

LaRouches Rejuvenate The Indian Elite

by Ramtanu Maitra

The Nov. 28-Dec. 5 visit to India by U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate for 2004 and *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, must be regarded as the rejuvenation of India's elite, now under attack by economic liberalizers and the globalization mafia around the world.

Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche met with a large number of high-level political, academic, and government officials. The subjects of discussion—which varied widely, encompassing of ten history, culture, and education—were focussed on two areas: the inadequacy and bankruptcy of the present international monetary system, and the highly volatile geostrategic situation. Mr. LaRouche's presentation at the seminar held at the India International Center in New Delhi (see *EIR*, Dec. 21, 2001), covered the entire gamut.

A New Bretton Woods

In most of their meetings, the theme remained the dangers created by the collapsing international financial system and the coup d'état threat begun with the events of Sept. 11 in the United States, and the war-like situation that prevails throughout Asia and parts of Africa. In their discussions with former Indian Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar, Mr. LaRouche spelled out the bankruptcy, and the associated dangers, of the international financial system, and urged the Indian political leadership to demand a new international monetary system. Mr. LaRouche reminded him that India had been in the forefront of developing nations, providing them with leadership during the Cold War days through the Non-Aligned Movement, and had demanded a new and just world economic order as far back as the Non-Aligned Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1976.

Indian economic policy, which has been attacked throughout the past years because of its protectionist nature, withstood the financial collapse that bankrupted the financially wealthy Asian nations in 1997-98. This is because the policies of the late Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, were to protect the Indian sovereign nation-state.

However, as Mr. LaRouche pointed out, the present monetary system cannot even sustain the existing physical economy, let alone help to grow it further. Hence, it is imperative

for the Indian leadership to take the initiative to demand a new international monetary system.

Various Indian political leaders and high-level officials who met Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche were in agreement with the analysis. Their responses, however, were not identical. For instance, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that he, like Mr. LaRouche, is also an optimist, despite the fact that he notices a weakness of the Indian spirit which guided India through the troubled days of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Chandra Shekhar pointed out, according to his view, that the barrage of attacks launched over the years through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund-directed economic policies, and the recent onslaught by the economic liberalizers and globalizers, have taken a toll on the Indian people. In his view, while the issues brought out by Mr. LaRouche are the essence for India's future, they are not discussed much, and less so in the Indian Parliament. He believes that neither the ruling government of Atal Behari Vajpayee nor the opposition political grouping, led by the Congress Party, really understand the danger that lies ahead, nor are they courageous enough to discuss it.

The response was similar at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where the LaRouches made their presentations on Nov. 30. Through the questions and answers, more economic issues were brought to the fore. Mr. LaRouche's emphasis on building an adequate physical, education, and health-care infrastructure, which must act as the keystone to nation-building, was widely acclaimed. The bankruptcy of the international financial system, typified by the collapse of Enron that had occurred the day before, was also accepted as fact. Prof. Abhijit Sen of the JNU School of Economics, who was chairing the seminar, said that he was "most grateful that Mr. LaRouche came and said these things. . . . These words are not heard much any more."

While the responses by the JNU students and faculty members, and political leaders such as Chandra Shekhar, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman K.C. Pant, and five former Union ministers, who had served Indira Gandhi's and Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinets, who had extended discussions with the LaRouches during the trip, were exuberant, much more caution was exercised by the Indian Prime Minister's Principal Secretary and head of the National Security Agency, Shri Brajesh Mishra. Shri Mishra applauded Mr. LaRouche's "noble work," but pointed out that since India's share in worldwide trade is a meager 0.4%, India has less muscle to pressure the powerful trading nations. He said that support for a new monetary system must be generated in the Group of Eight industrial nations, as well as in countries such as India and China.

In addition to meetings with a range of top-level strategic thinkers belonging to India's major strategic think-tanks, Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche also met with former Prime Minister I.K. Gujaral and his colleague, associate, and fellow strategic thinker, J.C. Kapur.