

LaRouche explores presidential options

by Debra Hanania-Freeman

On Aug. 12, in the midst of rapidly deepening policy crises on the economic, monetary, and strategic fronts, Lyndon H. LaRouche, the American statesman and physical economist who is currently a political prisoner, gave his consent to the official launching of the "Committee to Reverse the Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis: A LaRouche Exploratory Committee," thereby announcing his availability for the office of President of the United States.

LaRouche's latest entry into the arena of presidential politics introduces an urgently needed "strong voice" into a rapidly degenerating political situation in Washington, D.C.

In a statement released at the National Press Club the day the LaRouche Exploratory Committee was unveiled, LaRouche said, "We have a situation in which the President of the United States has been stymied in every effort to promote growth while a major collapse of the economy is in progress; has been stymied by our so-called British and French allies from doing anything effective to stop the horror show in the former Yugoslavia; and that the United States, in economic policy, monetary policy, and strategic policy, is rapidly losing all credibility as a superpower. This creates an unusually dangerous situation in which, currently, none of the needed conceptions for policy-shaping seem to be emanating from any quarter but myself and my immediate circles." (For LaRouche's latest assessment of the economic and strategic crises, see p. 6 and p. 43.)

Freedom demanded for LaRouche

LaRouche's assertion on this point has been emphatically endorsed by one delegation after another of leading international and national figures, who have travelled to Washington this year to argue for the urgent need for LaRouche's policies, and for his freedom.

In January, as the new Congress was being sworn in, before Bill Clinton was even officially inaugurated, civil rights leaders from California to South Carolina hit the U.S. Congress hard on the need for LaRouche's voice to be heard as the new administration was launched. Trade union leaders who were part of the delegation insisted that LaRouche's leadership in the fight against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), when combined with his program for putting America back to work rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, indicated that he was the only political figure with an in-depth understanding of the American system of political economy, and the only individual with any cogent idea of how to lead America out of economic depression. They were backed up by farm leaders from America's agricultural heartland and by clergymen and civic leaders from America's inner cities.

Soon after, among the first prominent international figures to come to the United States to join the effort to free LaRouche, was the well-known Croatian journalist and war correspondent Srećko Jurđana. When Jurđana himself was asked by a journalist, "What could have prevented the upheaval now convulsing your nation?" Jurđana replied forthrightly, "The LaRouche plan should have been adopted two to three years ago! Then this would have never happened." Jurđana was referring to LaRouche's Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Productive Triangle" proposal for Europe and Asia, which LaRouche first proposed in late 1989 to foster peace through development of Europe and Asia in a strategic geometry dominated by the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

Over the next weeks, delegations, which included current and former parliamentarians and cabinet-level ministers from Ukraine, Colombia, Germany, Russia, the war-torn Balkan states of the former Yugoslavia, and former Czechoslovakia,

joined the continuing delegations of American notables, to argue for the importance of LaRouche's policies for their own national sectors.

The SDI and anti-drug policies

In March, Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), the former head of Germany's military intelligence service and one of the world's leading experts on the former Soviet Union, rocked Washington during a press conference at the National Press Club. General Scherer's briefing focused on the need to stop the Balkans war, noting that the Serbian aggression augurs even worse horrors from the former Soviet Union and, if allowed to continue, would encourage Russian imperialism. General Scherer explained that in the early 1980s, there was an effort to avert the crisis that has now developed in the former Soviet Union. "In the spring of 1982," he said, "in the Soviet Embassy here, there were very important secret talks that were held, with the participation of top American political leaders. The question was, did the United States and the Soviet Union wish, at that time, jointly to develop an anti-ballistic missile defense that would make war impossible for the immediate future? This was the Strategic Defense Initiative. . . . I can say this with great exactitude, because I have also discussed this thoroughly with the developer, the originator of this idea, the scientific, technological, strategic expert Lyndon LaRouche."

One week later, Jorge Carrillo, former minister of labor for the Republic of Colombia during the administration of Belisario Betancur, came to Washington to talk about the courageous intervention made by LaRouche and his associates in exposing the international financial and banking interests that control the international drug cartel. Carrillo explained to U.S. government officials and members of Congress that no other international figure held the level of respect that LaRouche does in war against drugs. Further, Carrillo explained that he had spent over 34 years of his life working to defend the rights of the workers of his nation, including "respect for life, education, and development." He reported that only the LaRouche economic policy incorporated that commitment. "LaRouche has been jailed in the United States because he has defended those ideas," Carrillo insisted.

Economic policy means life and death

Pavlo Movchan and Vladimir Shovkoshitny, both well-known Ukrainian freedom fighters and now members of the Parliament of Ukraine, also came to Washington that month to explain that without the implementation of LaRouche's economic policy proposals, particularly his "Productive Triangle," Ukraine was doomed. They described the sharp contrast between LaRouche's approach, and the "shock therapy" currently being imposed by the United States and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the difference between peace and war; between life and death.

At a press conference held at the National Press Club, Movchan said: "The reason we left Parliament [in Ukraine] during this very tense period to be here, is because the world will be destroyed if the current policies are continued. With the direction things are now going, we could be heading for a third, and perhaps final world war. Lyndon LaRouche has indicated how we can change directions."

That view was reemphasized by Moscow economist Prof. Taras Muranivsky and, most recently, by Viktor Kuzin, People's Deputy of the Moscow City Council and a founder of Democratic Union, the first party chartered in opposition to the then-ruling Soviet Communist Party.

In April, Muranivsky, who is the rector of the Ukrainian University in Moscow, told Washington audiences that a growing group of Russian scientists and intellectuals around the magazine *Trade Unions and Economy* had joined with the international movement calling on the Clinton administration to free LaRouche. Muranivsky said, "LaRouche is innocent of any wrongdoing and represents a vital resource for humanity. I am personally convinced that LaRouche's ideas are the way to save the Russian economy."

In July, Kuzin presented the Washington press the text of a letter to President Clinton on the LaRouche case, signed and sent by a group of six deputies of the Moscow City Council. Kuzin himself delivered the letter to the White House.

LaRouche is innocent

The letter reads in part, "Having carefully studied the circumstances of the case and the public activity and personality of LaRouche . . . we are deeply convinced that the real reasons he ended up behind bars have nothing to do with the indictment against him."

The letter outlines the role of LaRouche in formulating the program adopted by Ronald Reagan in 1983 known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, and describes LaRouche's policies for global economic development—policies that placed him in direct conflict with the IMF and its backers. "These two original doctrines, which are naturally attractive, put LaRouche and his supporters in the center of public attention and made him a real contender for the role of political leader on not only a national, but also a world scale," the deputies' letter said.

Similar sentiments have been expressed in correspondence and press statements from political leaders from Taiwan to Argentina, and in numerous public appeals to President Clinton to give the American statesman and economist his freedom. And, they have been matched by the continued activation of similar layers domestically. As the policy vacuum intensifies, so does the recognition that LaRouche is uniquely qualified to generate the kind of policy initiatives necessary for avoiding war and assuring continued development.

The official formation of the LaRouche Exploratory Committee will give LaRouche a louder voice in a situation in which his leadership is, without question, decisive and crucial.