

Race riots explode, as Bush's world falls apart

by EIR Staff

Commenting on the outbreak of the worst urban rioting in Los Angeles since the Watts rebellion of 1965, Lyndon LaRouche, the political prisoner and candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said that "as of the morning of the 30th of April, the world which perhaps one might say George Bush built, is falling apart, and George himself, in his address to the nation on that morning, seemed to be falling apart, too." LaRouche emphasized that the riot was no spontaneous eruption, but occurred because "somebody had prepared it to happen."

The not-guilty verdicts announced on April 29 in the trial of four Los Angeles police officers accused of assault and excessive force in the arrest of black motorist Rodney King, served as the pretext for the widespread rioting, arson, and looting. The beating of King took place on March 3, 1991, and was videotaped by a resident of a nearby apartment building.

The violence which broke out after the acquittal continued into the following day in broad daylight, including in both the south central area of the city, which includes Watts, and the adjacent "Koreantown" area. Damage reports as of May 1 included over 100 people dead, over 1,000 injured, and at least 500 fires. Reports indicate a deliberate pattern of gasoline fire-bombings, with rioters deployed to prevent effective fire-fighting efforts, by attacking fire crews with rocks, bottles, and guns. The media fanned the flames of the violence, as television news crews accompanied gangs of youth rampaging about the city. Rioting spread to San Francisco and other cities all over the United States.

In the early morning hours of April 30, a curfew was imposed on the areas of Los Angeles most heavily affected by violence. Later that afternoon, a dawn-to-dusk curfew was imposed on the entire city of 3.5 million people, pursuant to an agreement worked out between Mayor Tom Bradley and

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Daryl Gates.

California Gov. Pete Wilson issued a proclamation around midnight on April 29 mobilizing 2,000 members of the California National Guard, and troops began to move into place the following day, into the areas of looting. In addition, a special contingent of 750 California Highway Patrol officers was deployed into the key areas.

President Bush issued a statement the morning of April 30 deploring the violence, and indicating that the Department of Justice would launch an FBI investigation of alleged "civil rights violations" by LAPD officers. News reports indicate that a top-level DoJ official was immediately dispatched to Los Angeles. Former FBI agent Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) had used the pretext of the King incident months ago to introduce a bill in to the U.S. Congress which would have allowed a federal takeover of local police departments in circumstances such as these.

Not an isolated incident

LaRouche underlined in his statement that there are two things to be said about the outbreak of violence: "First of all, it's not an isolated incident. We have a similar kind of situation throughout most of Central and South America, especially South America; we have a similar situation in eastern Europe; we have a situation of, at least temporarily, ungovernability, in Italy; a démontage of the government of France; a political crisis racking Germany, hell in the former East bloc, and threatened explosions leading toward possible coups next spring, in the former Soviet Union—plus the situation in Afghanistan, plus the situation in the Balkans, plus the general situation in the Transcaucasus, plus the impulse toward new explosions in the Middle East, plus a danger of an explosion in the subcontinent of Asia and so forth, and so on.

“George Bush’s world is falling apart, and so is the world of the people who think, mistakenly, that Trilateral Commission member Bill Clinton of Arkansas is an alternative to former Trilateral Commission member George Bush, whose friend is Trilateral Commission member Henry Kissinger.

“The world as my opponents would have designed it and would have described it, is, in short, falling apart. Now we have two choices. If you, as a citizen, as a voter, think that the alternative in this election period, is chiefly between George Bush and Bill Clinton and possibly the complicating factor of Ross Perot, then you don’t know what time it is.

“The world that these figures represent is falling apart, and none of them have any conception, or have shown any conception so far, as to the kind of world which we are now entering.”

Riots were no accident

In a second statement released on April 30, LaRouche analyzed the causes of the violence. “Several things are obvious to me,” he said. “And when I say obvious to me, I think I should explain to some people who may not know this, that I have a longstanding record as an expert in the subject of terrorism. In fact, some will recall that I warned of a major outbreak of terrorism shortly before the Entebbe incident back in the 1970s, among other things; and I did this on the basis of crucial factors of evidence.

“I’ll tell you at this time, that the riots in Los Angeles were *no accident*, nor were they a spontaneous reaction to the results of the jury decision in the Rodney King case. This was prepared. The elements were on the ground. Somebody is playing games on the one side with law and order, and others, from the U.S. government side, are to be indicted for their negligence in failing to anticipate and deal with this matter before it arose.

“The third point to be made, is that behind the violence of violence-prone gangs who are rampaging, destroying the houses and the businesses of ordinary black people, mostly, is the fact that there’s a very legitimate grievance, an accumulative grievance, over such issues as the recent Supreme Court intervention by the overwhelming majority of the Court, or with the support of the majority, in the Robert Harris execution in California.”

Death penalty breeds more violence

LaRouche continued: “Now, contrary to fools who believe that public executions or death sentences are a deterrent against crime, in point of fact, it’s been well known for a long time, that death sentences work exactly the opposite way: that violence in the form of death sentence executions by the government, actually increases the propensity for violence in the population.

“The worst part about this, has been that the federal courts and some other courts, have taken the view increasingly of late, that even if the courts believe that a defendant might be

innocent, or have what is called in the law a ‘colorable claim’ to innocence, that the execution must proceed on schedule nonetheless.

“This is the most terrible kind of Nazi-like cruelty typified by the Attorney General, for example, of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mary Sue Terry, who said exactly that, and said it repeatedly. That’s her policy. She’s one of the worst butchers in the United States today.

“Obviously, the people who are going to be killed are chiefly Hispanic and black minority representatives. Why? Because a large proportion of death-row cases are people who are probably innocent. That is, when a law enforcement agency cannot solve a case with a lot of heat around it, such as a major murder, rape, or so forth, they go out and they pick up, for example, a local retarded black kid, and pummel him into a confession in one way or the other, and then throw him on death row to get rid of the evidence, hoping that it never fires back on them. The case is closed. The actual perpetrators in the case go scot-free, but the local police department or local prosecutor looks good. That’s the way it goes.

“And black people and Hispanic people know that, generally, when this kind of injustice comes down, they’re going to be the first to receive the full brunt of it.

“So, even though most black citizens, for example, did not participate directly in the riots, and perhaps were appalled by it and tried to stop it, nonetheless, among them, there is a legitimate sense that they have fewer and fewer rights, or perhaps no rights, these days.

“In that environment, a few provocateurs, like groups with known names, whom I know to be terrorist-type groups, can operate among street gangs and related groups. And with the consent, even by negligence, of appropriate authorities, a riot like that in Los Angeles can be whipped up and organized in anticipation of an event such as the Rodney King case.

“I’m not saying the Rodney King decision was entirely irrelevant to the riot; but I am saying, that this riot did not occur spontaneously because the jury found police officers not guilty in the Rodney King case. This riot occurred because organized forces were whipped up and waiting for exactly such a decision, one way or the other. If the police officers had been found guilty, they would have rioted; if they had been found not guilty, they would have rioted. It could go either way, because somebody had prepared it to happen; and someone on the government intelligence law enforcement side was guilty of negligence, in not acting to prevent this explosion from occurring in the first place.

“But the fact remains: The reason it was possible to do this, is because, apart from the perpetrators of the violence—these poor, young, deluded, desperate people—the majority of minority groups, and others in the United States, the so-called Anglo-Saxon poor, have reached the point that they feel increasingly desperate, because they have a government under Bush that doesn’t care, and a government under Clinton, they think, which won’t care either.”