

'Listen to the Wise Words of LaRouche'

by Dennis Small

Sharing the speakers' platform with Helga Zepp-LaRouche at the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics on Dec. 1, 1998, José López Portillo, President of Mexico from 1976 to 1982, famously stated:

"I congratulate Doña Helga for these words, which impressed me, especially because first they trapped me in the Apocalypse, but then she showed me the staircase by which we can get to a promised land. Many thanks, Doña Helga. . . . And here I wish to congratulate her husband Lyndon LaRouche . . . and it is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche. Now it is through the voice of his wife, that we have had the privilege of listening to him."

Although LaRouche's old friend and fellow political warrior López Portillo passed away in February 2004, it was this essential message from 1998 that resonated through many of the greetings and congratulations sent by prominent Ibero-Americans to LaRouche on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Stop Britain's Dope, Inc.

The most explicit echo, in that regard, came from Colombia's Gen. (ret.) Harold Bedoya Pizarro, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, and former Presidential candidate, who wrote:

"Dear Lyndon,

"May God preserve you for many more years for the good of humanity, of the human species, and of the whole world, because you have been the leading voice who has always told the truth, which has come about almost as if it were divine will. And the entire world has to keep hearing you, and listening to you, and acting, because your forecasts have come about almost exactly. I believe that you have a higher mandate for the whole world to listen to you, and to act accordingly.

"Those of us who have known you and heard you, also know that the whole world needs you for many more years. And it should be not 90, but many more, for

the good of humanity and all human beings!

"I also send affectionate greetings to your wife, Helga."

LaRouche's ceaseless battle against the British Empire's Dope, Inc. apparatus for more than 30 years has served as a rallying point for patriots across Ibero-America, especially in the producer countries most victimized by London's new Opium War—Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.

In February 2000, General Bedoya traveled to Washington, D.C., on the invitation of the LaRouche movement, where he spoke at an event in which he and LaRouche laid out the policy for a global war on drugs against the British Empire's dope apparatus. Bedoya remains today one of Colombia's most vocal leaders in the war on drugs.

'Operation Juárez,' 30 Years Later

A leading member of President López Portillo's Cabinet, Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, also sent LaRouche his "most sincere congratulations, with the wish that everything in your life be positive and that you enjoy full health, and continue to reap successes."

Before joining the Cabinet as Secretary of Agrarian Reform, Carvajal had been president of the PRI party, when that party invited LaRouche to Mexico in 1979 for an international gathering. That was LaRouche's first visit to Mexico, and was followed by a number of subsequent visits, including his historic May 1982 trip, during which he met with President López Portillo for an hour at the Los Pinos Presidential palace.

It was after that meeting, and similar discussions with other leading Mexican nationalists, that LaRouche wrote his celebrated *Operation Juárez* in August 1982, which called for the formation of a debtors cartel and an Ibero-American common market, to force through a revolutionary reorganization of the British Empire's bankrupt world financial system.

That battle for justice, and for re-establishing U.S.-Mexican relations based on full respect for sovereignty and a commitment to joint economic development, has echoed throughout Mexico ever since. As Dr. Héctor Luna de la Vega, the former Treasury Secretary of the State of Mexico, wrote in his birthday message to LaRouche: "To someone who has proposed alternatives for political-economic problems, not only in the United States, but worldwide, I send a cordial greeting, and my best wishes."

From the northwestern Mexican state of Sonora, the



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Helga Zepp-LaRouche shared a speakers' platform with José López Portillo, at the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics, Dec. 1, 1998, while Lyndon LaRouche was still in prison. The Mexican President declared, "it is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche."

center of the battle for the great infrastructure project known as the PLHINO (Northwest Hydraulic Plan), came messages from three longtime fighters for U.S.-Mexico cooperation for development: Adalberto Rosas López, a farmer and former president of the municipality of Cajeme; Antonio Valdez Villanueva, Secretary General of the Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM) in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora; and Jaime Miranda Peláez, former president of the Small Rural Owners and a lifelong farm activist. The latter wrote:

"What was most important was not his warnings, but the passion with which he presented the defense of Mexico and its agriculture. He inspired us to fight against these evils, at a time at which many capitulated. Thank goodness that we did not hesitate at that time to speak the truth. The disaster occurred, and now people know why.

"Like LaRouche, I am an old man, and accustomed to fighting. A veteran with a long life in farming, a pioneer in the creation of the Yaqui Valley, which led me to develop a personal friendship with Norman Borlaug. That man's passion and love for science and technology for the good of humanity, is the same as I see in the ideas of Mr. LaRouche.

"Due to circumstances, my age, and the age of Mr. LaRouche, it is not likely that we will meet personally. Ideas, however, make the person; and in knowing those

ideas, it is as if one had shaken hands. That is why I feel I am a personal friend of Mr. LaRouche, with the same affection I had for Norman Borlaug."

The Malvinas and the Defense of Sovereignty

LaRouche is also a legend of sorts across Ibero-America for his unflinching defense of national sovereignty, even when it meant going against American popular opinion and the destructive policies of the U.S. government.

That was the case in 1982, when Great Britain provoked Argentina into a war over the Malvinas Islands, which were and remain properly Argentine sovereign territory, as per the U.S. Monroe Doctrine, as LaRouche immediately argued at the time.

Dr. Leopoldo Frenkel, former Mayor of Buenos Aires and former Argentine ambassador, celebrated LaRouche's 90th birthday, recalling his 1984 visit to Argentina, where he met with President Raul Alfonsín:

"I recall that it was almost exactly 30 years ago, just a short time after the end of the Malvinas War, that one of your collaborators arrived in Buenos Aires to communicate your organization's solidarity to the Argentine people, and to propose active policies to deal with the foreign debt problem of developing countries. Your visit to our country in 1984 to promote the creation of a Latin American Debtors Club and resistance to the IMF's programs, as well as your enthusiastic support for the policy of foreign debt reduction, put forward by the Argentine government since 2003, are the most complete testament of your permanent friendship with the Argentine Republic. I thank you so much for all of these displays of unalterable solidarity with our Fatherland."

LaRouche was also recalled with admiration for his vocal opposition to the Bush Administration's 1989 invasion of Panama and overthrow of its head of state, Gen. Manuel Noriega, for which "the Panamanian people also owe him a debt of gratitude," Panamanian journalist Ruben Darío Murgas Torrazza wrote in his birthday greetings. And former Panamanian Cabinet Minister Mario Rognoni spoke to LaRouche's lasting legacy: "LaRouche has taught us all to stand by our beliefs and not to give up, even if the majority of the people are against us. . . . Lyndon LaRouche probably will never be president of the USA, but he has given the country more than most presidents, and his legacy will live longer than the legacy of some presidents."