

Colombia and Ecuador: Conflict or Integration?

The following declaration was issued by the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Colombia on Jan. 1, 2007.

Just as a significant group of Ibero-American governments are distancing themselves from the disastrous genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund and the misnamed policy of “free-trade,” and promoting a common program of integration for the recovery of our economies and peoples, looted and bled by the shameful liberal Anglo-Dutch financial system, up pops a conflict between Colombia and Ecuador over glyphosate fumigation [for eradication of drug crops—ed.].

The financial oligarchy, whose power is sustained by this usurious system, is not only amused by this conflict, but is provoking it. The reality is, that that financial system is disintegrating by leaps and bounds: We now face a collapse of the whole international financial system, more serious than that which occurred in the 1930s. In order to maintain its political control and looting in the midst of this disintegration, the international oligarchy is utilizing its lackeys in the government of Cheney and Bush to apply their policy of “permanent war”—provoking conflicts and wars throughout the planet, as we now see in the Middle East. They have sought for a long time to extend this policy to our continent, in order to sabotage the integration process underway, trying to engulf the region in Jacobin wars which can prevent the reconstruction of the continent’s economy around physical economic infrastructure projects, as American statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has proposed.

The desperation of that ultramontane oligarchy stems from the fact that its days of control over the U.S. government are numbered following the Democratic victory in the U.S. Congress, the latter a product of the intense campaign of the LaRouche Youth Movement to mobilize American youth against the imperialist policies of Cheney and his lackey Bush. The new political configuration in the United States, is a product of the revolution which LaRouche is generating in the base of the Democratic Party, reviving the tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt which is its foundation; this has placed on the table LaRouche’s programmatic proposals for sovereign states to intervene in the economy, to prevent the general disintegration which threatens us.

This “New Politics,” initiated by LaRouche, is visible in the recent visit of the U.S. Senate delegation, led by the man who will become the new Senate Majority Leader, Democrat Harry Reid, to the Andean nations of Bolivia, Ecuador, and

Peru, to deliver the message that a new era has begun.

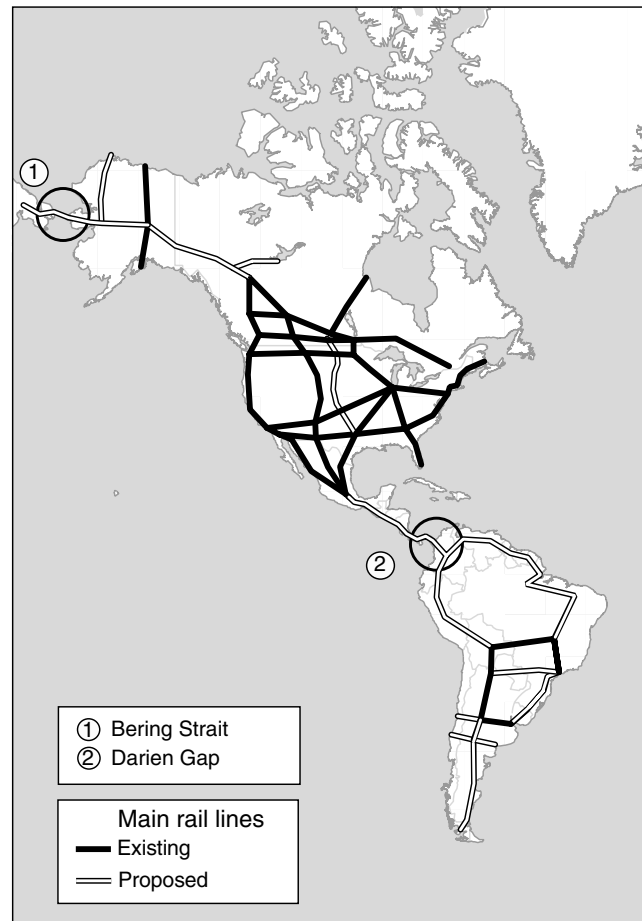
This means that Ibero-America has in LaRouche a true American ally, and what the oligarchy fears the most, is that this international alliance will take up LaRouche’s initiative: to bury the decrepit financial system of the International Monetary Fund and to create a New Bretton Woods that will not be at the service of usury, but instead will be the means of financing development corridors that will physically connect the planet’s continental masses, to encourage a dialogue of cultures among the nations of the world. This will guarantee a lasting peace on the planet, in opposition to the New Dark Age towards which the clash of civilizations and religious wars, promoted by Cheney and Bush, are leading us, on the instructions of the Synarchist financial oligarchy.

For the Benefit of Mankind

The much-touted globalization has increased poverty for 80% of the world’s population, including in the United States.

FIGURE 1

The Americas: Priority Railway Routes



Source: EIR.

FIGURE 2

South America: Great Rail Projects



Source: EIR.

Railway corridors with electric and magnetic levitation (maglev) trains to efficiently link up the continent.

In our region, the families of impoverished farmers have been pushed into becoming a link in the chain of the international drug trade promoted by the international banks, which benefit from the laundering of drug dollars that represent a large percentage of what sustains the shameful international financial system. Therefore, the fight against the international drug trade, which also feeds terrorist groups of both the left and right, must simultaneously be waged as a worldwide mobilization for the transformation of the cancerous international financial system, which depends on such parasitical activities as the drug trade, and betting on the Wall Street and City of London exchanges.

Meanwhile, it is a matter of the most basic justice that the

families of farmers who suffer from the secondary effects of coca fumigation—a necessary component of the war on drugs—should be compensated. These families should receive the support of the state, which has as its primary responsibility, to guarantee the general welfare of the entire population, equally.

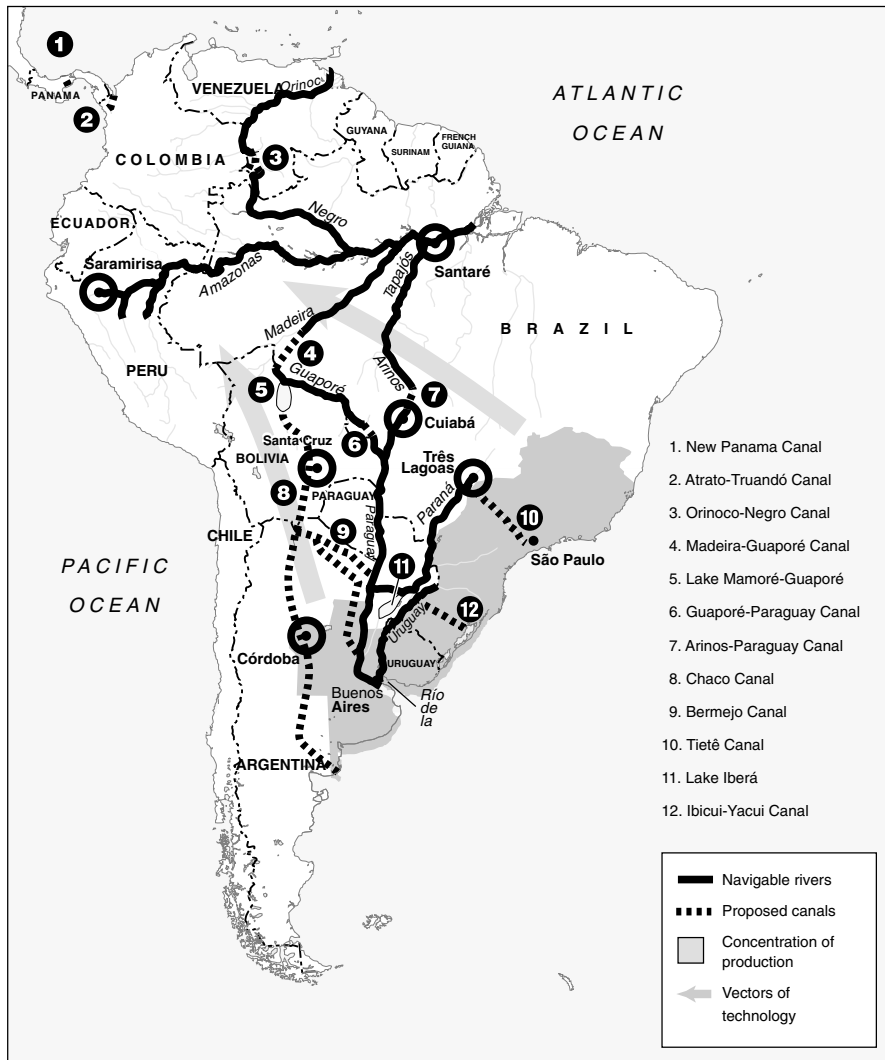
One needn't be a fortune teller to see that that role of the nation-state cannot be carried out under the proposed Free Trade Treaty. Everything points clearly to that truth, as in the most infamous case of the Mexico-U.S.-Canada Free Trade Treaty (NAFTA), where the Mexican economy has increasingly fallen into the clutches of the drug trade and drug finances. A Free Trade Treaty would decimate Colombian agriculture, and would condemn even more poor farmers to the cultivation of coca and poppy, as their only means of survival.

The true alternative lies in turning the Ecuador-Colombia border into an agro-industrial development zone. Ecuador's President-elect Rafael Correa has shown a lot of economic sense, with statements that have made the bankers nervous. He has come out against the control of the central bank by private bankers, which impedes economic reconstruction; he has proposed "fusing the two integrationist processes of South America, Mercosur and the Andean Community (CAN), because the universe of integration is no longer the Andean Region or the Southern Cone, but all of South

America." At the same time, Correa has indicated that he "will not sign the Free Trade Treaty, because we are going to protect our agricultural sector, that would be destroyed with the signing of that treaty. The Ecuadoran people have overwhelmingly come out in favor of this position."

For his part, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe made a unique intervention at the March 2005 meeting in Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela, where he joined with Brazil's Inacio Lula da Silva, Spain's José Rodríguez Zapatero, and Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, in analyzing the enormous potential for regional integration. President Uribe even brought with him a map of the region to indicate the feasibility studies that have been done in this regard.

FIGURE 3
South America: Great Water Projects



Source: EIR.

That is the common development agenda that they have before them, to launch the economic development of Ecuador and Colombia—and the entire continent—which would enable both countries to join the geometry of economic dialogue of physical integration, with the construction of joint projects around development corridors that would turn a border currently inundated with coca crops, into poles of agro-industrial development; that would allow development and full employment in the region, and would turn the conflict instead into an opportunity for shared development, which could turn the border region into a breadbasket both for Colombia and Ecuador, as well as for the rest of the nations of the continent.

This demands the involvement of the states to exercise their sovereignty in recovering territory, in meeting their obligation of guaranteeing the general welfare of the entire popu-

lation, the only thing that will give popular support to the mandate of government. In this way, we must begin the process of physical integration of the nations, down to Patagonia, with railway corridors, integration of navigable rivers, and the incorporation of leading-edge technologies for our people (Figures 2 and 3).

Infrastructure Projects

Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia should begin the project of integration of the Amazon and Putumayo Rivers, which will connect the four nations, with an outlet to the Pacific, by means of a 200 kilometer-long thoroughway of railway and highway corridors. The province of Sucumbíos is strategic territory that could recover with economic development, as part of the agenda that Presidents Correa of Ecuador and Uribe of Colombia, together with Brazil's Lula and Peru's Alan Garcia, should take up.

Such physical integration by means of development corridors, with the main component being 250 km/hour electric trains to connect the main centers of population density, would permit an efficient route between Bogotá and Quito taking less than seven hours, which today takes more than 24 hours by road.

Around this dynamic, the construction of wide-gauge railway corridors would generate millions of jobs, and a spreading shock wave in

mechanized agriculture, irrigation, nuclear energy plants, aqueducts, pipelines, and new cities, which would transform the face of the continent.

Lyndon LaRouche and the LYM call on President Uribe, President Correa, and especially the youth of Ecuador and Colombia, to think big for humanity, and to take responsibility for this historic moment of integration among nations. The new political dynamic that LaRouche and his movement of young adults in the United States has begun, has established the basis to launch a struggle that is worth fighting with everything you've got, for a new just world economic order, as LaRouche proposes, and to thereby guarantee the planet for future generations, by means of a lasting peace comparable to that achieved with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, based on promoting the welfare of mankind.