

EIRFeature

Africa needs peace through development

by Linda de Hoyos

EIR presents here a selection of speeches from the April 26-27 conference held in Walluf, Germany, on Peace through Development in the Great Lakes Region. The conference was sponsored by *EIR*, the Forum for Peace and Democracy (Bonn), and the Schiller Institute of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche.

The conference was unique in that all participants were committed to the proposition that any reconciliation process in the Great Lakes region must be based on the rejection of the conditionalities policies of the International Monetary Fund, which has played such a subversive role in priming the economies of the region for the conflagration that erupted in 1994. This thesis was poignantly developed by Jean Gahururu, of the Forum for Freedom and Democracy in Rwanda, in his paper "Rwanda: Peace through Development and Regional Integration," delivered to the conference on April 27. Conversely, conference participants such as Nkiko Nsejimana of Rwanda, whose speech is printed below, also concurred that peace must be based on actual economic development, which begins to give relief and hope to the population.

The truth is told

Second, the conference uniquely served as a forum in which the African patriots of Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda were able to tell their story—the story that has been thoroughly blacked out of the Western press. In most cases, the African speakers present have all met with personal tragedy in the wars that have engulfed their region, and watched with extreme anguish as thousands of their people have died by starvation, disease, or direct killing in eastern Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. This is the subject of the report printed here by François Nzabahimana, president of the Rally for the Return of Democracy and Refugees (RDR).

The conference also heard how, even though facing the extreme hostility of the international community and a murderous military, citizens of Burundi took responsibility to wage their fight for democracy in Burundi, against the Uganda-



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. addresses the conference in Walluf, Germany, on April 26.

backed mono-Tutsi military regime that has a record of mass murder during its 32 years in power. This story is highlighted by the speeches of William Munyen Babazi, secretary general of the Burundi National Council for the Defense of Democracy, and Perpetue Nshimirimana, Burundi's former ambassador to the United Nations.

These are the reports that the reader will be unable to find in any other published location. These are the stories that have been buried with the murdered Presidents of Burundi and Rwanda, and with the hundreds of thousands who followed them in death. These are the stories that have been buried under an avalanche of propaganda extolling the virtues of British warlord Yoweri Museveni of Uganda as the "new leader of Africa," or the Museveni-run mercenary Laurent Kabila as the "liberator of Zaire."

Therefore, in the first instance, the conference brings into the light of day *the truth* of the horrific events that have unfolded in the the Great Lakes region since the British-ordered invasion of Rwanda from Museveni's Uganda in 1990.

Strategy against evil

The question—how can we defeat the British imperial plot that has destroyed the Great Lakes region—was the uppermost issue on everyone's minds. On this issue, the conference was a dialogue particularly between American statesman Lyndon LaRouche and the participants, as LaRouche's speech called upon everyone "to forget that you are African for a moment," and "come up to the mountaintop" to view the

situation globally and see it from the standpoint of the last 500 years of human history, and an impending collapse of human civilization. And from this standpoint, LaRouche proved, the fight against the British empire in Africa is an action that can change the world, becoming the pivot of the world strategic crisis—especially through forcing intervention on the part of the United States and its President.

This challenge posed in the early part of the conference was accepted by most participants, who further expressed their appreciation that LaRouche had raised the conflict in Africa to a global strategic plane. This process acted to strengthen all participants, including those of the hosting organizations, and led to discussions of the requirements of moral and emotional stamina required for victory.

Lastly, the conference was, in the words of one Zairean participant, "a kind of university," in which the philosophies and methods of British imperialism and social control were examined, as in the speeches of Helga LaRouche, Dennis Speed of the Schiller Institute, and Godfrey Binasia, former President of Uganda, calling upon all present to become self-conscious of the insidious effectiveness of these methods, and to arm themselves with a scientific method that will effectively counter it. After hearing the call for an African Civil Rights Movement read by Binaisa, the conference participants decided that this seminar would be only the first, with more such forums to be organized in cities in Europe and the United States. *EIR* will be publishing the full proceedings of the conference in a special report to be released soon.