

Andean Report by Valerie Rush

Peru, and the defense of LaRouche

Top political and military figures have stepped forward to back LaRouche, in the interests of their own nation.

A Peruvian chapter of the International Martin Luther King Tribunal on Crimes Against Humanity was founded in Lima on Jan. 26, under the sponsorship of Senator Jasmell Muñoz Córdova. The Tribunal was founded in Rome Jan. 19-20, to wage war against the institutionalized powers of Satanism and genocide, and to indict those behind the political persecution of Lyndon LaRouche.

Speaking to 14 representatives of the Peruvian press, including two television stations and several radio stations and magazines, Senator Muñoz underscored that the tribunal would unmask those behind the international drug trade, which is afflicting Peru with economic chaos and terrorism, and explained why he had decided to fight together with LaRouche, "the only U.S. politician who has decided to fight to defend human life."

Among the other founding members of the Peruvian Tribunal chapter are Juan Bernaola, secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of the Peruvian Revolution (CTRP); Carlos Pastor, president of the Association of Retired Peruvian Workers; and Juan Rebaza, the head of Pescaperu, the state-owned fish exporting company (the world's largest).

The news conference was preceded by a special forum one week earlier, discussing "Who is Out to Silence LaRouche, and Why?" That forum was sponsored by *EIR*, and attended by some 90 individuals, at least one-third of whom were high-ranking military personnel, both active and retired. A majority of the participants had "studied Mr. LaRouche's writings for many

years," as one put it, and had come not only to get information on the Soviets' irregular warfare strategy, but also to express open support for LaRouche.

The next day, Senator Muñoz gave a press conference in the Senate after learning that LaRouche and six of his collaborators had been sentenced to jail terms. Muñoz condemned what he termed the unprecedented violation of human rights taking place in the United States. Among the six jailed collaborators is Dennis Small, this news service's correspondent in Peru in 1976, when Henry Kissinger personally intervened to shut the service down. Small returned to Peru during his work on a development program for that country, whose results fed into the book *Ibero-American Integration*, of which Small is a co-author.

Also on Jan. 27, friends and supporters of LaRouche, including the members of the Rome Tribunal, marched to the offices of the Papal Nuncio in Lima, to present him with a petition seeking intervention in the LaRouche case by Pope John Paul II. Members of the Tribunal were interviewed and/or photographed by several newspapers.

The same group of Peruvian citizens proceeded to the U.S. consulate in Lima, also the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Peru, where they rallied in the George Washington Park across the street to demand "Justice for LaRouche." Their numbers rapidly grew over the course of the next hour. Consulate guards threatened the demonstrators with violence, and then appealed to the police to terminate the rally. To their surprise, the police of-

ficial summoned assured the consulate guards that permission was not required for the citizens' rally to take place.

The founding of a Peruvian chapter of the Rome Tribunal is especially timely, in view of the dramatic economic and political crisis currently destabilizing that country. Under draconian austerity restraints imposed by the enforced ostracism of the world financial community and abandonment by its Ibero-American neighbors, Peru is suffering Weimar-style inflation and a collapse in consumption levels.

Simultaneously, Peru's economic, political, and military infrastructure are under escalating assault by Shining Path, the narco-linked terrorists who function as a Soviet irregular warfare battering-ram against the geostrategically critical Andean Spine region of Ibero-America.

The high-level support for LaRouche and his ideas in Peru is not accidental, for these ideas are key to addressing Peru's ongoing institutional crisis. He visited Peru in 1987, and met with senators, congressmen, businessmen, and others concerned for the fate of their nation. LaRouche is famous throughout the continent as the author of "Operation Juárez," which not only advocates the kind of unilateral debt action undertaken by Peruvian President Alan García in 1985, when he ordered a reduction of foreign debt payments to no more than 10% of the country's export revenues, but also details a program for continent-wide economic integration as the means to guarantee survival—and growth—under conditions of imposed isolation. Similarly, LaRouche's exposés of Soviet irregular warfare tactics on the continent explain much of the Peruvian military's interest in LaRouche's future.