
International Intelligence

LaRouche Addresses Italian Businessmen

The founding conference of the local branch of the Association of Small Enterprises (Confapi), meeting in the Italian city of Ascoli Piceno on Oct. 23, heard a presentation by Lyndon LaRouche representative Andrew Spannaus in person, and from LaRouche himself via telephone. At the beginning of the meeting, LaRouche, who had visited the area in 2000, spoke about his current fight to rescue the world economy, and answered a question about the danger of general war.

Spannaus gave a 40-minute presentation on the history of the current financial collapse, and the fight to defeat the oligarchical forces behind globalization and the policy of permanent war. He used animations developed by *EIR* to show the collapse of the physical economy in both the United States and Europe in recent decades. LaRouche's emphasis on saving small and medium-sized enterprises as the backbone of a productive economy, formed a significant part of Spannaus's address.

The national leader of Confapi, a group of young industrialists, was present, along with the chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce. The presentations were well-received. Such an event reflects the way in which forces in Italy are looking to LaRouche for leadership, in this period.

Document: BAE Bribes Go Back to the 1970s

On the eve of a state visit to England by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, a document has surfaced indicating that British Aircraft Corporation (BAC), the forerunner of BAE Systems, was bribing officials of Saudi Arabia as early as the 1970s. During 1985-2007, BAE paid bribes to Saudi Prince Bandar in the amount of about \$2 billion, a small part of what Lyndon LaRouche has called "the scandal of the century." Then-Prime Minister Tony Blair killed the investigation into

that deal at the end of 2006. The document, which was filed in Britain's National Archives last July, was a secret draft memo from the 1970s, written by the Defense Export Services Organization (DESO), which reports to the Ministry of Defence (MoD). It said that "technical consultancy" fees "amount in practice to the exertion of influence to sway decisions," i.e., bribes. The document deals with fees on two contracts, including the sale of Lightning aircraft, which later formed the basis for the 1980s multi-billion-pound Al-Yamamah agreement. The deals were struck between the British and Saudi governments. The main supplier was BAC.

The memo said Saudi officials "would certainly not officially approve the payment of fees, although they undoubtedly expect appropriately discreet arrangements to be made." The document claims that such sentiments were expressed by figures as senior as King Fahd when he was Crown Prince. This assertion was removed from the final letter.

Cross-Border Projects, Not Cheneyac Plans for Mexico

The way to lift Mexico out of the devastation caused by two decades of free-market policies, and 14 years of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is through the aggressive construction of cross-border infrastructure projects that will benefit both Mexico and the United States. Water, energy, transportation, and other development projects are the only sane way to address such pressing problems as unemployment, poverty, violence, and illegal immigration into the United States.

Instead, the lunatic Cheney-Bush Administration has come up with a U.S.-Mexico "anti-drug" plan, dubbed the "Merida Initiative," announced by Bush Oct. 23 as a request for "emergency financing for critical national security needs." Tacked onto the \$46 billion supplemental budget request for war funding, the plan proposes \$1.4 billion over two years, to supply Mexican police and military with technology, equipment, and training to aid them in combatting drug

cartels and cross-border violence, as well as "corruption" within their ranks.

But as Mexico faces an imminent social crisis, brought about by the IMF's economic policies and NAFTA's destruction of the country's agriculture and food supply, the only thing the Merida Initiative will do is plunge the nation into deeper crisis, while trampling on its sovereignty and national interests. President Felipe Calderón has proclaimed that "combatting the cartels" is his top priority; but by leaving free-market policies intact, he will accelerate Mexico's political and economic disintegration.

Mexican legislators and other analysts are aggressively questioning the plan, which has been shrouded in secrecy, charging that it is really just a Mexican version of Plan Colombia, the multi-billion-dollar security plan which has imposed large numbers of U.S. military personnel and private contractors on that Andean nation as part of an unsuccessful counter-narcotics strategy.

Philippines Exports 85% Of Its Medical Experts

The Philippines Department of Health has determined that merely 15% of Filipinos trained in the health-care professions "are continuing to stay in the country to practice their medical know-how," according to the *Daily Tribune* of the Philippines.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has acknowledged that the medical sector is in crisis as a result of the emigration of 85% of Filipino doctors, nurses, and others in related fields. He said the ratio of government doctors to patients is now 1 to 28,000.

"The health care delivery system in the Philippines has gone critical, almost desperate... By any meter stick, the ratio could only mean the under-delivery of medical services to many of our countrymen," Duque said.

He further lamented that the best doctors are concentrated in metropolitan Manila and other urban (and resort) centers, where medical practice is more lucrative, while medical care in rural Philippines, which is most of the country, is unaffordable or unavailable.