

Panama Report by Carlos Wesley

Plans to abolish Army may be defeated

LaRouche is center stage as reforms are debated; a no vote would set back U.S. plans to destroy continent's military.

Plans by the U.S. to destroy the armies of Ibero-America could suffer a setback if Panamanians vote "no" on Nov. 15 to a proposed constitutional amendment that would abolish Panama's right to have an army. The "new world order" agents pushing the nations of the hemisphere to do away with their armed forces as a cost-cutting measure to pay their foreign debt, are counting on a "yes" vote in the plebiscite to show that there is popular support for demilitarization.

The project to destroy the continent's armies, and to replace them with national guards or gendarmeries under Anglo-American control, is headed by Luigi Einaudi, U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States. Uruguayan Juan Rial, one of the co-authors of the demilitarization plan, told a Peruvian audience on Oct. 16 that the military had been recast along the lines desired by the United States in Mexico and in some Caribbean and Central American countries by two equally successful methods: by communist insurgencies, as in the case of Cuba and Nicaragua, and by direct intervention from the United States, as in the case of Panama; neither is a model Peruvians or anyone else would want to follow.

It would be a different story were Panamanians to endorse the destruction of the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) which followed the 1989 Christmas invasion ordered by George Bush. But there is a lot of resistance to the amendment, more so since Bush was defeated.

The amendment will not rid Panama of the military, just of *Panamani-*

an Armed Forces. The thousands of U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Air Force troops now occupying Panama, will remain. For Panamanians, the plebiscite is an opportunity to express their disgust with the Bush-installed regime of President Guillermo Endara. Despite a drug-fueled growth in the Gross National Product well in excess of 9%, Endara's regime of drug bankers has reduced almost 70% of the population to below the poverty line.

Following the defeat of his patron, Bush, a "no" vote on Nov. 15 could well collapse Endara's regime. Even some of his former supporters are campaigning against the constitutional changes.

Millions of dollars are being spent on propaganda to convince people to vote "yes." Former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who was awarded the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize, was brought in to campaign for the amendments, calling on Panamanians to follow the example of his country, which abolished its army in 1948.

The resistance is using information from *EIR* and playing up the policies of U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche against the advocates of demilitarization. Luis de Janón, who ran a three-part exposé in his column in *La Estrella de Panama* in mid-October on the drug ties of I. Roberto "Bobby" Eisenmann, an advocate of destroying the military who publishes the pro-government *La Prensa*, continues to run excerpts from *EIR*'s 1987 Special Report, entitled "White Paper on the Panama Crisis: Who Wants to Destabilize Panama and Why?" which

first warned about the plan to destroy Panama's Defense Forces.

After Eisenmann's pet scribbler Guillermo Sánchez Borbón followed up a diatribe slandering *EIR* founder LaRouche and jailed Argentine nationalist military leader Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, with an Oct. 23 article dismissing *EIR* as "a rag" that went out of business, De Janón went to town. On Oct. 29, he reported he had just received the latest issue of the *EIR* Spanish-language edition, including one dated Oct. 15, "which was the most interesting of the 'rags' received. On the back cover I found a phrase that awakened my journalistic interests. 'I have never seen a more truthful magazine. You should keep reading it.'—Col. Mohammed Alí Seineldín in an exclusive interview with *EIR*." Since then, De Janón has been excerpting daily from other articles from *EIR* to show the corruption of Eisenmann and other drug bankers in Endara's regime, including Second Vice President Guillermo Ford and Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

In a speech before the National Legislature, pro-government Cong. Arnulfo Escalona charged that a so-called "International of the Sword," including the Chilean military and Seineldín, were promoting the "no" vote, the Oct. 30 *La Prensa* claimed. Reportedly, during a recess, someone made a disparaging remark about "Seineldín's friend, LaRouche." A pro-government legislator interrupted: "Whatever our differences . . . LaRouche is one of the most learned and cultured men in the United States. His incarceration was the result of a judicial sham."

Similarly, at a conference the day before, a labor leader said, "Look, the problem is that there is a worldwide economic collapse, just as LaRouche forecast years ago, and that's why they put him in jail."