

LaRouche: Governments must act to avert catastrophe

*The following statement by Lyndon LaRouche was delivered to a conference of the Slovakian branch of the international Catholic organization *Justitia et Pax* (Justice and Peace), in Bratislava, Slovakia, on Dec. 10, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the UN Declaration of Human Rights:*

In the coming weeks the world will experience the disintegration of the international financial and monetary systems in their present form. The fact of the matter is, that a point has now been reached, that the rate of growth of monetary emission, which has been deployed in an effort to temporarily stabilize the collapsing financial markets, is unprecedented in recent times. At the same time, there has been an accelerated collapse, especially in the last six-seven months, in some of the key hard commodities production, employment, and international trade sectors. The collapse of international petroleum prices, which have been a disaster for the countries which heavily depend on them, are an indicator of the general collapse.

Under these conditions, proposals for a so-called new-Keynesian alternative are already totally discredited be-

fore they even begin to be implemented. Either governments will continue the lunatic policy of simple monetary inflation, as seen since early October, and then we will see the monetary system will blow out in a hyperinflationary bubble, or, if the Central Banks avoid this, we will see during the coming weeks a depression much worse than in the 1930s. We have reached the boundary conditions of these two possible trends.

Only sweeping and radical changes in the international financial system can prevent a collapse in the coming weeks and months ahead. We are at the outer limits of follies.

Governments have to abandon these policies now or the world will go into something beyond the imagination of most people in this century. This is not something for the distant future, but for the immediate weeks ahead. In this situation, a great mass of the people in the world will die from effects such as the IMF-conditionality, which have had a mass-murderous effect, as now everybody clearly sees, on the most vulnerable countries and poorest sections of the world. These policies have to be scrapped.

Under these conditions, a humanitarian response from both a moral and economic standpoint has to be a change toward a just new world economic order. Therefore, *Justitia et Pax* should appeal to the governments, to urgently take measures to prevent a catastrophe.

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

one. However useful and effective these may be in emergencies, such initiatives cannot dispense from the effort to create in the citizens a basis of shared convictions, thanks to which manipulation of the democratic process would be rejected once and for all.

In the context of the international community, nations and peoples have the right to share in the decisions which often profoundly modify their way of life. The technical details of certain economic problems give rise to the tendency to restrict the discussions about them to limited circles, with the consequent danger that political and financial power is concentrated in a small number of governments and special interest groups. The pursuit of the national and international common good requires the effective exercise, even in the economic sphere, of the right of all people to share in the decisions which affect them. . . .

8. The right to self-fulfillment

Every human being has innate abilities waiting to be developed. At stake here is the full actualization of one's own person and the appropriate insertion into one's social environment. In order that this may take place, it is necessary above all

to provide adequate education to those who are just beginning their lives: Their future success depends on this.

From this perspective, how can we not be concerned when we see that in some of the poorest regions of the world educational opportunities are actually decreasing, especially in the area of primary education? This is sometimes due to the economic situation of the particular country, which prevents teachers from receiving a proper salary. In other cases, money seems to be available for prestigious projects and for secondary education, but not for primary schools. When educational opportunities are limited, particularly for young girls, there will surely arise discriminatory structures which adversely affect the overall development of society. The world could find itself divided according to a new criterion: On the one side, States and individuals endowed with advanced technologies; on the other, countries and people with extremely limited knowledge and abilities. As one can easily guess, this would simply reinforce the already acute economic inequalities existing not only between States but also within them. In developing countries, education and professional training must be a primary concern, just as they are in the urban and rural renewal programmes of more economically advanced peoples.