

EIR Conference Report

Italians join LaRouches' call for New Bretton Woods

by Claudio Celani

Italian political and economic leaders joined in supporting the call put out by Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, for Italy to become part of the "Survivors' Club" of nations — those working to establish a New Bretton Woods monetary system and to build the Eurasian Land-Bridge great infrastructure project. The call was issued to organize for a Rome conference keynoted by Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche on March 11. The conference, attended by about 80 institutional representatives, was sponsored by *EIR* and the LaRouche movement in Italy, the Italian Civil Rights Movement Solidarity. The proceedings were opened by Paolo Raimondi, chairman of the Italian Solidarity Movement, who reminded his listeners that Lyndon LaRouche had launched the proposal for a New Bretton Woods exactly two years ago, on April 10, 1997, in that very room at the Columbus Hotel. Today, Raimondi said, we must send a message to the world, to get behind the motion for a New Bretton Woods and of the development of the Eurasian continent through the Land-Bridge program.

Raimondi was followed by Flaminio Piccoli, former chairman and secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, which ruled Italy for more than 45 years, before it dissolved in 1992-94 under the hammer of the "*Britannia* plot." Piccoli's speech appears below. He expressed the "high esteem that I always had for Lyndon LaRouche. He is a man who can look forward, and speak his thoughts with great precision." LaRouche, he said, "spent five years in prison because he told the truth," and Piccoli stressed the "usefulness of his prophecies to be repeated here."

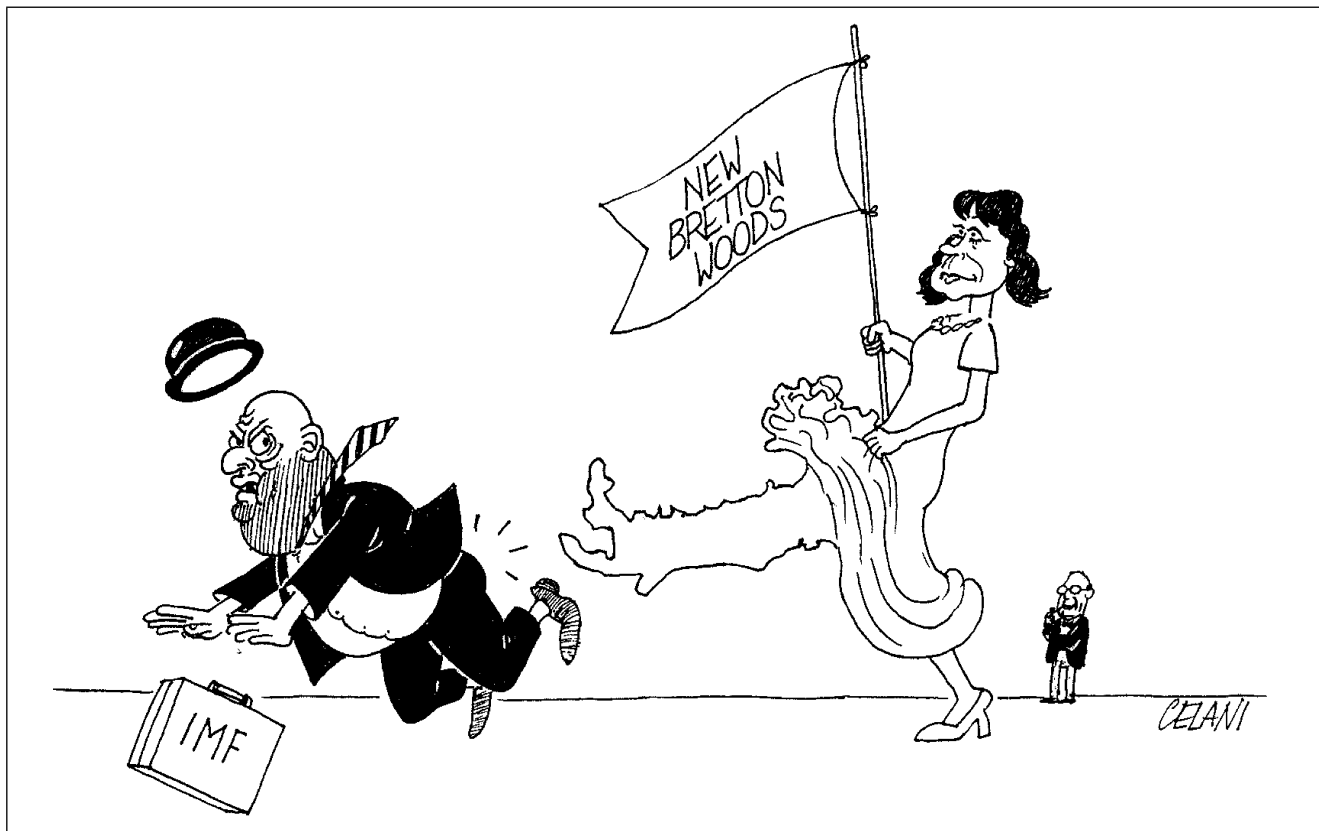
Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Schiller Institute and candidate for European Parliament from Germany's Civil Rights Movement Solidarity slate, then presented an in-depth view of the world strategic situation, whose dynamic is domi-

nated by the disintegration of the world financial system. Her speech is printed below.

No surrender of national sovereignty

The next speaker was Jan Lopuszanski, a member of the "Our Circle" caucus in the Polish Sejm (lower house of Parliament), and a member of the National Christian Party. He told the audience, that while Poland is not yet a member of the European Union, it soon will be. Membership in both the EU and NATO are offered to Poland as "the most prudent step" toward prosperity and security, but this proposition is challenged by his faction, which sees a greater threat from Poland's being told to resign its national sovereignty. "The experience of Polish history," said Lopuszanski, "has proven to us beyond doubt that the violation of the rights of a nation always results in the violation of the rights of individuals forming that nation." Uppermost in our mind, he said, is the tragedy of Polish agriculture: "Polish farmers are being told that their farms must face competition without government support, or else they must perish." At the root of the problem, Lopuszanski said, is a wrong-headed system, in which capital, instead of being made available to increase investments and productivity, gets channelled into speculative activities. The proper solution, therefore, is found "by working out cooperation among the governments of sovereign states in controlling the movements of capital, particularly if this cooperation can be based on the principle of the solidarity of nations."

Luciano D'Ulizia, the next speaker, took up the issue of such financial cooperation, commenting on LaRouche's proposals for a new financial and monetary system. D'Ulizia is an economist and chairman of the Italian National Cooperative Unions, which includes 6,000 firms in the agriculture, trade,



and construction sectors. These firms employ 300,000 workers and have a global turnover of 7,000 billion liras. It is clear, he said, that the Bretton Woods agreements no longer exist, and therefore they have to be revived. But, he said, in doing so we must bring financial aggregates into correspondence with monetary values, and monetary values into correspondence with the values of actual production. He then elaborated a theory which he calls “reciprocal atomism.” At the same time, one must acknowledge that the Keynesian model did not work and must be replaced, he said.

The International Monetary Fund model, which has not worked, also has to be replaced, he said. Look at the Russian disaster. As a functioning model, he proposed the philosophy of the cooperative model, which rejects dogmatism.

Understanding national credit

An interesting discussion followed the next speaker, Alberto Servidio, the former president of the Fund for the Mezzogiorno (Cassa del Mezzogiorno), the central planning and financial body through which infrastructure was built in southern Italy (the Mezzogiorno) in the postwar period. He pointed to the postwar experience, where Italy would cover part of the financing needed to build infrastructure, and private firms would join in, with a concession to run the infrastructure projects with a toll system, in order to pay back investment costs. He posed the question: Today, how can we

build infrastructure, if the state is bankrupt and the bureaucracy prevents private capital from coming in?

Zepp-LaRouche answered by developing the concept of the National Bank, an agency that *issues* credit specifically for infrastructure projects. Who decides whether the state is bankrupt or not? Take the example of Japan, where hundred of billions of dollars are created, only to bail out the banks. Therefore, money can be created; the question is only whether it is created to be used productively or to create hyperinflation.

Another contribution to the discussion came from attorney Giuseppe De Gori, who raised the importance of the Italian Solidarity Movement’s legal suit against speculator George Soros. It’s not that we think we can defeat Soros in court, he said, but we want people to know about it and discuss it, so that they understand. Soros, thanks to the legal suit, is currently under investigation for his role in the speculative attack that devaluated the lira in 1992 and forced Italy to abandon the European Exchange Mechanism.

Greetings to the conference

Two messages to the Rome conference came from Roberto Formigoni, president of the Lombardy Region, and Mons. Alan de Lastic, Archbishop of New Delhi and president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India.

Formigoni wrote: “I am very sorry I am unable to attend your conference, because of urgent institutional commit-

ments. I wish full success to your initiative. The only possibility to avoid the economic depression threatening us and the ongoing financial crisis is the courageous realization of a policy of development and economic growth, investing public and private capital in great strategic projects, which are instead going to financial speculation.”

Archbishop de Lastic sent his greetings: “I wish to send my blessing to this conference, which I unfortunately cannot attend. Creating a partnership for economic and human development is the key for India, as well as for the whole world, which is affected by a new era of colonialism and slavery, this time financial slavery. Sharing wealth and technology in a spirit of partnership, between Europe and Asia in particular, will be the key for the development of Third World countries and a better human life. To all speakers and attendants my blessing.”

Sen. Flaminio Piccoli

Which way for Europe?

Sen. Flaminio Piccoli is president of the new Democrazia Cristiana, former general secretary of the Christian Democracy, and former president of the Christian Democratic International.

It was through a little coup that I immediately responded “yes” to the invitation to speak at the conference of the Solidarity Movement and *EIR*, the intelligent magazine of the American economist Lyndon H. LaRouche. I decided to say a few words of introduction not to be unkind to the two ladies who lead this movement, at least here in Rome, because I always had great esteem for Lyndon, because he is a man who can look forwards, who always expresses his thoughts with great exactness and without prejudice, and therefore can forecast the future. The first time I met him, more than 20 years ago, I listened to him a bit inattentively. But over the years, when I also intervened on his behalf when he went to jail, because he had told the truth on the homicidal folly of those who wanted a war, I realized that the financial and economic crisis he had warned us of had come true. I decided to accept the invitation to speak at this conference, when I heard that Mr. LaRouche, whom I wished to see here again, was unable to attend and the kind lady who works here in Rome with him asked me to comment on his forecasts and his proposals. I agreed, because

I consider him one of those figures who are able to move on their own, who can think profoundly and because of this finds a lot of obstacles put in his way by false politicians, false scientists, or false economists. But then the crisis did happen, which might have been avoided.

He is also a man who not only says how things will go wrong and why, but also proposes remedies. I am a political figure with the only importance of being very old, and of having lived through two world crises. I was born a few days before Italy joined the First World War. I was an Austrian then, because I was born in Trentino, and I can still remember the poverty we experienced during that war. Then I had the luck, or ill luck, of joining the Alpini three months before the Second World War exploded, and I saw also that war and many events which made me suspicious about things I read every day in the newspapers, which pick up on violent incidents just to increase sales.

Listen to LaRouche

I want to say today that it is worth listening to LaRouche’s economic, political, and military warnings and to his proposals, which have annoyed those who make trouble in economic and political life, but which he kept saying, without ever stopping, at whatever personal cost, always formulating proposals which—after many years of knowing him personally—are worth some reflection at the end of this century, since his words are not only prophetic, but the result of an intelligent interpretation of the greatest international crisis.

When we speak of politics these days in Italy, we find a confusion which is frightening, at least to those of us who witnessed the century of wars, and which recommends us not to tail behind politicians who are full of money and reckless ideas, but to rather attentively follow those few political figures who had from Providence the gift of seeing into the future.

I will say at the end, that the theme of this conference is very important, because it poses the question: “Will Europe have a future of stability, or become one of the regions of the world shaken by depression and wars?” I have been a journalist and a party man all my life, and if I look back on my life, I realize that sometimes things happen which remind us of events 30 years ago. The mistakes which were made in the 1920s, the events of the First and Second World Wars, tend to be repeated in a way which is even monotonous.

Lyndon’s proposal this time is summarized by proposals he made four or five years ago, and which he now presents with new features, the idea to convoke a New Bretton Woods conference, to realize great infrastructural projects in Eurasia, which is struck by the Maastricht measures that are part of the problem, and by the systemic crisis. I am glad to invite Mrs. LaRouche, who is our main speaker today, to give her speech and start a debate which I think will be very fruitful and which we will speak of in the years to come.