

Officials from Brazil, Mexico, Slovakia ask that LaRouche be freed

A delegation of international dignitaries spent Sept. 20-24 in Washington urging that American statesman and political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche be freed (see EIR, Oct. 1, p. 58). Below are edited excerpts from the statements of three members of the delegation, from a press conference on Sept. 22 at the National Press Club in Washington.

Brazil: Oswaldo Lima Filho

Oswaldo Lima Filho is a former Brazilian congressman and former minister of agriculture.

I came here in the name of the parliamentary Nationalist Front of the House of Representatives of Brazil to make a plea for Mr. Lyndon LaRouche's liberation. Since 1983, when I was in Congress, we acknowledged the work of Mr. LaRouche as a defender of civil rights all over the world, and also his work as a publisher of the magazine *Resumen Ejecutivo* and his fight against the practices of the International Monetary Fund.

As politicians, representatives, and congressmen all over Latin America, we get used to seeing the results of the policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund on the nations below the Rio Grande. Those policies, especially monetary policies, conclude in recession, unemployment, and starvation of millions of people.

The magazine that's published by the Schiller Institute and by Mr. LaRouche was the only one in America and, I believe, in the world, to publish the most truthful, most important documents about the works and deeds of the International Monetary Fund.

One was a letter by Mr. David Budhoo, an official of the IMF, to Michel Camdessus, managing director of the Fund, resigning in protest. He told in that letter how his hands were stained by the blood of millions of people starving in Africa and Central and South America, who were killed by the policies that *he* indulged them to practice under the direction of the IMF. This letter was published by only one paper in Brazil, *Jornal do Brasil*, in an article by the president of the Association of Brazilian Journalists, Dr. Barbosa Lima Sobrinho.

No other press, no other newspaper, no other magazine, had enough courage to publish this letter.

Since the agreement of Bretton Woods, when the United States forced the countries to accept the dollar as a universal currency, the United States has been directing the policies of

all the other nations through this Fund. And the results are here.

I can speak for many Latin American countries, and mainly for my country, Brazil, where the external debt was imposed by the IMF through illegitimate conditions against the Constitution of Brazil, and against *all* international law. . . .

They created such obligations as: Brazil and other countries would pay the interest and service the external debt, paying the rate of interest of the prime rate of New York; that is to say, the tax rate fixed by the New York bourse and the London Inter-Bank Overnight Rate (LIBOR), the London-offered rate of interest, by the London bourse.

These obligations made the interest rates increase from 5%, which is the historic rate of interest all over the world since the last century, to 19% and 24%, and sometimes with spreads even higher than that.

The adjustments of Brazil to pay that debt, as some universities of Brazil have shown, resulted in the government having to stop all public service on railroads, which have been destroyed; on programs for children's health, and for food in schools; for health service in hospitals. An extensive study made by the government during the dictatorship—not now, but eight years ago—of 10,000 households in Brazil, concluded that there are 2 million people in Brazil who are starving, and 62 million people living in families receiving an income at or below the minimum-wage.

I can say that Mr. LaRouche helped all those countries in Latin America to fight against this system, here, inside America; and he was sent to prison by a conspiracy of Mr. Henry Kissinger and Mr. George Bush, who subjected him to two trials.

I have studied the way those trials were conducted, and they did not obey the Constitution of the United States, especially the element of the article which says that any person should have the guarantee of due process of law. He was first sent to a trial in which he was acquitted, he was free; they found nothing on him, and said that he was not guilty. [More precisely, the trial ended in a mistrial; jurors told the press that they would have voted "not guilty"—ed.] But after that, he was sent to a second trial in a court previously selected, with a judge who was not impartial, and with a jury that was selected from among people who were in the government civil service.

And that judge, so organized, condemned him to 15 years in prison.

According to the laws now voted, he could only be sentenced to three years; yet he has been sentenced to 15 years, and now he has paid more than four years in jail.

And now he's asking for parole, to be free. And I am here, in the name of my colleagues in the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, in the name of many people in Brazil who know the works and deeds of Mr. LaRouche, to ask the government of the United States to set him free.

And may I recall for Mr. Clinton, who has now signed a great deed, a great fact, which is the treaty between the Arabs and the Jews for peace in the Middle East, that he could well remember the act of the President who succeeded Woodrow Wilson. During Wilson's government, a political prisoner, the president of the Socialist Party of the United States, Mr. Eugene Debs, was sentenced to 12 years in jail; and during this election, he was a candidate too, despite being in jail. And he got 1 million votes. After this election, the newly elected President called Mr. Eugene Debs to the White House and decreed a pardon for him. Mr. Clinton should follow this example.

Mexico: Congressman Rufino Saucedo

Rufino Saucedo represents the Human Rights Commission of the Mexican Parliament.

The Human Rights Committee of the Congress of the Republic of Mexico entrusted me with the mission of coming to the United States, to Washington, to meet with my colleagues from several parts of the world to discuss the case of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche. At the same time they have requested me to intercede with members of the United States Legislative branch, with representatives and senators, regarding the case of Mr. LaRouche.

We do this aware of the fact that Lyndon LaRouche has spent the major part of his life dedicated to scientific study, to the study of things that pertain to humanity, such as economy, in a scientific way.

We are aware of the fact that he is a man with tremendous theoretical capacities, and not only in the area of scientific study of the economy, but is a man of tremendous warmth, who has dedicated himself in his own country, to try to solve the problems here.

Going into the process by which he finds himself in prison, we have studied the documents very carefully and we have realized that a number of irregularities have been committed, irregularities that actually violate the criminal procedures that should prevail in this type of trial.

Besides these irregularities, we are also aware of the fact that he has been denied a number of things that he needs for his life; in particular, we know that he has been denied books. The number of books that he is entitled to read has been reduced significantly, and this is a tremendous hardship for a person who is dedicated to intellectual activity. . . .

We have been spending some time in meetings with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States Congress, and we have specifically asked them for one thing. That request is the following:

According to the laws of this country, Mr. LaRouche is about to fulfill one-third of his sentence. That is to say, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison; he is about to finish his fifth year in prison, and therefore he's entitled, according to the laws of this country, to be freed under the U.S. parole regulations. He is entitled to be given parole.

Slovakia: Dr. Joseph Miklosko

Dr. Joseph Miklosko, from Bratislava, Slovakia, is a leader of the Christian Democratic Party of Slovakia and a human rights activist.

Dear friends, I was a vice prime minister of Czechoslovakia when I learned about this case. I was responsible for human rights, I studied many materials about this case, and I am absolutely sure that this trial was a political trial and LaRouche is innocent and it's a violation of human rights that he is still in jail.

We studied years ago the books which were written about America, about the evolution of human rights all over the world, and I'm sure that human rights are international things. Therefore, I'm shocked by the situation where human rights are so violated here in the United States. But nobody writes about it; for example, in this book *Human Rights*, which is put out every year by the government of the United States.

I personally met Lyndon LaRouche some months ago in Rochester, Minnesota, and I was surprised with his great intellectual capacity as a scientist, as an economist, as a deeply religious man with the feeling of ecumenicism, and also his many side knowledges in science, technology, music, religion, and many other things—history, for example. His forecasts for eastern Europe, which were made years ago and also now from prison, are absolutely true and are fulfilled very precisely. I admire also these things.

He is now 71 years old, has spent five years in prison, and I think they should free him. There was a time when America helped us, helped our dissidents to be free, and I think now is the time to also help American dissidents to be free. There's a Russian saying: "Lyndon LaRouche is the Sakharov of America." There are many irregularities in [the judicial proceedings in LaRouche's case]. . . . I think it's really time to change them and to free Lyndon LaRouche.

I also visited Mike Billington two days ago in Nottoway Prison. I had the same impression: a deep, intellectual, scientifically oriented man, deeply religious, in contact with God in prison. If such people, for not paying back political loans, are in prison for 77 years, then something is wrong within the state and something is wrong on Earth. Therefore, I ask once more to give and to grant him parole, to free Lyndon LaRouche and his collaborators.