

EIR Feature

Augustine conference begins fight for new world economic order

by Mark Burdman

At a time when Western civilization is being confronted by the gravest threats to its continued survival, 800 individuals, including parliamentarians from Italy, Peru, and Tunisia, and an official representative of the Organization of African Unity, met in extraordinary session Nov. 1-3 in Rome, under the auspices of the Fifth International Conference of the Schiller Institute, to reanimate the life and ideas of St. Augustine, that great African, whose relentless battle against the barbarians, heretics, and usurers of his time points to how the battle against the enemies of humanity must be fought today.

The three-day conference, on the theme, "St. Augustine: Father of European and African Civilization," brought to Rome, from five continents, those individuals most passionately concerned with defending and advancing the values and contributions of Western civilization. Most extraordinary, in the view of participants and observers alike, was that the conference brought together, for joint action, representatives of both the so-called "underdeveloped" and "advanced" nations, to resolve on common actions to build a "New World Economic Order" that would replace the bankrupt International Monetary Fund-controlled global system, and to take other urgent, scientific, cultural, and political measures, to defend Western civilization against today's "barbarians," the Soviet imperialists, and against today's usurers, the International Monetary Fund and its backers.

The conference was welcomed by Father Carlo Cremona, a leader of the Augustinian order and a well-known figure in Italy's RAI broadcasting network, as "the first in a series" of conferences, planned in the next months, to commemorate the 1,600th anniversary of the conversion of St. Augustine to Christianity by Bishop Ambrose of Milan, in April of 386. Speaker after speaker stressed that the tradition of St. Augustine, expressed in the notion that "man is made in the image of God," is *uniquely* appropriate to providing solutions for today's urgent problems. In a speech read to the conference in his absence, Lyndon H. LaRouche, American economist, statesman, and husband of Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, stressed that humanity must go "back to the values of the Augustinian tradition," to reverse the "cultural paradigm" represented by the past years'



The audience of the Fifth International Conference of the Schiller Institute in Rome listens to Ahmed Kedidi, editor of Tunisia's Al Amal newspaper.

immersion in "irrationalist hedonism" and "existentialism." Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, in her final day's keynote address, said that a "worldwide cultural renaissance" and a "world order of national, sovereign republics," based on the philosophies of St. Augustine, the fifteenth century scientist and churchman Cardinal Nikolaus of Cusa, and the greatest German poet, Friedrich Schiller, would be the only things that could save humanity from conditions, today, which are "more bestial than the conditions against which St. Augustine raised his voice during the collapse of the Roman Empire."

The full body of the conference resolved on two main resolutions, unanimously approved, support for which is now being sought from religious, political, and cultural organizations around the world (see box).

Extraordinary coalition

The conference was the fifth (and first in Italy) organized by the Schiller Institute, an international institution created in 1984 by West German political figure Helga Zepp-LaRouche to meet the grave moral, economic, and strategic crisis of Western civilization. It was co-sponsored by the Ministries of Tourism and of Agriculture and Forestry of Italy; the regional governments of Sicily and of Lazio region; the municipality of Milan; and the Accademia Umanistica.

Speakers during the three-day conference included Peruvian Senator Josmell Muñoz, of the ruling APRA Party, who brought greetings to and support for the conference from Peruvian President Alan García; Italian Christian Democratic parliamentarians Vincenzo Carollo of the Senate and Hon. Publio Fiori of the Chamber of Deputies; Ahmed Kedidi,

member of the Tunisian Parliament, and director of the Tunisian daily, *al-Amal*; Usele Mawisa, deputy executive secretary of the Organization for African Unity, officially representing the OAU; Luigi Crocco, one of the most eminent scientists in Italian aerodynamics work today, and son of one of the giants of twentieth-century aerodynamics, Arturo Crocco; Father Cremona; Hon. Hulan Jack, former Borough President of Manhattan and the first black citizen in the United States to be elected to that high office; Amelia Robinson, one of the founders of the American civil rights movement; Hank Wilson, a leader of Local 600 of the United Auto Workers trade union in Detroit, the "world's largest industrial union"; Webster Tarpley, foreign policy adviser to the National Democratic Policy Committee, a mass-based political action committee in the United States; and political and religious leaders from Colombia, Spain, and elsewhere.

Telegrams of support for the conference's work and goals, arrived from, among others, Minister of Labor Jorge Carrillo of Colombia; the office of the presidency of Rome province; the Italian minister of health; and the Bishop of Cordoba, Spain and numerous religious and military spokesman from Spain.

Among the 800 individuals in attendance for the three-day conference were 15 activists from the Peruvian APRA Party; representatives of six African immigrant, student, or trade union organizations based in France; numerous founding members of the newly formed "Patriots for Germany" organization; journalists and religious leaders from Zaire; candidates for political office from the United States and elsewhere; activists in Scandinavian farm organizations; and

members of various religious organizations or orders based in Italy. Also attending were classical musicians from Italy, the United States, and elsewhere, many of whom performed during the three days.

The Rome conference was the scene for impassioned attacks on the International Monetary Fund, detailing what the IMF and its drug-trafficking friends are doing to Ibero-America, and Africa, and other parts of the world.

Senator Muñoz, for example, received a five-minute-long standing ovation, after his speech on Nov. 2, in which he declared that "the war against the IMF has already started" in his country, Peru. Muñoz, who relayed President García's greetings to the event, described in graphic detail how his nation is battling the "narco-terrorist" organizations, such as the savage mass-murderers who call themselves Shining Path, which, he charged, is backed by the IMF, and by a political-support network across Europe (see excerpts, p. 28).

The senator's declarations resonated strongly with those of two Italian parliamentarians, Christian Democrats Carollo and Fiori. Senator Carollo emotionally declared that "it is not permissible to imagine that for the next 10 years [the underdeveloped countries] must work merely to pay their debts, and consequently die of hunger. . . . Let's freeze the debts, the \$900 billion of the IMF. . . . Let's furnish other financial means, in the hope that the development of countries assisted today, can, with progress thus realized, easily repay their debts within 10 years." Fiori, a member of the Italian Parliament Committee on Finances and Treasury and of the Parliament's Commission against Famine, accused the IMF of creating conditions of "hardship and genocide" in the developing world. Fiori's words had even greater credibility, in view of the fact that he himself had been a victim of an assassination attempt by the Red Brigades terrorist group in 1978.

OAU official Mawisa, deputy executive secretary of the OAU in Geneva, declared: "The debt problem does represent today for Africa the main obstacle to its development," and said that the African nations "insist on the necessity to hold a high-level meeting on the critical situation in Africa, and on convening a conference on the debt issue." Observers noted that this speech, which went in detail through the economic situation on the continent, was one of the most forceful public statements on the debt problem to have yet come from the Organization.

It showed the common ground of interest between the African continent, which gave birth to St. Augustine, and the Spanish and Portuguese speaking Americas, where Augustine's ideas have spread through the vehicle of Christianity. Indeed, in the course of this conference, the Schiller Institute established itself as the only institution capable of bridging the gap in understanding and mutual knowledge which has divided the two continents, as the deeper roots of a common necessary struggle for Western civilization were traced out

alongside the sharing of information on pressing, immediate problems.

Nuremberg trials for IMF criminals

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche told participants on Nov. 3 that, "in as short a time as possible, we are going to conduct a new Nuremberg Tribunal, where the International Monetary Fund and the people behind it, will be brought before a court of justice, because we have proof that their policies are internationally causing the deaths of hundreds of millions."

In her Nov. 3 keynote address, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche called for the immediate creation of a "new, just world economic order," as the "only chance for survival for the entire human species." Because of the "parasitical system of usury," she charged, "never before in the history of humanity has

Resolutions for a new world economic order

The following resolutions were unanimously approved at the close of the Fifth International Conference of the Schiller Institute:

Greetings to the Pope

The Schiller Institute, gathered in Rome to celebrate the 1,600th anniversary of the conversion to Christianity of St. Augustine, the father of European and African civilization, sends greetings to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, requesting him to continue to exercise his religious leadership and moral authority in the present crisis of humanity to cast out the forces of usury and to favor the creation of a just New World Economic Order for all nations.

Greetings to Alan García

The Schiller Institute Conference in Rome, gathered to commemorate the contribution of St. Augustine to world civilization, sends greetings to President Alan García of Peru, saluting him as the vanguard leader in the present decisive phase of the battle for a New World Economic Order based on the scientific, economic, and cultural development of all nations. The Schiller Institute is convinced that now is the time to implement Lyndon LaRouche's Operation Juárez. The members of the Schiller Institute, patriots of many nations and at the same time world citizens, pledge to President Alan García our full support, our minds, and our energies, to begin the Age of Reason on our planet.

there prevailed more agony, never before have more people suffered under a misery that so far surpasses the powers of imagination."

In his opening day's address to the conference, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's husband, American economist and politician Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., attacked the "usury" of "powerful and insolent rentier-financier interests" for creating, today, a "man-made evil far more destructive than general thermonuclear war, a zooming spread of epidemic disease, which is more threatening to mankind as a whole than Europe's Black Death pandemic of the mid-fourteenth century." What is urgently required, he affirmed, is a reversal of that cultural paradigm of the past decades that has fostered irrationalist hedonism, existentialism, and opposition to economic growth, "back to the values of the Augustinian tradi-

The Schiller Institute was founded in May 1984. Its first international conference, held in Virginia in July 1984, gathered 1,000 people, including over 100 Europeans, for two days of discussion focused on the strategic threat to Western Europe, from the Soviets and their Western oligarchist allies. In September 1984 the Schiller Institute's second conference, in West Germany, drew 100 Americans to Europe to express their pledge to defend the Western alliance. In November 1984, the third conference, again in Virginia, saw the creation of the Schiller Institute Labor Commission, which has become a visibly powerful force in several Ibero-American governments since then. In January 1984, the fourth conference of the Institute, held in Richmond, Virginia, culminated in a 10,000-person march on Washington on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 15, to voice two themes: support for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, and the demand for a break with the International Monetary Fund in order to stop starvation in Africa.

The Schiller Institute has published several books in multilingual editions: *The Hitler Book*, which exposed the real creators of the Nazis—the same forces today behind International Monetary Fund genocide; *Save the Western Alliance*, the proceedings of the first international conference; *Colonize Space! Open the Age of Reason*, proceedings of the memorial conference for German-American space pioneer Krafft Ehricke in translations from Schiller, *Friedrich Schiller, Poet of Freedom*. The Augustine conference book will come out in December and include full-color illustrations of Renaissance works of art.

tion. Without that change of values, now, there is no prospect for humanity, but a plunge into a worse dark age than is so far recorded in history."

This coalition against the IMF created a political tremor during the days following the conference in Rome itself.

The political momentum of the conference has continued throughout the week in the Italian capital. Senator Muñoz held meetings with leading members of the Italian Senate, who have pledged their support for the policies of Peruvian President García. These have included Amintore Fanfani, president of the Senate, former premier in several Italian governments, and the present number-two figure in the Italian state; the principal leaders of the Senate faction of the Christian Democratic Party, Italy's largest political party, including the chairman of this faction, Senator Nicola Mancini; Sen. Luigi Franza of the Italian Social Democratic Party and the chairman of the Senate Defense Committee; and the entire Italian Socialist Party Senate group. The Socialist Party is the party of Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. All of these parties belong to the current ruling five-party coalition.

The conference touched on other crucial areas of the crisis facing mankind, and of the solutions needed to solve these problems. Conference presentations and panels covered a broad scope of issues, including African development; initiatives to combat spread of the disease AIDS; the method of beauty of the fifteenth-century Renaissance in Florence; Augustine's musical concepts; the battle between West and East over the Augustinian concept of the Trinity and of the *Filioque*—the idea that the Holy Spirit proceeds from *both* the Father and the Son; and the necessary methods for a renaissance in science today.

Lyndon LaRouche's opening speech outlined the geometrical concepts of Plato, Augustine, Nicolaus of Cusa, and Leibniz, of science as a process of continuing, universal creation, and contrasted this to the pagan cult-notions of a capricious god who is merely the monarch of the universe, empowered to do all sorts of evil. The changes in philosophical outlook which cause a society to shift out of a renaissance into a dark age, or the contrary, he stated, can be compared to creating a new geometry by changing one or more of the axioms of an old geometry.

Other speakers developed the many facets of Augustine's work in relation to the battles of today, challenging the audience to build the "City of God" through intervention on behalf of the ideas of progress and cultural optimism. Various speakers appealed, using the words of Augustine himself, for the revival of the great Bishop of Hippo's approach to music, to physical science, and to economic and international policy. The presence of numerous young people among the 800 participants showed that this challenge, so alien to the debased "cultural paradigm" of our Aquarianized society, has the capacity to animate a mass political movement for the Good.