

EIR Feature

LaRouche plan for economic boom in Europe advances

by Christine Bierre

On Oct. 12, 1988, American economist Lyndon LaRouche, then running for election as the President of the United States, surprised many when he traveled to the Berlin Wall and proposed that the Western nations make a sweeping offer to the crisis-wracked Soviet Empire. "We say to Moscow: 'We will help you. We shall act to establish Food for Peace agreements among the international community, with the included goal that neither the people of the Soviet bloc nor the developing nations shall go hungry. . . . If aimed at the reunification of the economies of Germany begin,'" LaRouche told a press conference at West Berlin's Kempinski Bristol Hotel.

Subsequent events on continental Europe have fully borne out the rightness of LaRouche's approach. LaRouche's "Food for Peace" plan has now been adopted by West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl as the key road not only to German reunification, but to the forging of a European economic superpower which will soon far overshadow the United States, and even Japan. Truly, freeing Europe from the grip of the neo-malthusian, anti-technology policies enforced by the Anglo-American establishment, represents a ray of hope for all people suffering under the tyranny of economic backwardness and hunger.

That ray of hope was the subject of a conference held by the Schiller Institute over the weekend of Feb. 10-11 in Paris, France. Its "Conference for the Economic Development of 400 Million Europeans," could not have been more appropriate, since Chancellor Kohl was just then also in Paris to meet with French President François Mitterrand on the results of his talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov and East German caretaker Prime Minister Hans Modrow.

But the Paris conference went far beyond the Franco-German economic alliance per se. Among the 300 persons attending were patriots from countries East and West as well as North and South, including China, Cambodia, Lebanon, Poland, Romania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, as well as from all



Gill Riviere-Wekstein

Mapping out a new "Schiller Era" of cultural optimism at a Paris conference are, from left, West German Gen. Paul-Albert Scherer, Christine Bierre of the Schiller Institute of France, and Michael Liebig of EIR (Federal Republic of Germany).

Western European countries and the United States. The largest delegation, comprising about 100 people, was from East Germany—a palpable demonstration of the intense interest which East Germans have shown for LaRouche's "industrial triangle" proposal, which has been circulating widely there in the form of millions of leaflets and pamphlets (see *EIR*, Feb. 2, 1989, "Paris-Berlin-Vienna Triangle: Locomotive of the World Economy").

In to the conference, touching upon the economic and strategic questions which the speedy transformation of Eastern Europe poses.

Two ideas came out very clearly after the two-day conference: First, the Schiller Institute, LaRouche's wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, is the international organization to which patriots from all parts of the world are now addressing themselves in order to fight the dictatorship of the U.S.-Soviet condominium, which has been trying to cling to power; and, second, the Schiller Institute the few institutions in the world today, which is proposing original ideas to intervene in the various crises facing the world.

Burying the 'New Yalta' deal

The first day's proceedings concentrated on the "New Yalta" policy which the two superpowers are attempting to impose upon Europe and the rest of the world, in particular in what concerns the strategic-military aspects. Gen. Paul-

Albert Scherer, former head of West Germany's military intelligence organization, outlined how the economic and political crisis inside the Soviet Empire is leading inexorably toward civil war. Indicating collapsing empire comparable to a wounded beast, General Scherer nonetheless stressed that only through such a "necessary catharsis" can a totalitarian power come to an end.

Schiller Institute not underestimating the dangers of the present situation, the report nonetheless stressed its tremendous opportunities. The East Germans and other East bloc countries have put the ideal of freedom up front, she said, and it is up to Western Europeans to mobilize themselves to create the conditions in which these countries will not only be free, but where Europe will become the heart of a growing world economy. She outlined how a triangle of industrial development, whose three vertices would be Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, could radiate growth and prosperity to every corner of the European continent. The possibilities of a new era of economic growth, and especially of a new renaissance in values and ideas, is what led Helga Zepp-LaRouche to conclude with an optimistic vision that we are actually on the threshold of a new "Schiller era."

Webster Tarpley, president of the Schiller Institute United States, outlined the degeneracy of the Bush administration in the face of all this, while Michael Liebig, European director of Executive Intelligence tur, responded to one of the main worries, especially of the East Germans and their Eastern European neighbors: What to

do about the military situation? Liebig explained that the “New Yalta” negotiated between the two superpowers calls for a “neutralization” of Germany in exchange for reunification, and for a Finlandization of Europe once the U.S. troops are pulled out. He outlined a kind of “Gaullist” solution to the defense of Europe in view of the heightened danger from an unstable Soviet Union: No to neutralization of Germany, reinforcement of a European defense, but in the context of a restructured Atlantic Alliance along the lines of the proposals made earlier by the French Gen. André Beaufre (p. 34).

IMF austerity, or development?

Jacques Cheminade, president of the Schiller Institute in France, and Jonathan Tennenbaum of the Fusion Energy Forum in Wiesbaden, West Germany, both outlined the kinds of economic proposals the West should promote toward the East. Cheminade attacked as “criminals,” those in the West who are imposing the International Monetary Fund’s austerity policies on Poland and the other East bloc countries. This, he said, has led to drastic reductions in production and in the already abysmal living standards (p. 31).

Dr. Tennenbaum laid out the full breadth of LaRouche’s proposal for the development of a triangle of growth in Central Europe, centered around massive qualitative and quantitative improvement of rail and waterway transport infrastructure for products and people throughout the area.

During a discussion period, an economist speaking from the floor reminded the audience that if Western European countries had been generous with the Germans in the 1920s and had canceled the disastrous war reparations imposed by the Versailles Treaty, Hitler would not have taken power in Germany in the 1930s. “We cannot impose the same disastrous policies on our East bloc friends today under a new disguise, that of the IMF,” concluded this participant, who also called for a new “Marshall Plan” for Africa.

From the anti-bolshevik resistance

The conference also heard presentations by representatives of practically every single country at war against the dictatorship of the U.S.-Soviet condominium policy. Peter Albach, member of the executive committee of the Demokratische Aufbruch (Democratic Revolution) party in Thuringia, East Germany, described how the East German revolutionaries are looking at the situation. The legacy of socialism has been disastrous, he stressed; but he was also quick to point out that freedom does not consist in eating McDonalds hamburgers! We have a debt to those who are leading the fight, and to those who are still fighting, he said, saluting the courage of the Chinese and the Romanians in particular.

Bassam El Hachem, a Lebanese professor, spoke eloquently in defense of Lebanon and of its liberator, Gen. Michel Aoun. Mircea Burada, a Romanian film producer, spoke about the horrors of the dictatorship of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. He denounced the KGB for “steal-

ing” Romania’s December revolution, and gave full support to Doinea Cornea, whom he described as the “conscience of the Romanian people” and the “Vaclav Havel” of Romania, who left the new government to protest the fact that it is composed entirely of pro-Gorbachov Communists.

The Chinese democratic opposition was well represented by Yue Wu, one of the main organizers of the opposition workers’ movement of Beijing, and by Chen Lichuan, who spoke for Wan Runnan, secretary general of the Federation of Democracy in China. Both stressed the importance of the Eastern European revolts in maintaining and feeding the flames of resistance in China, even after the June 4, 1989 massacre at Beijing’s Tiananmen Square.

Poland was represented by Mathis Bortner, former head of Solidarnosc Côte d’Azur, who protested against the IMF rule over Poland and stressed that this debt was not legitimate: Out of \$40 billion, only \$17 billion actually went to Poland, the rest having been expropriated by the Russians. Bortner made an impassioned defense of a Poland capable of developing in science, technology, and agriculture, just as it did during the 1921-39 period.

Father Marian Falenczk, superior of the Pallotins order of France, spoke about the John Paul II Forum which he has created for Polish scholarship students in France, while Marion Apostol, member of the Friends of Poland group at the European Parliament spoke about the democratic tradition in Poland, dating back to the 16th century.

Hungary was represented by Kalman Domotor, secretary general of the Hungarian veterans’ association in France.

Telegrams of support were addressed at the end of this session to Lyndon LaRouche, currently a political prisoner of the Bush administration, as well as to Romanian dissident Doinea Cornea.

The kind of culture which must found the new world economic and political order, was the last theme dealt with by the conference. The names of Friedrich Schiller, Ludwig van Beethoven, Lazare Carnot, Gaspard Monge, Benjamin Franklin, and Gottfried Leibniz were referred to often in the speeches, as exemplars of a beautiful conception of man. Schiller’s idea that it is through beauty and art that profound conceptions about how humanity can be transmitted intelligibly, were the subject of several interventions by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and of a presentation on the influence of German culture in the French Revolution by Christine Bierre of the Schiller Institute in France.

But just hearing about it was not enough: On the eve of the conference, the Schiller Institute’s Eastern European guests—most of whom had never been in Western Europe before—were treated to an evening tour on a *bateau mouche* on the Seine River. For it is through the eyes that Paris, the “city of light,” can give a sense of harmonic beauty stemming from its long Christian-humanist tradition. Indeed, never had the Eastern European guests seen so much light, used to as they are to unlit cities after nightfall.