

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, favored by Washington over the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline deal, which is scheduled to be signed in July. The Bush Administration has made clear that it does not support the IPI, because it would bring in revenue to one of the “axis of evil” nations, Iran, and the pipeline could be extended to China in the future.

The war in Afghanistan cannot be “won” for a number of reasons. According to NATO’s recently retired U.S. Commander Gen. Dan McNeill, “this is an under-resourced war and it needs more maneuver units, it needs more flying machines, it needs more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance apparatus.” McNeill pointed out that America’s counterinsurgency textbooks would recommend 400,000 soldiers to stabilize a country of Afghanistan’s size and terrain, as opposed to the 65,000 troops that have been deployed so far. Clearly impossible.

The war in Afghanistan cannot be “won” also because of the in-built contradictions that started this war. The war was launched in the Winter of 2001, not against the Afghans, or the Pakistanis, but ostensibly against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. But, the war was conducted, in reality, with the mindset of a colonial power. The objective of the war, as it stands now, is to have a geostrategic presence with the purpose of keeping Central Asia in permanent turmoil, and containing Iran, China, and Russia, even if that leads to the break-up of Pakistan, and thus the formation of unviable, hostile nations. From that standpoint, one may claim that the war in Afghanistan is heading towards “victory.”

Those who study history, and recall it for the sake of understanding current realities, know that this war in Afghanistan cannot be “won.” The United States, when it invaded Afghanistan in the Winter of 2001, had two options. The first was what British Col. Frederick Roberts (later Lord Roberts, and the subject of Rudyard Kipling’s sarcasm as “Bobs Bahadur”) did on Sept. 1, 1880, when he was confronted with more than 2,000 Afghan insurgents under Ayub Khan in Kandahar. He slaughtered them all, bringing temporary peace in Afghanistan. In this context, McNeill’s remarks about the necessity of deploying 400,000 troops make sense.

The other option, as pointed out by another analyst, is on the model of a temporarily successful Western military operation in Afghanistan: Alexander the Great’s settlement of a significant number of Greek soldiers and civilians there, four centuries before Christ. But, this does not seem a viable option for the West either in the present context. Therefore, it is a certainty now that the West is following the path toward the humiliating defeat in Afghanistan suffered by Britain in 1842, and the Soviet Union between 1979 and 1989.

Finally, one must not forget Bobs Bahadur’s later musings, in a letter to a friend: “It may not be very flattering to our *amour propre* [self-esteem], but I feel sure I am right when I say that the less the Afghans see of us, the less they dislike of us....”

Montreal Economic Forum

A Stone in the Shoe of The ‘Masters of Change’

by Rob Ainsworth,
Canadian LaRouche Youth Movement

Preening as would-be “masters of change,” 3,200 individuals gathered in Montreal June 9-12, for the 14th International Economic Forum of the Americas, to celebrate the “success” of globalization. The irony of this assembly of financiers, businessmen, and politicians lay in the palpable insecurity which permeated the conference.

In the final estimation, these “great men” have shrunk to almost nothing, their power dwindles by the day; meanwhile humanity, slumbering for so long, has begun to awaken. The power of ideas increasingly exerts itself over mankind, while the fabrications and threats of the financial oligarchy appear increasingly empty of potency. This is exactly what Lyndon LaRouche has identified as the subject of dynamic versus mechanistic thinking which predominates in our societies today. It is in light of this power of change in a time of great crisis, that the events of the International Economic Forum of the Americas must be viewed. The organizers of the conference expected four days of speeches extolling the virtues and glories of their New World Order; what they got instead was a string of dissonances, which changed, dynamically, the entire event: This year, for the participants, globalization’s invulnerability would be effectively exploded—by three young people.

As the conference took place, great events were shaking the world: Lehman Brothers’ stock was collapsing amid rumors of the firm’s impending bankruptcy; the Doha Round of WTO negotiations was falling apart; and on June 12, the Irish people resoundingly rejected the fascist Lisbon Treaty—a blow to the British Empire’s drive for a Europe-wide dictatorship as a prelude to further wars in Asia.

Three members of the Canadian LaRouche Youth Movement attended the conference, representing *EIR*; Pascal Chevrier, Valerie Trudel, and Rob Ainsworth, spoke to dozens of participants and took every opportunity to pose provocative questions during the many forums and presentations. The effect was striking, demonstrating the power of great ideas to inspire others. Each time one of the young people spoke out, someone would approach him or her, expressing gratitude that someone had said out loud what the others were thinking! The three youth challenged the consensus of the conference, pointing out the total bankruptcy of globalization, and offering the only concrete alternative to global fascist austerity: LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods. Therefore, it is not surpris-

ing that so many participants found the Canadian LYM to be an invigorating influence amid the otherwise predominantly dry proceedings.

The Same Neoliberal Poison

The paranoia and denial infecting our political and financial leadership, was in evidence at the opening luncheon, where International Monetary Fund managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn spoke about the uncertainty facing the world economy, the extent of the “unknown unknowns,” the difficulty of guessing whether the worst of the crisis has passed, or is yet to come. He also reprimanded nations that were returning to what he termed, the failed doctrines of mercantilism and protectionism. He did, however, note the threat of wars and instability from the food and energy crisis, although his solutions were simply more of the same, old neoliberal poison.

Strauss-Kahn was followed by Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, who was in a similar state of denial, repeating the mantra that “the fundamentals are sound.”

Former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker (1979-87), at least came a bit closer to reality with his gloomy thoughts on the crisis in the United States, claiming that any recovery would take years; not surprisingly, Volcker made no mention of his own role in creating the current economic disaster.

In contrast, Guy Ryder, secretary general of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), attacked globalization, its effect upon the lower-income 80%, and the destruction of the morality and values of Western culture. Ryder called for a just economic system which gives as much protection to labor rights as to the rights of the corporations. Later, in response to a question from the LYM, on the need for a new Bretton Woods monetary system, Ryder replied, “I think that you answered your own question. Definitely, we do need a new system. Regulation, thus far, has been sub-minimal, and this cannot continue.”

Global Warming and Malthusian Madness

Unfortunately, this note of sanity was short-lived: The second day of the conference dealt primarily with the frauds of “sustainable development” and climate change. One session, entitled “Coping with Climate Change: How the Vulnerable Must Adapt,” featured John Stone, co-chair of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). The discussion revolved around tear-jerking stories of melting tundra and despondent polar bears; retreating glaciers, and droughts in Africa, all allegedly caused by human beings, of course. Again, during the question period, a member of the Youth Movement pointed to articles published in *EIR*, such as the work of Prof. Ernst-Georg Beck, challenging the IPCC for using fraudulent computer models and ignoring extensive scientific evidence that contradicts “the self-evident truth of man-made global warming” (*EIR*, March 2, 2007).

Following this intervention, a number of the participants



UN/Marco Castro

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet's speech provided a welcome counterpoint to the no-growth, pro-globalization mantra of many other speakers. Bachelet, shown here addressing the UN in September 2007, presented her plans to modernize the nation.

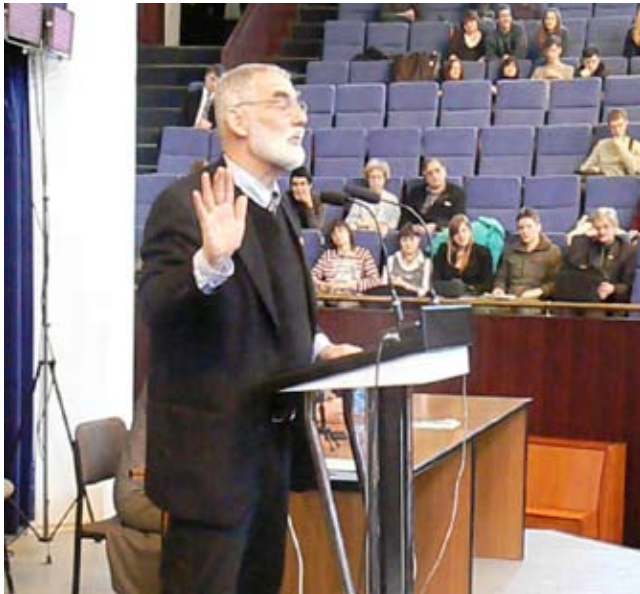
approached the LaRouche organizers to thank them for their courage in standing alone against the consensus. This response was repeated many times throughout the four-day conference.

To conclude the second day, a panel of international figures was assembled for the plenary session, including the infamous Dennis Meadows, author of the Malthusian *Limits to Growth* of 1972. Rehashing the genocidal doctrine of Parson Thomas Malthus, Meadows claimed that current population levels could not be sustained, at the same standard of living; that a correction will be necessary, and the pain of such a correction will be unavoidable. A LYM organizer challenged Meadows' Malthusian axioms, citing LaRouche's book *There Are No Limits To Growth*, and describing the power of human creativity and the potential of nuclear power, maglev trains, and other advanced technologies, to overcome apparent limits to growth. The organizer cited Henry C. Carey's refutation of Thomas Malthus, namely, that wherever Malthus's “natural remedies” to overpopulation were found, the people were starving, miserable, and thinly populated, while in any nation which had ignored Malthus's theories, people were found happy, well-fed, and densely populated! This drew some laughs and smiles from the audience.

Meadows defended himself by claiming he was not proposing solutions, simply pointed to issues to be dealt with. This didn't seem to convince anybody, since the organizers were approached afterwards by a number of people who had seen through Meadows' fraud, and wanted to discuss how Malthus's so-called “remedies” had been used against their nations.

British Imperialism vs. Ibero-America

The Americas were the target of the third day of the conference. One panel featured the Americas editor of the London



Members of the LaRouche Youth Movement exposed the genocidal intentions behind the “Limits to Growth” program of Dennis Meadows, who rehashed the doctrine of Parson Malthus. Here, the lunatic Meadows holds forth at a sparsely attended lecture in Moscow, February 2007.

Economist, Michael Reid, who, sounding like an imperial British overlord, gave a chilling presentation on Ibero-America, detailing which nations were dutifully obeying globalization, and which not.

Even Sir Henry Kissinger (knighted by the Queen in 1995), was there, mumbling his way through an incoherent speech, in which he claimed that the post-Westphalia system of sovereign nation-states has been abandoned in Europe, and is not culturally suited to the Middle East. Islamism, he said, threatens to sweep away national boundaries all the way to Pakistan and India; among other challenges to his imperial masters, Kissinger pointed to the hot-spots of Central Asia and the Middle East, highlighting the problem of Asia, which, he observed, is becoming the new center of gravity in the world.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet’s speech provided a refreshing counterpoint, and stood in stark contrast to most of the others. Bachelet placed great emphasis on the unity of the Chilean people behind the government’s plan to modernize the nation, focussing on three areas: education, research and development in science and technology, and infrastructure development. She noted that a continental transportation corridor from Brazil, through Bolivia, to Chile, would be completed in 2009.

Between Kissinger’s and Bachelet’s speeches there was a packed afternoon session, in which Stephen Poloz, senior vice-president at Export Development Canada, tore apart the economists as fools, whose models have failed, who couldn’t explain the housing bubble, who couldn’t predict the blowout of the housing bubble, and who cannot tell us what is yet to

come, exclaiming, “We don’t even understand our own models!” It was a damning indictment of the folly and delusions of the past 40 years.

In the question session, a LaRouche organizer thanked Poloz for his frank admission that the economists have all been wrong, but, he said: “*There is one economist who has forecast every major financial crisis of the past 38 years—my boss, Lyndon LaRouche.* He is saying that the system is completely bankrupt and that the only solution is a government-led reorganization, like President Franklin Roosevelt’s actions in the 1930s. From 1929 to 1933, when FDR took office, people never admitted that there was a depression; they kept saying that the recovery was just around the corner; but there was no recovery, *and there couldn’t be a recovery until Roosevelt came in and kicked the money-changers out of the temple.*” The room went deathly silent, as people took in the import of his words.

Infrastructure or PPPs?

The final day of the conference was dedicated primarily to issues of infrastructure, which really meant public-private-partnerships (PPPs). Speakers addressed investment in Africa, but focussed on the possibilities of private finance rather than state credit. The list of speakers ranged from politicians and leaders from Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Benin, to the CEO of PPP Quebec, and a representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. During the question period a LYM organizer emphasized that because the financial system is totally bankrupt, funds for infrastructure development are rapidly disappearing; he called for LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods and for the end of financial parasitism. A second organizer provoked an angry response from one of the panelists, indignant at the charge that PPPs were merely a clever way of taxing the poor.

The impact of the LaRouche Youth Movement on the conference as a whole was perhaps best expressed in the hostility of Marie DuPont, the general director of the conference, who hotly asserted that, regarding the issue of the nation-state, she and her associates were “on opposite sides” from LaRouche and his allies. Gil Remillard, the founding chairman of the conference, patronizingly reminded the organizers of how much he had done for them, by letting them attend, but cautioned them not to “miss the boat,” as he ushered them toward the exit. In his closing remarks only moments before, Remillard announced the ominous theme for next year’s conference: “Managing the Realities of the New World Order.”

However, the world had changed a great deal since the conference had begun. The vote in Ireland was soon to be announced; the once-impregnable firms of Wall Street and London were preparing for even greater losses; and several thousand people were leaving the conference knowing not only that the system was dead, but that LaRouche had been right, and it was the youth alone who had the courage to tell the truth: The Emperor has no clothes.