

Italian scores British in Mideast, endorses LaRouche for President

In an exclusive interview

Review, Italian industrialist Dr. Adriano Valeri, Vice-President and Director of the Italy-OPEC Chamber of Commerce of Milan, charged that the oil crisis is a hoax, pointing out that Iran had been singled out for destabilization because of its commitment to economic development.

In his wide-ranging discussion, Dr. Valeri also commented on the Carter Administration's domination by the British monarchy and expressed the hope that the 1980 presidential election would not be dominated by the scripted candidacies of Sen. Ted Kennedy or General Haig. Going further, Valeri also became the first European industrialist to endorse the 1980 presidential candidacy of U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Q: How do you think the U.S. and Europe are reacting to the latest economic and political developments in the Middle East, such as the crisis in Iran and the alleged oil crisis?

A: There is no oil crisis. The temporary reduction of Iranian oil production has been absorbed by an increase of production by Saudi Arabia. Whoever talks about an oil crisis is either misinformed or lying. In general, I think that the approach taken by the U.S. administration to the events in Iran and in the Middle East in general is completely inadequate from an economic and a political point of view. The fact that the Middle Eastern countries, rich in petroleum, are still in a substantially underdeveloped situation, demonstrates a lack of positive intervention on the part of the U.S. and Europe.

Q: Why is that intervention lacking?

A: The British domination of the Middle East, even if it has formally disappeared, still has a capacity for control in the financial and economic sectors, through the local intelligence networks hooked into the English Secret Service. The typically colonialist attitude of the British transforms the entire Mideast into one of the principal hot spots for war and blackmail for Europe.

I will say further, that if you consider the fact that Iran, the bastion of industrial development in the whole area, is now nonetheless perhaps irretrievably compromised, one must attribute the greatest responsibility to the British apparatus in the zone, and I think that the U.S. administration, unlike on other occasions, is im-

Q: How do you see the problem of the alleged Soviet threat — a threat emphasized both by Queen Elizabeth and by U.S. Defense Secretary Brown during their Middle East visit?

A: I think that none of the problems of the Middle East or in the rest of the world can be resolved without the prospect of peace and cooperation with the Eastern countries. East-West cooperation is indispensable for the development of the countries of the Third World, and the Middle East in particular. Any geopolitical approach, such as that of England, will produce nothing but war, as the history of two world wars has demonstrated. What the Middle East needs is economic and commercial development; this is true for the Arab countries and for Israel.

Q: Do you think that Europe, and Italy, can have an important role in this context?

A: Yes, a role that I would call vital, especially at this point; what's important is that we have the courage to pursue it. Look, with the Chinese-USA agreement, and the subsequent Chinese invasion of Vietnam, the deterioration of the strategic international situation is taking on ominous tones; to speak now of economic cooperations between East and West would seem strange; but I am convinced that this is the only way to avoid war. I am convinced that the countries that adhered to the EMS have the will to carry this grand design forward, they must do so before it is too late....

Q: What do you think could be the role of the U.S. economy in the Middle East?

A: I repeat, the U.S. economy, with the potentials it has, is indispensable, in collaboration with the Comecon, in order to plan for development in the area. Unfortunately the present policy of the Carter Administration goes in the opposite direction and is carrying the world toward a general conflict.

The candidates for U.S. president that have come forward, such as Haig and Kennedy, do not seem to be any better than Carter himself. I know that he is planning to use the Middle East to create a forward defense against the USSR. In the U.S., so far as I know, the only political platform coherent with the industrial development of the Mideast and the world, is that of Lyndon H. LaRouche, the president of the U.S. Labor Party and also a U.S. presidential candidate. LaRouche, whom I unfortunately do not know personally, launched, in 1976, a proposal for an International Development Bank (IDB) which poses East-West cooperation for the industrial development of the Third World. The IDB was the basis for the creation of the EMS. The LaRouche candidacy seems to me to represent the only alternative to the program of austerity and war of the present administration.