LaRouche Campaign Asks OAS To Uphold Free Elections in U.S.A.

The following statement was released by Lyndon LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods, on May 18.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.'s campaign filed a complaint on May 16, seeking to have the Organization of American States (OAS) hold the United States accountable for the same standards for free and fair elections as it expects from Peru. The complaint and request for investigation is filed on behalf of Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and hundreds of Americans whose right to vote and run for office has been nullified due to "gross violations of and interference with free and fair elections in the United States of America." It is addressed to the OAS's Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which has the mandate to "promote . . . representative democracy" through the "effective exercise of" such democracy and to protect the individual citizen's right to "take part in popular elections," which "shall be honest, periodic, and free."

The cover letter notes: "As the U.S.A. is a member of the OAS, it is imperative that it be held to the same standards the OAS expects of all other member states," and asks that the IACHR "review this matter with the utmost urgency, as the lack of free and fair elections in the world's leading democracy has serious implications for the rest of the world." IACHR Executive Secretary Jorge Taiana responded in writing on May 22 to the LaRouche filing, acknowledging receipt, and reporting that "your petition is under study in accordance with Article 34(1) of the Commission's Regulations, and you will be informed of any further developments in the matter."

The abuses directed at the LaRouche campaign have particular significance, in light of the U.S. State Department's recent interference into the elections in Peru, and the ongoing international efforts to impose the OAS as a supposed "mediator" in the electoral disputes in that country. A spokesman for the LaRouche campaign questioned the purported neutrality of the OAS mission currently in Peru:

"The head of the OAS mission is the former Guatemalan Foreign Minister, Eduardo Stein, whose brother, Ricardo, is the executive director of the Soros Foundation of Guatemala. And George Soros, the notorious international financial speculator and leading promoter of drug legalization, is currently in the thick of an international offensive to topple the Fujimori government in Peru, because of the latter's stubborn war aginst drugs and narco-terrorism. Unless the OAS immediately takes up the LaRouche case and investigates the charges of electoral violations in the United States, its credibility as a 'neutral mediator' in Peru or elsewhere, will be less than zero. Are we dealing with an authentic concern with fair elections, or is this a case of monstrous hypocrisy?" the spokesman asked.

Silencing an Opposition Candidate

The LaRouche complaint filed before the OAS details: 1) the disenfranchisement of voters, 2) the systematic black-out of LaRouche in the news media, 3) collusion by private and state officials to exclude LaRouche from the ballot in some states, and 4) state and public officials' abuse of power to prevent the participation of Democrats in the election process if they support LaRouche. As the introduction surmises, "What has been done against LaRouche and citizens who support his candidacy, is nothing but a pretext to exercise the power of position to silence an opposition candidate."

The complaint is accompanied by 56 exhibits, including the report of international observers who described the March 11 Michigan Democratic Party caucuses, from which LaRouche was excluded, despite his having won the popular election primary there, and documentation of how lawyers for the Democratic National Committee, in league with a racist faction of the U.S. Supreme Court, successfully denuded the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965, all to exclude LaRouche Democrats.

The OAS IACHR's mandates are derived from two seminal documents: the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of Man (adopted 1948), and the American Convention on Human Rights (1969). The 21-page complaint documents a manifold of violations of the principles of free and fair elections perpetrated against the LaRouche campaign by officials of the Federal and state governments, the Democratic Party, the establishment news media, and the Federal and state courts in the U.S.A. It shows that these public and private officials have shown utter contempt for the basic principles set out in these two documents. The "spirit of the Declaration" has been "demeaned," and the "Articles of the Convention have been disregarded and violated by the actors described herein," the complaint notes. Quoting from the Preamble of the Declaration, it points out the high ideals to which the OAS holds its member-states: "All men are born free and equal, in dignity and in rights, and, being endowed by nature with reason and conscience, they should conduct themselves as brothers to one another. The fulfillment of duty by each individual is a prerequisite to the rights of all. Rights and duties are interrelated in every social and political activity of many. While rights exalt individual liberty, duties express the dignity of that liberty." These are high-minded and noble ideals, indeed. The LaRouche complaint poses this paradox: If the OAS is to keep its credibility in asking Peru to live up to these ideals, then it must also hold the United States to the same.