

View From Berlin: The Coming Crash of the World System

At *EIR*'s Berlin seminar on June 28-29, Lyndon LaRouche gave a sober strategic briefing to distinguished representatives of 15 nations, on the need for revolutionary change to prevent the disintegration of the world economy. "The most immediate danger to world peace and stability," he warned, "would be the admittedly existing potentiality, that the government of the United States would refuse to take certain sudden and sweeping emergency measures, which are now in fact, absolutely necessary actions of the immediate future, if we are to prevent the entire planet from being plunged into a chain-reaction form of monetary-financial and economic breakdown crisis, by a sudden collapse in the value of the dollar-denominated assets worldwide. Largely as a result of more than three decades of a combination of a floating-exchange-rate monetary-system, the past 15 years' spread of the use of financial derivatives, and the recent WTO-led plunge into a lemming-like lunacy of globalization, the world as a whole is now more ripe for a threatened chain-reaction breakdown crisis of the world's economic, as well as monetary-financial, systems."

Throughout the two-day proceedings, LaRouche stressed the indispensable role that the United States must play—a role which was made possible by the May 23 action by a group of 14 U.S. Senators to prevent the "nuclear option" coup d'état by Vice President Dick Cheney. "Under these present conditions," LaRouche warned, "unprecedented in all modern history, unless the U.S. itself is prepared to force a return to a fixed-exchange-rate dollar-system, like that of the 1945-1963 interval, there is no possibility that any part of this planet as a whole could escape the effects of a global breakdown crisis of the present world system. The actions which the United States must take: The United States must unilaterally, but with consultation with its friends abroad, act to prevent a collapse of the U.S. dollar, a sudden collapse in the magnitude of 10-30%, which is now imminent."

LaRouche's keynote speech was published in *EIR* on July 8. On July 15, we published the speeches by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Italian parliamentarian Mario Lettieri, Russian parliamentarian Sergei Glazyev, and Lyndon LaRouche's comments on some of the issues raised by those speakers.

This week, we continue our coverage with the contributions of three Asian participants: China's Dr. Ding Dou from the School of International Studies at Beijing University; India's Maj. Gen. Afsir Karim (ret.), currently editor of the strategic magazine *Aakrosh*; and China's Dr. Song Hong, senior research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of World Economics and Politics.

Their presentations gave a vivid sense of both the problems and opportunities facing their countries, as well as the Central Asian Republics. During the discussion periods that followed, LaRouche underlined sharply the fact that the current systemic economic-financial crisis cannot be analyzed by the metric of "Brand X" standard economics. In fact, he said, it is such wrong-headed economic thinking—which places the emphasis on "money" rather than on dynamic physical-economic processes—that has gotten us into the crisis in the first place. The only solution is for the United States to lead the world in creating a New Bretton Woods monetary system, which will oversee agreements among sovereign nation-states, to launch high-technology industrial and infrastructural development worldwide.

This poses most sharply, LaRouche said, the issue of leadership. "Not who is going to agree. Who is going to take the risk of leadership? I would propose that the country that is able to take leadership now, and *will* take leadership, I think—right now; I wouldn't have said it six months ago—but now: the United States. If we have the courage to dump George Bush and Cheney, the process of dumping, you will see a suddenly changed United States."