a man of integrity. He seems to be fully aware of the dangers to a public figure of making undertakings that he cannot fulfill. . . . I am confident that if he can carry the [ruling white] National Party with him, he will be able to normalize the situation."

Mandela's remarks on economic policy, however, did not calm some circles. Mandela said Feb. 13 he knew his call for nationalizing South Africa's mines and major industries had scared investors, but he stood by the ANC policy of support for redistribution of wealth.

"We believe that apartheid has created a heinous system of exploitation in which a racist minority monopolizes economic wealth, while the vast majority of oppressed black people are condemned to poverty," Mandela said. "The ANC is just as committed to economic growth and productivity as the present employers claim to be. Yet they are also committed to ensure that a democratic government has the resources to address the inequalities caused by apartheid."

"South Africa is a wealthy country. It is the labor of black workers that had made the cities, roads, and factories. They cannot be excluded from sharing this wealth," he added.

The comments on the nationalization of mines and other major industries shook South African markets Feb. 12-13, causing the price of shares and bonds to fall, according to Reuters.

The South African economy has seen its inflation-adjusted growth of gross domestic product drop to an average of less than 2% in the 1980s, from around 4% in the 1970s and nearly 6% in the 1960s.

Development advocates assassinated

LaRouche said that he has been concerned with the development of Africa "for a number of years," and reflected upon the obstacles encountered to a viable development program, especially since 1977.

LaRouche tied the 1977 assassinations of Ponto and Schleyer in with the 1989 assassination of Deutsche Bank head Alfred Herrhausen, who was killed while playing a similar, crucial role in the economic development and democratization of East Germany and Eastern Europe.

"Separated by 12 years," LaRouche said, these assassinations were of leading German bankers "specifically dedicated in practice to the classical function of industrial banking of promoting progress in less-developed countries. You might call it 'moral banking' as opposed to the commonplace type we find in New York City or London these recent decades."

LaRouche identified "Soviet assets in West Germany, operating under the guise of the Baader-Meinhof gang," as responsible for the Ponto assassination. But he warned that

there is also a "Western aspect," an "Anglo-American connection" to these assassinations going back to "the old Communist International" and "the Anglo-Soviet Trust."

LaRouche said he had been "anticipating some kind of terrorism" on the basis that Soviet assets in France were meeting, particularly in June 1977, "to declare that nuclear energy was fascism." This terrorist offensive "culminated first in the assassination of Dresdner Bank's Jürgen Ponto," and shortly thereafter, LaRouche said, he had "received reports, later corroborated from the highest levels of U.S. intelligence, that I was number two, approximately, on what might be called 'the list' of the Baader-Meinhof gang for this operation, and that there were other on the same so-called list."

LaRouche said he survived because intelligence agencies of four nations provided a "steel shield" to keep him alive, while a third person, Hanns-Martin Schleyer, did not survive.

"Now what was the thing that unified all three of us? Why should we three and others be on the same list?" LaRouche asked.

"Well, in the case of Ponto and I, it might be argued that Ponto was for development, classical economic development of developing countries. His work in Brazil is merely exemplary of that, and if one knows his personal history, one understands the basis on which he proceeded. We were both particularly interested in the use of nuclear energy as a means of raising the level of developing nations.

"But, then, there was something else in the wind. We also had another common denominator, which Ponto shared with Schleyer. Ponto had developed a southern African Development Fund, into which he had organized nationals of various countries, including Schleyer, to contribute to a kind of pilot fund to create a kind of banking institution throughout southern Africa for the positive, classical economic development of the southern African region as a whole.

"The inclusion of Schleyer on the so-called list with myself and Ponto back in 1977, indicated grave Soviet and possibly other displeasure with any European and American effort to impart a classical economic development, and, presumably a peaceful economic development, progressive social and political development as well as economic, to the region of southern Africa," what LaRouche termed the "Southern African shield."

LaRouche said that from the standpoint of Soviet strategic planning and of certain evil fellows from Britain and elsewhere who were sympathetic to Soviet thinking, "the strategic minerals of the southern African shield were affected. The Soviets wished, and were negotiating, with some Israeli channels and others, to establish an agreement between the Soviet Union and southern Africa, particularly the Republic of South Africa, to establish a kind of strategic minerals cartel, which would have obvious military and related advantage to the Soviet Union, vis-à-vis Western Europe

and the United States.”

LaRouche said that what he, Ponto, and Schleyer were independently proposing “was a classical development which would have frustrated that kind of nonsense, and in which the strategic mineral resources in that part of the world would be used as a lever to foster the classical form of economic development, and political social development for the entire region in a cooperative venture.”

LaRouche recalled that a meeting between Ponto and himself, based upon their “convergence” on nuclear energy, southern Africa, and related Third World development—the classical conception of positive industrialized sector aid to provide development opportunities for developing nations—had been scheduled for the week following Ponto’s assassination.

Economic development is key to freedom

“That problem, which was posed then, comes to the fore now,” LaRouche said. “Shall we have a meaningless sort of freedom, which ends in bloody tribal fratricide, and Dionysiac chaos, or shall we provide to the people of an Africa already threatened with the worst onslaught of the HIV pandemic, shall we provide Africa the means of coming out of the mess, and obtaining at large what black Africa has been denied for thousands of years of the slave trade, beginning with the Dravidian slave trade preceding the Phoenicians? The right to a genuine internal positive economic development and the political and social stability and progress which goes with such development?”

“Ponto was trying in 1977, and he was murdered. I was trying then, I’ve been trying since. What we did, variously, people like Ponto on the one side and my friends and I on the other, are the efforts we have made to that end, to be thrown aside? If so, then the Soviets of 1977, the backers of the Baader-Meinhoff gang, will have won, and all of southern Africa will be turned into bloody, Dionysiac mass murderous chaos, from which no one, black, white, will benefit.

“Let us honor people such as Ponto and Schleyer from 1977 and let us be able to look in their faces, so to speak, the memory of their faces. We haven’t forgotten. You had a moral commitment to Africa. We haven’t forgotten. As we develop the triangle of economic power in Central Europe through integration of the economic potentials of Czechoslovakia, East Germany, West Germany, France, Austria, and so forth, we shall not forget Africa. We shall provide it what pioneers such as Ponto and Schleyer, the martyrs of such a cause, attempted to commit Europe to provide to southern Africa in particular.

“I recommend this message to the attention of Mr. Nelson Mandela, so that he and others will know that there are people in this world who understand and who are committed to a result which we prefer were measured finally by the grandchildren and their grandchildren of today’s living generations, both in Europe and in Southern Africa.”

Namibian freedom: a test of stability

by Jeffrey Steinberg

With Independence Day scheduled for March 21, the climate in the southern African nation of Namibia is one of enthusiasm and optimism. Many of the fears among the German settlers who make up the core of the white minority population in the South African colony-turned Africa’s newest nation have been dispelled in the past months by an attitude of cooperation on the part of the leadership of the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO), the Anglo-Soviet-sponsored black nationalist movement that waged a 20-year guerilla war against the South African-backed government. That mood of cooperation, fueled by the recent events in Eastern Europe,

style constitution, out of which emerged a power-sharing arrangement drawing in all segments of the population. The successful constitutional assembly made an early independence day a reality.

Some senior officials of the former provisional government in Windhoek, which will soon be replaced by a constitutionally elected government, believe that the Eastern European events, combined with the rapid pace of reform in the Republic of South Africa, culminating in the release of Nelson Mandela from prison, has afforded Namibia an opportunity to carve out a path of independence largely free of outside interference.

Danger of genocidal war

At the same time, these sources point to the outbreak of intensive fighting in Angola between liberation forces of UNITA under the direction of Dr. Jonas Savimbi, and the Soviet-backed MPLA regime in Luanda as a possible trigger for a regionwide destabilization that could easily spill over into Namibia.

For the past month, MPLA forces, once again backed up by Cuban troops, have been engaged in a full-scale offensive against the UNITA stronghold of Jamba in southeast Angola. The assault on Jamba was launched when a severe drought delayed the rainy season, allowing MPLA armored units to move into the area. At the point when the offensive was launched, Dr. Savimbi was on a tour of Western Europe. He abruptly canceled his meetings and returned to the front line.

As the fighting reached levels unseen in three years, the rainy season began. MPLA forces became bogged down, and according to regional sources, UNITA was able to capi-