

# LaRouche: Combat Coca With Development

*With a diplomat from an Ibero-American nation, Lyndon LaRouche discussed how to fight the problem of coca in the Andes. The following is a paraphrase.*

We must change the system, in order to do anything. The choice today is between the debt, and the people. If you don't nationalize the debt to save the people, you will end up like Africa. But no one will do it, because of the United States. They will take defensive measures, partial measures, but they won't move against the system. Therefore, we need a strategic policy to change the United States.

On drugs: This is a war against civilization. Take Bolivia, which has suffered British wars—the War of the Pacific, and the Chaco war. These questions are live today; some people think like this still. The question is, how do you help the people under these conditions? First, there was the mining period of exploitation. People were dying at high altitudes; they were impoverished; they had no

food; they were looted. That history is known. What you need, in a place like Bolivia, is obvious: large infrastructure projects, which are a great challenge in a mountainous region, where it's harder than on the plains.

When people go into coca, a normal response under European civilization, would be to develop the country to solve the problem. And to use the military. It's a logistical question. You have to defend the whole country. You use the military to build up infrastructure: transportation, power, water, health, education. And you offer the people a better life. Even potatoes are better to grow than coca.

Coca is not considered a problem by leading U.S. interests, nor for any of the leading ruling circles in the Americas, because they all have their hands in the drug money. That's all they have: control over raw materials, and drugs. They don't have anything else.

In dealing with the *cocaleros*, you have to offer them a way out. This point goes back to Livy, who said you always have to give an enemy you are trying to defeat, an honorable way out. The United States should go after the transport of the drugs; forget the eradication—for now. We should interdict, get the big international dealers, and concentrate on that. And we have to go for development

in the producer countries, so you have something to offer people.

The coca/drug problem has been imposed on us. The enemy who imposed the problem has to be destroyed. They are the problem, not the *cocaleros* who are their pawns. Therefore, the issue is one of philosophy. You have to build up an intelligentsia. That's why I focussed on building the LaRouche Youth Movement. You have to start by building a cadre force, which understands the global and national strategic situation in which they are operating. You have to educate them for that. And then you have to give them the power to implement these ideas.

So my view of basic combat, is education. But you need a social vehicle for this. You have to look for the natural leadership in the population and develop them. Then, when those people have the power, you have to crush the enemy. But you have to offer something to people. The country has to develop over the long-term. You have to have a vision of a viable future. You must have a sense of mission. That's why soldiers are willing to die: not for a practical reason, but for a mission. Politics is the same thing. You don't organize society around practical programs, but around a mission. And that's what leadership is.

You need a mission for the continent.

Ask: Why do we have a drug problem? Where did it come from? Financial interests *want* us to have it, in order to destroy us! They are trying to keep the situation under their control, to create a situation of "terror against terror." Therefore, we need a more conscious, more articulate network working together in the Americas. Take the case of Peru. They had an effective anti-drug program under Fujimori. In Colombia, it has not been as effective. In part, this is because Peru has a more cohesive and coherent society: People view their neighbors as like themselves. We are all the same. We are all human. The army is understood as *our* institution in Peru. They go to it for suggestions, ideas, help.

Bolivia, with its current crisis, needs a flanking operation. What is its flank? Peru and Brazil. The key countries in the area are Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia: It's a complex. Venezuela is much harder to deal with. Colombia is divided, but what's left of its patriotic forces can participate. Also, the enemy is deploying new Wars of the Pacific to divide one country from another. This has to be avoided by working together, by integration.

—Dennis Small