

U.S. hypocrisy condemned

On March 30, the Peruvian Congressional Committee on Human Rights took up several cases of human rights violations, including that of U.S. political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche. In a letter signed by its chairman, Roger Cáceres Velásquez, the committee requested that Peru's foreign minister ask the United States to provide an explanation. Following is the committee's request to be forwarded to Peru's Executive branch.

By agreement of the Committee on Human Rights and Pacification, over which I have the honor to preside, I ask that the Minister of Foreign Affairs be instructed that through diplomatic means, a request be presented to the government of the United States for a detailed and precise report regarding the repeated charges of human rights violations we are getting from numerous citizens of this country and from other nations of the world, regarding the abuses and violation of the human rights of American politician Lyndon LaRouche and his movement, as is detailed in the attached documents. It should be noted that it would be something inadmissible for the aforementioned government to raise any objections, observations and demands regarding human rights in our country, if within the United States itself there are such grave and delicate

situations, which more than justifies that at the very least we are provided the information requested.

The following message was sent by LaRouche associate Donald Phau, who has been sentenced to 25 years in prison in Virginia, to the participants at an international conference in Caracas, Venezuela. The individuals he mentions have all been convicted by the state of Virginia for their political activities as part of the LaRouche movement. Ascher and Billington are serving their sentences. It was read by his wife Ana María Mendoza-Phau.

Though I have never been to your country, having been married to a Venezuelan, I have a strong affinity to you as a wonderful people. . . .

By the end of this conference you all should know some of the details of why I am facing an imminent jail sentence of 25 years. The charges against me, and my friends Shelley Ascher [10 years], Mike Billington [77 years], Paul [34 years] and Anita Gallagher [39 years] and Larry Hecht [33 years], are, of course, bogus. . . . Many lawyers have told me that if I had raped and murdered someone, I probably would have gotten a smaller sentence. My real crime is that I am associated with Lyndon LaRouche; that is why, only by freeing him, can we all get our freedom. But if being a criminal is supporting someone who can save this planet from a new dark age, maybe being such a criminal is not really that bad. . . .

fears that some of the worst abuses now seen in American courts, such as the wholesale buying of testimony in exchange for plea bargains, which lets dangerous felons go free and even cash payments for witnesses, may also be imported.

The Venezuelan Senate Committee on Human Rights was also urged to demand an explanation from the U.S. government on the political persecution against LaRouche. According to the March 30 issue of *Ultimas Noticias*, the request came from Ana María Mendoza-Phau, who charged that there are "human rights violations against Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, including my husband Donald Phau, illegally sentenced to 25 years in jail by the state of Virginia." Mrs. Mendoza-Phau was in Venezuela to address a conference on the persecution of her husband and other members of LaRouche's political movement. Reportedly, those in the audience, including a member of the Venezuelan Congress, were visibly moved when she read a letter from her husband explaining why he was unable to honor the invitation to also speak at the conference.

Mrs. Mendoza-Phau said that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger pressured the FBI to go after LaRouche, and that her husband and others were convicted for

allegedly breaking Virginia's securities laws, by obtaining loans for political activities, loans "that were not classified as securities until after they had been indicted. The state commissioner who made the ruling was rewarded with a seat on Virginia's Supreme Court," she said, according to *Ultimas Noticias*.

Joining the chorus of protest from Ibero-America was Mexican Congressman Jesús González Gortázar, a leader of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). During a radio interview in Guadalajara, González condemned the execution of Mexican national Ramón Montoya by the state of Texas, and said that there are other frequent violations of human rights in the United States, citing the LaRouche case. González Gortázar said that the U.S. justice system is influenced by racial and political considerations, saying LaRouche's 15-year sentence was solely for "political reasons."

Last year in Mexico, the Committee on Human Rights of Congress heard testimony on the LaRouche case and promised an investigation, and Gonzalo Ruiz, chairman of Bolivia's Congressional Committee on Human Rights, also protested LaRouche's imprisonment in an open letter.