

ICLC Europe conference asks, 'Chaos, or the development of nations?'

by Rachel Douglas

A conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees, the philosophical association founded by Lyndon LaRouche, took place May 2 and 3 in Kiedrich, Germany, under the banner "After the Collapse of the Versailles System: Chaos, or the Development of Nations?" Co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute, the event drew more than 300 ICLC and Schiller Institute members and guests from four continents.

This was the first ICLC conference held in Europe since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the first one that many guests from eastern Europe could attend. Members of parliament from Armenia, Romania, and Ukraine took part, as did delegations from Australia, Belgium, Bosnia, Canada, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United States.

People who until now were acquainted chiefly with LaRouche's economic ideas, thanks to the Schiller Institute's work in eastern Europe for the "Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle" recovery program, eagerly plunged into discussion of fundamental questions of scientific method and cultural warfare, prompted by the Kiedrich conference agenda. Participants were preoccupied with the question of the quality of leadership needed today, expressed in the conference subtitle as "The Responsibility of the Individual at a Change of Eras."

"Everyone is aware, that we are living through a change of eras," said Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche in her keynote speech, "But it is not yet possible to say, whether, from the now ongoing collapse of the Versailles System, and thereby of the system that has determined the entire 20th century, there will issue unimaginable chaos worldwide, a horrible array of interconnected wars, and a plunge into cultural barbarism, or whether we shall succeed in establishing a new, just world economic order in the interests of all people on Earth."

The reality of war, even in Europe, was never distant from the Kiedrich proceedings. Anno Hellenbroich of the Schiller Institute, who as moderator for the first panel welcomed the various delegations, apologized that he did not immediately recognize the Armenian guests, because the last time he met them, in Yerevan, Armenia, they had been wear-

ing combat fatigues. On May 3, a Croatian participant brought news of the Bosnian President's arrest by Serbian troops. Lyndon LaRouche's tape-recorded messages to the conference (see *EIR*, May 15, p. 34) which dealt with the causes of the present crises and the method to define "the programmatic approach to what we must do to rebuild this world," were punctuated by his analysis of the violence in Los Angeles.

The November 1991 Schiller Institute conference on LaRouche's "Productive Triangle," held in Berlin, founded a World Coalition for Peace through Development, dedicated to leading the way out of such chaos. At Kiedrich, Zepp-LaRouche urged that the coalition be quickly transformed into an effective worldwide mass movement, which could be joined by individuals, groups, parties, and even whole nations. She challenged the audience with the sobering thought, that if statesmen and citizens fail now to solve the crisis of civilization, their efforts will have had a different character: "We must think about a long journey, a journey about which we do not know how long it will last. We must do both things at once; we must build a coalition for a rapid solution to the crisis, and thereby at the same time form the networks in all parts of the world, which after a period of general economic and cultural collapse would be the only hope for human society."

Zepp-LaRouche expressed optimism that the first alternative could yet be realized. "We will do everything possible to win in the short term," she said, "and to avert a great catastrophe for mankind, through a world reconstruction program. . . . But only if we act as if for eternity, do we have a chance of winning in the short term." She drew on the history of Poland and the works of Friedrich Schiller, the 17th-18th-century philosopher Gottfried Leibniz, and Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa from the 15th century, to develop a concept of statecraft based on love of God and mankind. This would be the only means to defeat the power of a murderous oligarchy whose policies are self-destructive and threaten everybody else as well.

Defeat the 'counter-Renaissance'

During discussions at Kiedrich, Helga Zepp-LaRouche pointed out the inability of oligarchs, estranged as they are

from man's true nature as *imago viva Dei* (the living image of God), to comprehend how their adversaries from the Renaissance faction in history can discern their evil oligarchical nature and designs. Speakers on the history and culture panels masterfully demonstrated this ability. Schiller Institute (U.S.A.) president Webster Tarpley with a review of mid-19th-century British strategy and Jacques Cheminade, president of the Schiller Institute in France, with his account of the brutal "cult of death" enacted by World War I, defined the post-1919 Versailles System as a "counter-Renaissance." Elisabeth Hellenbroich exposed the deliberate creation of "a century of pessimism," through the mass media brainwashing pioneered by activists of the so-called Frankfurt School. Under the hegemony of that one-eyed babysitter, television, language has been degraded to infantile fragments, whereas Leibniz said that language must be the mirror of reason.

A Polish participant responded to Cheminade's speech with an impassioned plea to fill today's "intellectual vacuum in Europe," born of fear and the lack of *agapē* (love, or charity) and leading to a hideous psychology of material self-enrichment, with a new Renaissance. ICLC leaders speaking on science, music, and statecraft presented the method by which this might be accomplished.

Starting with the case of "cold fusion," Jonathan Tennenbaum explored the realm of paradoxes and anomalies, where creative thinking occurs. The progress of society must be based on a continuing process of scientific discovery, he said, which Leibniz called *ars inveniendi*—the art of discovery. Stagnant "textbook" science abhors anomalies and seeks to cover up their existence, but creative scientists are on the lookout for anomalies, because they will demand the creation of new ideas. While reigning physics doctrine denies the possibility of nuclear processes at room temperature, of the sort observed in "cold fusion" experiments, the first such results were obtained by a scientist, Martin Fleischmann, who chose to study the history of anomalies. In the way they designed their experiment, Fleischmann and his partner Stanley Pons "arranged a dialogue with the universe," said Tennenbaum, "and it replied." He left the audience with the happily unsettling observation, that all key doctrines in physics and biology, established during the 1930s and 1950s, are afflicted with incurable anomalies.

Dino de Paoli taught the conference about fundamental paradoxes: the linear representation of circular action, the One and the Many, and LaRouche's discussion of "change/no change." Attacking the fraud of "artificial intelligence," de Paoli said that man himself is paradoxical, being both finite and infinite; on the one hand, mortal and limited, and on the other side endowed with creative reason, which cannot be replicated by any formal logical system or computer.

Paolo Vitali delighted the audience with his report on how creative thinkers and courageous statesmen 500 years ago launched the "Columbus Project" to discover the New World. He proved, and illustrated with beautiful slides of

maps and art, that the project to find the continents across the Atlantic was rooted in the Italian scientific Renaissance.

Many guests were struck by the interweaving of political debates and classical music at Kiedrich. On Saturday evening, Italian pianist Monica Ripamonti gave a concert of works by Mozart, Brahms, and Beethoven. The Sunday panels began with performances of Vivaldi and Handel by the ICLC orchestra and chorus. Anno Hellenbroich, who conducted the orchestra, addressed the conference on human vocal registration and the bel canto school of singing as the basis for classical musical polyphony, including in music for instruments.

LaRouche's economics

On the final panel, titled "The Economic Alternative to Neo-Liberalism, Monetarism, GATT and the IMF," an *EIR* task force led by Michael Liebig presented detailed historical examples and new proposals, based on LaRouche's economics, for how to solve the economic crisis in the former Soviet empire—a task of importance for the whole world. Dr. Helmut Boettiger and Volker Hassmann demystified the famous "German economic miracle" of the postwar period, with their reports on the preferential industrial investment measures of Finance Minister Fritz Schaeffer and on the reasonable 1953 London agreement on how Germany should pay its debts without destroying its economic potential.

William Engdahl elaborated a groundbreaking proposal for the establishment of a LaRouchean system of national banking in the newly freed nations of eastern Europe. Konstantin George identified the most urgent needs for infrastructure construction in that region.

Following the last panel, discussion lasted late into the night, as participants from one nation after another, from Australia to Romania, rose to identify how the fight in their countries fit into the international battle.

Each speaker, in his own way, identified the pivotal role of what a guest from Moscow called "the LaRouche ideas," for each country and for the United States, where what emerges from the collapse of establishment policy will affect the whole world. In her keynote, Helga Zepp-LaRouche put it this way: "If Lyn [LaRouche] does not become President, the United States, in all probability, will disintegrate in the next five to ten years, in a way comparable to the process of ruination in the region of the former Soviet Union or former Yugoslavia."

Debra Freeman, spokesman for LaRouche's presidential campaign, shocked many European participants with her speech on the economic depression in rural and urban America alike (see p.62). She also communicated the huge potential of the LaRouche campaign to become a mass movement by leaps and bounds, wherever it can reach the population with sufficient quantities of literature.

The Kiedrich conference unanimously resolved to organize an International Day of Action, on May 15, to free LaRouche from prison.