

Project Democracy targeted LaRouche

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The Feb. 15 *New York Times*' exposure of the covert dimensions of Project Democracy—run out of the same NSC offices responsible for Washington's unbroken string of foreign-policy disasters—offers new and even more damning evidence proving that the Oct. 6 raid and indictments against associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in Leesburg, Virginia capped a nearly four-year secret campaign of dirty tricks against LaRouche. This campaign was financed by American tax dollars, administered through the National Endowment for Democracy.

On Oct. 6 and 7, 1986, this publication's Leesburg offices were raided—police-state style—and over a dozen longtime associates of presidential candidate and internationally known economist Lyndon LaRouche were arrested and indicted on falsified charges of credit card fraud and obstruction of justice by a federal grand jury. In January 1987, attorneys for the accused filed a series of motions charging the government with selective and vindictive prosecution (see page 64).

Those motions, filed as events were heating up around the Iran-Contra scandal, presented detailed evidence that *EIR*'s persistent exposure of illegal U.S. and Israeli arms sales to Khomeini, American support for drug-contaminated elements within the Nicaraguan Contra force, and U.S. complicity in the coup that replaced the Marcos regime in the Philippines with a weak and divided Aquino government, had prompted elements within the National Security Council, the FBI, and the Department of Justice to move to illegally shut down *EIR* and other publications tied to Lyndon LaRouche.

Target: Operation Juárez

This criminal campaign was put into motion after Mr. LaRouche, following a private meeting with Mexican President José López Portillo in 1982, wrote *Operation Juárez*, a comprehensive plan for a monetary and economic reorganization based on a return to traditional, 19th-century American System economics.

When Mexico's debt crisis exploded in late August 1982, López Portillo sought to implement the "Juárez" solution in coordination with other Ibero-American governments. President Reagan himself reportedly briefly considered the LaRouche proposal before being dissuaded by Henry Kissinger, among others.

From that point on, the Project Democracy machinery was set into motion to not only stop LaRouche, but to over-

throw all political forces, particularly in Ibero-America, who supported the "Juárez" plan:

- Under the Project Democracy corporate arm, the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), undisclosed amounts of money were funneled into Coparmex, a business front for the National Action Party (PAN), Mexico's nazi-communist "opposition" which has been at the center of a violent campaign to destabilize our southern neighbor and to spread chaos along the Mexican-American border. As part of the PAN scenario, leading spokesmen for the party have made violent threats against Lyndon LaRouche and have carried out acts of direct violence against members of the Mexican Labor Party, a group friendly to LaRouche. Published reports in Mexico and the United States have directly linked Vice Adm. John Poindexter and Lt. Col. Oliver North to the secret PAN support operations.

- When Panamanian National Guard head Gen. Manuel Noriega threw his support behind Peruvian President Alan García's own efforts to implement a "Juárez"-type solution to the Ibero-American debt crisis, Project Democracy went to work to smash Panama. Project Democracy orchestrated a press campaign against Noriega, leading to hearings by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). When *EIR* exposed this undermining of yet another friendly Central American nation, LaRouche became the subject of a press vilification campaign throughout the Caribbean and in the United States. Circumstantial evidence suggests that at least one article published in the *Washington Times* and a string of articles in the press of the Dominican Republic were commissioned through the Project Democracy desk.

- In October 1984, simultaneous with the launching of U.S. Attorney William Weld's Boston federal grand jury against LaRouche campaign fundraisers, *The New Republic* published a lengthy attack on LaRouche, focusing on his deep connections into the U.S. intelligence and national security establishment and his role in formulating President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. The article was based on information leaked to the authors from government classified files.

According to published reports, one of the article's authors, Ronald Radosh, was a recipient of Project Democracy funding to report on the "successes" of the Contras. The *New Republic* piece—aimed at cutting off LaRouche's channels of communication with the Reagan administration—followed an earlier unsuccessful effort by Henry A. Kissinger to have LaRouche targeted for FBI and Justice Department attack. At the time of Kissinger's effort, he was a director of the National Endowment for Democracy and was chairing the Kissinger Commission on Central America, a study that defended the IMF.

At the time of the *New Republic* article, the co-author, Dennis King, was on the payroll of the League for Industrial Democracy and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. LID is a major component of the National Endowment for Democracy.