

LaRouche in Italy: Take the Lead for Eurasian Development

by Claudio Celani

For the second time in a month, Lyndon LaRouche visited Italy, a country where he has high recognition and where, last year, the national Chamber of Deputies approved a resolution calling for a “new world financial architecture” oriented toward productive investment, not speculation—as LaRouche’s proposed New Bretton Woods system specifies. From May 5-8, LaRouche paid a visit to the northern Italian cities of Vicenza and Milan, holding public events and private meetings. In this trip, as in the previous one, LaRouche called on Italian leaders to break with the new “Roman imperial” policy of the Bush Administration, and to join ranks with its European allies in organizing for a Eurasian development policy (see *EIR*, April 25). Italy plays a special role in the Eurasian project, because of its natural projection into the Mediterranean Sea, toward the Mideast, which is the crossroads between Eurasia and Africa. A special feature of LaRouche’s visit this time was the expansion of the LaRouche Youth Movement to Italy.

Vicenza: A High-Export Region

On May 5, LaRouche was the main guest speaker at a conference at the Vicenza Chamber of Commerce, organized by *EIR* and by the International Strategic Political Economic Institute (ISIES), founded by a group of businessmen from the region. Vicenza represents a singularity known to LaRouche, who was there already in July 2001: A city of 200,000, Vicenza has a high density of small and medium-sized enterprises, and alone exports more than the nation of Greece. As its traditional export markets shrank, however, and its firms came under pressure of cost-cutting competition, Vicenza tried outsourcing in recent years (for instance, establishing 30,000 firms in Romania), only to realize that—as LaRouche had warned—such “globalization” is no long-term solution. As the world financial and economic crisis developed in the last two years, the analyses and the solutions that LaRouche presented in 2001 have gained even more credibility among his followers in Vicenza, who invited him again to discuss strategic and economic issues.

LaRouche delivered an address (see complete speech, below) on the global



Lyndon LaRouche (center) in Milan at the Chamber of Commerce. In his meetings with business and political leaders, and young people, LaRouche underlined the need for an international effort to defeat the imperial “war party” in Washington, and to establish an alliance of sovereign nations, for economic progress. To the left is translator Claudio Celani, and to right is Paolo Raimondi of the Italian Solidarity Movement.

economic and strategic situation, focussing on the new opportunity defined by his position as number-one in contributor support among the candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination, and the fact that the “liberal imperialist” faction in the United States is using LaRouche’s exposure of the fascist nature of the pro-war neo-conservative cabal and the perspectives for a recovery of the world economy offered by Eurasian development, with special emphasis on the opportunities for Italian medium-sized and small enterprises.

While a global recovery can occur only through a Bretton Woods-style financial reorganization of the economy, LaRouche said, existing resources should already be invested in promoting technology-transfer agreements between Italian firms and countries such as China. If we successfully address the economic crisis, we will have removed a major cause for war, he said.

LaRouche was introduced by Paolo Raimondi, chairman of the Italian Solidarity Movement, and by ISIES Chairman Luciano Bisortole, who addressed the issue of re-establishing international law after the Iraq War. Bisortole asked whether, at the root of the current international crisis, is not maybe “someone’s new and dangerous doctrine concerning perverse lifestyles and political-ethical views of human life?” By promoting terror, “they bring the international community to inevitably fear for its own future, throwing on entire peoples—and not on those really responsible—the responsibility for terrorist acts.” Peace is not just the absence of war, Bisortole said, but “peace can be achieved only by respecting fundamental truths about man and his rights.”

From the audience, Luigi D’Agrò, a member of Italy’s Parliament who, in September 2002, had signed the resolution for a New Bretton Woods, initiated by several parliamentarians who favor LaRouche’s plan, reiterated his support for that initiative. He thanked LaRouche for his work, which, among other things, has had the merit of exposing the perverse effects of financial speculation, in terms of looting of the real economy and especially of impoverishment of the Third World. D’Agrò then asked two questions: the first, related to the Mideast as a geopolitical region as defined by oil resources, and what European interests in this context should be; the second, on what a future world political order should look like.

This opened the way to a long and intense discussion, which continued informally after lunch, among LaRouche and some local supporters.

Intervention in Milan

On May 8, LaRouche gave a speech on the same subject at a public meeting in Milan, hosted by the Milan Chamber of Commerce at the historic Palazzo ai Giureconsulti. As in Vicenza, the lecture was followed by a long discussion, in which participants raised questions related to energy, credit generation, the fight against terrorism, and other issues.

One question on the so-called “American Jewish Lobby” gave LaRouche the opportunity to explain that what Europeans see under this name, is in reality a phenomenon of organized crime, which has nothing to do with the Jewish tradition, and should not even be given that name. The true Jewish

identity, LaRouche explained, is exemplified by the tradition that goes “from Moses to Moses to Moses”—i.e., from the Biblical Moses to Moses Maimonides to Moses Mendelssohn, the “Socrates of Berlin” in the 18th Century, who made a crucial contribution to Classical European culture. What is today mistakenly called the “Jewish Lobby,” he said, is in reality a group of thugs who are the financial moneybags for people like Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, followers of the fascist tradition of the late Vladimir Jabotinsky, an admirer of Hitler. As for American voters of Jewish origins, they, like other Americans, are afraid of the political and economic crisis, and would vote for somebody like me, LaRouche said, who comes out with a solution in the tradition of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Several members of the Lombardy Regional Council (the rough equivalent of a U.S. state legislature) participated. As well, as the chairman of the influential association Casa d’Europa, Orazio Crisafulli, intervened by calling on the politicians to work so that the issues raised by LaRouche could be included on the agenda when Italy assumes the presidency of the European Union for the second half of 2003.

One regional councilman asked how, according to LaRouche, terrorism should be fought. Since there is no significant terrorist capability outside of state or state-similar powers, the most efficient pre-emptive policy against terrorism, LaRouche said, is to make friends, not enemies, among the nations of the world.

Answering another question, on how to generate credit in a bankrupt economy, LaRouche explained that there are two ways. The first is the U.S. model under the Constitutional system, of credit generated directly by the government (this implies a reform in Europe, where there is a system of independent central banks). The second one, is credit generated by long-term trade and investment agreements among nations: If two nations sign such an agreement committing themselves to honor the debt incurred by the agreement, this automatically generates credit. But a fixed-exchange-rate monetary system is needed in order to be able to issue such credit at a low interest rate.

Press Coverage

Several print media and four TV stations carried interviews with LaRouche. *Il Giornale di Vicenza* dedicated an article to his tour on May 4, quoting ISIES Chairman Bissortole that “LaRouche is committing all his efforts to bring the United States into the process of peaceful reconstruction of the world economy. Among the targets of this policy, which includes infrastructure, are Eurasian ‘development corridors,’ extended to the rest of the world.” The article wrote that LaRouche advocates a “progressive democracy” and “is a most ferocious critic of President Bush and of the entourage which inspires Bush’s international political actions.”

Another daily, *Il Gazzettino*, published an article on May 6, which stated: “The future of Vicenza’s small and medium-sized firms cannot but be in Eurasia—LaRouche comments—but only if they shift from being simple products exporters to technology exporters. Eurasia—the economist continues—demands, due to its dimensions, that small and medium-sized firms move not alone, but organized and supported by institutions. It is not easy, but it is important to start with a pilot project, where some firms join in a consortium and start partnership projects with Asian firms.”

Launching the Youth Movement

In addition to the public conferences, LaRouche had also private meetings with local politicians and legislators. On May 6, LaRouche met with a couple of dozen young (and not so young) supporters, to discuss the expansion of the LaRouche Youth Movement in Italy. The LYM is what has made possible his current position among Democratic Presidential candidates (he has raised more individual contributions than any other candidate), and will be the decisive factor for his chance to win the 2004 Presidential elections, LaRouche explained in most of his meetings. The youth movement is necessary to bring about changes in society, LaRouche explained, because the youth—the “no-future” generation—will act upon the previous generation, the generation now in power, giving them back a sense of optimism for the future. Therefore, we must build a LaRouche Youth Movement in Europe too, he said.

The problem in Italy, LaRouche explained to his supporters, is that, although the average politician is better than his colleagues in most parts of the world, in Italy too, society has no future, due to the changes allowed by the 1968 “Now” generation. In the case of Milan, a once-powerful industrial center has been transformed into a post-industrial society, where the main activity is centered around the fashion business.

LaRouche cracked countless jokes about the famous Milanese fashion models, who are forced by a decadent culture to become unnaturally skinny and to run around wearing a few centimeters of clothing. Once, in previous generations, morality in society was shown practically by parents showing care for their children and grandchildren, as well as for the older generations. In Italy, this morality has also been shown in the care for the *beni culturali*—works of art left from past generations in the form of paintings, sculptures, and architectural works, which constitute 50% of the world’s total collection, according to UNESCO. This kind of morality was lost with the “Now” generation, the ’68 generation, and now we have, for the first time in history, a lack of connection among generations.

The task of the LaRouche Youth Movement is to re-establish a standard of truth against cultural and scientific empiricism, and bring back to life the generation of their parents, which today runs society.