



WASHINGTON: Demonstrators from the U.S. Midwest and Eastern seaboard march before the White House on Feb. 9, during a week-long lobbying campaign to force Congress to investigate the trial and sentencing of former presidential candidate LaRouche, to halt farm foreclosures, and to stop shipping wheat to Russia. Banner reads, "Pardon LaRouche, KGB Will Kill Him in Jail." See Congressional Closeup for details on the lobbying.



PARIS: A huge banner reading "LaRouche Affair, Dreyfus Affair" is unfurled before the Opéra in late January. (The wrongful conviction of Col. Alfred Dreyfus, framed up on espionage charges in 1894, was the most notorious case of politically-motivated injustice in modern France.) On Jan. 31, at a press conference in Paris, statements protesting the trial and sentencing of LaRouche were released from Resistance leader Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, attorney Jean-Marc Varaut, and American civil rights leader Amelia Robinson. Varaut called the justice meted to LaRouche "a river of mud." On Feb. 6, an authoritative legal analysis published in *Le Monde* stated that in France, even if convicted, LaRouche would never have been jailed for the acts he was accused of.

Hunger strike to free LaRouche shakes Germany

by John Sigerson

Andreas Ranke, the grandson of Gustav Heinemann, the first President of the Federal Republic of Germany, on Feb. 7 began what he called an "open-ended" hunger strike, in order to dramatize his demand that Lyndon LaRouche and six associates be immediately released from federal prison, where they have been sitting since Jan. 27, following a political frameup and show-trial in Alexandria, Virginia.

This action by a young man from one of Germany's leading families has sent shockwaves through the political system, helping to break what had hitherto been a generalized press blackout in Europe on the LaRouche jailing. Ranke is the son of Uta Ranke Heinemann, a left-wing Catholic theologian and feminist; he is also the nephew of Polish Cardinal Josef Glemp.

In a statement which received wide coverage in Europe through the leading German daily *Die Welt*, the 28-year-old law student declared, "I grew up in a politically engaged, pro-American family, which always maintained a critical standpoint. The sentencing and imprisonment of my political friend Lyndon LaRouche, carried out by trampling on justice, has deeply shattered my respect for the United States of America as a democratic nation. Apparently, for Lyndon LaRouche's political enemies, his years-long battle for a new, just world economic order and his indefatigable commitment to the rights of the underdeveloped sector, were thorns in their side."

Die Welt's article is remarkable, given the policy of the German media to give no coverage whatsoever to LaRouche, apart from an occasional nasty libel.

Ranke has stationed himself in a van in the West German capital Bonn, directly outside the office of the federal chancellor. He has vowed to remain there, despite the efforts of local authorities to come up with some pretext to remove his van from its location.

Ranke likened the proceedings against LaRouche to "the ugliest images from the period of political trials before the 'People's Court' of Roland Freisler," the Nazi hanging-judge.

Hunger strike in Boston

Meanwhile, as Ranke's hunger strike entered its third day, in Boston, Massachusetts, William Ferguson, another

friend and supporter of LaRouche, was in the eighth day of a hunger strike which began on Feb. 3. In a statement released at the start of his strike, Ferguson, a resident of Quincy, Mass., said that he has been working closely with LaRouche's political movement since 1981, when he was attracted to LaRouche and his friends because of "their commitment to the application and advancement of that which Plato described as 'my dialectical method' in the fields of philosophy, art, science, and statecraft." Since that time, Ferguson continued, he has advocated those principles as a candidate for Boston School Committee and Massachusetts State Legislature, and has been put in jail in Mainz and in Munich, West Germany, for the crime of handing out political leaflets.

"I have been called 'Nazi,' 'fascist,' 'anti-Semite,' 'racist,' (I am African-American), 'cult member,' 'brain-washed,' 'Moonie,' 'communist,' 'socialist,' 'right-wing nut-case,' and 'CIA,' because of my affiliation with 'political extremist' Lyndon LaRouche," Ferguson said. "In reality, the closest I come to any of these labels is 'registered Democrat.' You can't please everybody." Ferguson warned that the U.S. Eastern Establishment will resort to assassination of LaRouche, unless individual citizens demand justice for LaRouche and his associates. "I am here to remind you, that if this situation is not rectified, then no one in this country, who opposes Bush's austerity policies, or Moscow's plan for a global empire, will be safe from the Justice Department's stormtroopers."

From his post at Harvard Square in Cambridge—several hundred yards from the spot where Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army on July 3, 1775—Ferguson has been receiving letters from Boston residents addressed to LaRouche, expressing outrage at the Alexandria verdict and support for LaRouche's demands for economic justice. His strength permitting, Ferguson has also been giving classes on the significance of negative curvature in Filippo Brunelleschi's construction of the dome of the cathedral in Florence, Italy.

International publicity

Many observers, including some of the reporters who have interviewed LaRouche by telephone from the Alexandria Detention Center, are wondering if the sentencing of LaRouche portends the way that the new Bush administration is going to be dealing with other opponents of the "I love Gorbachov" frenzy currently prevailing in the corridors of power in Washington and London.

On Feb. 7, the French daily *Le Monde* noted that even if LaRouche were indeed guilty of the crimes for which he was sentenced, in France he could never have been put in jail, because questions of debt-repayment are a strictly civil, and not a criminal matter.

In Israel, the daily *Hadashot* prominently reported an appeal issued by LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche,

and published as paid advertisements in the *Washington Post* and the *Washington Times*. The Feb. 5 *Hadashot* article was entitled, "Helga Zepp-LaRouche: Anglo-Americans to Kill Lyndon H. LaRouche"; it reports Mrs. LaRouche's warning that if the Anglo-American Establishment follows through its commitment to eliminate her husband "at any cost," then "the United States as a nation is doomed to certain destruction. . . . A nation which treats its greatest sons, such as Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy, and now Lyndon LaRouche, in such a way, brings its own punishment upon itself. There is a higher agency of justice than the 'rocket docket court' in Alexandria, which boasts of its 'short trials'; it is that higher court, which will do the judging."

Mrs. LaRouche also reported that the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations is going to "insist on getting an answer" to the question of "whether President Bush backs this verdict of infamy, or not."

Shortly afterwards, that Commission announced its intention of holding the second International Martin Luther King Tribunal in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 25-26, following up on the first tribunal which was held in Rome, Italy on Jan. 19. In a call issued Feb. 9, the Commission said that it will focus on the LaRouche case, because "civil libertarians and civil rights leaders alike have characterized this case as the greatest travesty of justice since the time of Martin Luther King."

LaRouche refuses to be silenced

LaRouche's imprisonment has not succeeded in silencing him; quite the contrary, from his jail cell he has been interviewed by dozens of journalists from around the world, including many radio talk-shows in the United States.

In just one example, the leading Venezuelan daily *El Nacional*, which has recently been running a series of articles attacking LaRouche's Venezuelan friends, on Feb. 8 featured a lengthy interview with LaRouche himself. "If I were free right now," LaRouche told the paper, "I would be talking with the President of Venezuela [Carlos Andrés Pérez] or his government, with whom I have had some disagreements in the past but with whom we currently have convergences . . . for example, regarding the foreign debt." The newspaper describes LaRouche as "a controversial economist who has dedicated his life and goods to a crusade against U.S. and Soviet imperialism, which, he says, threatens to destroy humanity through drugs."

And in Europe, the Catalan-language Spanish newspaper *Avui* ran an interview with LaRouche on Feb. 6. "LaRouche, in statements to *Avui*," the paper wrote, "said that he has been sent to jail 'because the liberal Establishment of the U.S.A. and Great Britain, has carried out Moscow's demand to eliminate me from the political scene. . . . According to Mr. LaRouche, it is because of his increasing influence, that the campaign against him built up precisely during the power vacuum between the Reagan and Bush administrations.'"