

# LaRouchePAC Revives Dialogue with Mexico On Fusion Energy

Oct. 12—When LaRouchePAC scientific research team member Benjamin Deniston takes the podium for a webcast discussion on “How To Create a New Fusion Economy, and Why,” with a live audience gathered in Mexico City On Oct. 26, he will in effect be continuing a discussion on fusion power between the LaRouche movement and Mexican policymaking institutions that goes back more than 35 years. The webcast will be carried live, in both English and Spanish simultaneous translation, on [www.larouchepac.com](http://www.larouchepac.com), beginning at 12:00 noon, EDT.

On March 3, 1978, the Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF)—inspired and co-founded by Lyndon LaRouche—submitted a 24-page memorandum on “Nuclear Development Policy” to the Mexican government of President José López Portillo (1976-82), whose one-page Summary read:

“The Fusion Energy Foundation recommends that Mexico undertake immediately an expansion of its nuclear energy program so as to bring it approximately to the level of Mexico’s oil development program. The minimum goals suggested by the FEF are 15 light water and heavy water fission reactors by the year 1990; 25-30 fission reactors by the 1980s; breeder reactors beginning

in the early 1990s, and fusion reactors by the year 2000.

“In terms of economic considerations, broadly viewed, the FEF notes four aspects of such nuclear development in which Mexico gains decisive advantages: manpower training, integrated industrial and agricultural planning; stimulus to feeder industry; and a ‘high technology environment’ conducive to advances in technology throughout the economy.

“The estimated \$25-30 billion cost of the program in the 1978-90 period can be largely financed through oil exports. It will be possible to increase these exports precisely to the degree that the nuclear development promises to reduce and then eliminate use of oil for domestic electricity generation.

“Costly as such a program is, it is the cheapest option that Mexico can adopt. Expansion of oil-burning electricity plants in place of nuclear, or development of ‘soft’ technologies—sun, geothermal, wind—are more expensive and offer far fewer benefits to economic development as a whole.

“In terms of technical considerations, the FEF points out the advantages of a progression from current fission technologies to enrichment, reprocessing, the breeder and fusion technologies, along the lines of the timetable indicated. The prospects for other advanced nuclear systems are also summarized.”

A little over two years later, during a May 1980 state visit to Canada, President López Portillo told a press conference: “Within the National Energy Plan, we accept as the most serious alternative for solving the energy problem of Mexico and humanity beginning next century, the one involving some of the processes of atomic fission or fusion.”



*José López Portillo*