

International panel blasts persecution of LaRouche

by Nicholas F. Benton

After hearing 15 hours of testimony given over two days from 32 witnesses, including leaders of government, science, the military, and the arts worldwide, supplemented by scores of written statements, a five-person Fact-Finding Committee of the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the United States, examining "The LaRouche Case," concluded during a Sept. 11 press conference in Washington D. C. that: 1) the positive influence of U. S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche has been enormous worldwide, and 2) the harassment of LaRouche and his supporters both by elements in the U. S. Department of Justice and by Soviet disinformation and terrorist networks is unprecedented, and, in the case of the United States, threatens the viability of the Constitution itself.

Over 280 individuals attended the Sept. 9-10 hearings, which were presented before the Fact-Finding Committee composed of Chairman Don Victor Girauta y Armada, an attorney from Spain; Secretary Dr. Edwin Vieira, an attorney from Virginia; Lennart Hane, an attorney from Sweden; Larry Lopez-Alexander, a former judge from Colorado; and Dr. Frederick Wills, former Foreign Minister of Guyana.

Due to what *EIR* learned was a coordinated effort at the executive level, there was a total boycott by the Washington press corps of the Sept. 11 press conference reporting the Committee's findings, except for *EIR* and one Maryland radio station.

Chairman Girauta expressed amazement at this, but said that because of the great interest in LaRouche by the international press, he was confident there would be extensive coverage when the Committee presents its findings to a meeting of the full Commission in Paris, France, on Sept. 25,

even if the U. S. press doesn't say a word.

The concluding statement of the Committee noted, "We have read and heard in person testimony in support of LaRouche's efforts from Peruvian congressmen and labor leaders, from the top command of the Bolivian, Peruvian, Colombian, and Mexican anti-drug efforts, representatives of the governing party of Panama, leading figures in the armed forces of West Germany . . . from several leaders of the Free French resistance against fascism during World War II . . . from leading scientists and engineers of several nations, and from artists and musicians who . . . speak with love and great dignity about their association with Lyndon LaRouche.

"No truthful man or woman who has received this testimony could help but be struck by the power and influence of LaRouche and his movement. We are forced, through the sheer weight of evidence presented to us, to conclude that, contrary to the vast majority of press accounts, both in the United States and the Soviet Union, Lyndon LaRouche and his associates have served the best interests of the United States and the free West, and have, indeed, improved the image of this nation abroad in the face of growing hostility and resentment against America worldwide, cleverly orchestrated by Soviet assets."

The Committee also noted, "We have also received an enormous amount of evidence, alarming in its implications, of the violation of fundamental constitutional rights of LaRouche and those associated with him and his presidential campaign . . . of unprecedented use of government force to close down the publishing capabilities associated with LaRouche . . . a sequence of state and federal indictments, accompanied by lengthy jailings without bond . . . for the

sole purpose of what General Scherer, in his testimony, termed 'psychological terror.' This has been coupled with intense government harassment, testified to by dozens of statements from those of its victims still willing to come forward . . . who have dared to contribute financially to this movement."

The Committee quoted two experts on Soviet techniques of warfare in its concluding statement, Brigadier Gen. (Ret.) Paul Albert Scherer, former head of counterintelligence of the West German military, and U.S. journalist Ralph De Toledano. The statement quotes Scherer saying, "I am convinced that Mr. LaRouche is neither a faker, nor an agent of influence, and certainly not a neo-Nazi fascist," adding that LaRouche is the victim of "a typical, offensive, and manipulative intelligence-directed operation, aimed at eliminating an opinion-shaper who is a considerable disruption to the Kremlin's policies, and who can neither be silenced nor influenced by means of the usual financial arrangements."

Quoting De Toledano, the Committee statement added, "Whatever the substantive issues of the LaRouche case, and they are small, it can be stated categorically that the Justice Department has made a mockery of the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments and of the Constitution as a whole in its prosecutorial attempt to silence and suppress the LaRouche movement."

The Committee statement concluded, "We find ourselves in full agreement with the assessments of these two experts. . . . We are not in a position to bring an indictment for wrong-doing in this affair. We are, however, in a position to bring the force of moral suasion and public opinion to bear through the efforts of the Commission, to right the wrongs which have been committed against Mr. LaRouche and his associates. This we intend to do."

The testimony presented to the Committee was composed of two major parts. The first focused on the influence of LaRouche worldwide, which included the regions of Ibero-America, Asia, Western Europe, and the United States. The second centered on the harassment of LaRouche, his associates and supporters, including an analysis of the networks responsible for the operations against him in the United States, testimony on the status of the current legal offensive against him, and on the pattern of FBI and Secret Service intimidation of LaRouche supporters. It also included testimony on efforts against LaRouche and his collaborators in Canada, France, and Sweden, the latter two cases specifically involving major Soviet slander and terror operations.

LaRouche's influence

Dennis Small, Ibero-American Bureau Editor of *EIR*, presented the Committee with an overview of LaRouche's influence in Ibero-America in three areas: the fight for a just, new world economic order, the war on drugs, and Central American policy. He traced LaRouche's influence from his 1975 International Development Bank proposal, and its influence on the 1976 Colombo meeting of the Non-Aligned

Movement, through his 1982 meeting with Mexican President López Portillo and his "Operation Juárez" proposal, his 1982 support for Argentina in the Malvinas War (including his 1984 meeting with Argentine President Alfonsín), and his support for Peruvian leader Alan García. He noted the impact of the North American Anti-Drug Coalition, founded at LaRouche's initiative, from the early 1980s, and the 1985 publication of *Narcotráfico SA (Dope, Inc.)*, which was banned in Venezuela, but serialized in a leading Peruvian newspaper. LaRouche warned the Reagan administration against the Contra policy before 1981, proposing instead a four-point Central American policy based on large-scale economic development projects and support for the Contadora process, and stopping gun-running and the Jesuits.

Robyn Quijano, editor of *Resumen Ejecutivo*, the Spanish-language version of *EIR*, presented 40 written testimonies of support for LaRouche signed by 200 Ibero-Americans from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

PERU: Four leading members of the ruling APRA party presented testimony on the influence of LaRouche in advancing the cause of Ibero-American economic integration. Noting that such integration, as well as the measures taken by President Alan García to stem the outflow of debt and to nationalize the banks, are part of the APRA program, Peruvian Congressman Wilber Bendezú remarked, "We have a friend in the U.S. in LaRouche that we can count on."

The chairman of the Peruvian state-owned Pesca-Peru fishing company, Juan Rebaza, pointed out that it was at a meeting of trade unionists from countries around Ibero-America organized by the Schiller Institute, a policy organization founded at the initiative of LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in July 1985, that a decision was made to support the election of President García and back his move to pay debt equaling only 10% of the country's foreign earnings, to make credit available for domestic development—including credit offered with no interest to small farmers.

Congressman Juan Valdivia of Peru added that "our friend LaRouche will continue to be a champion of our cause against drug running in Peru and all Ibero-America." The Schiller Institute, he said, "has had a great function in our fierce battle against the drug scourge."

Dr. Ricardo Martín, the former Deputy Attorney General of Peru, stressed the importance of LaRouche's contributions to Peru's battle against the narco-terrorists, including his 15-point plan aimed at waging all-out war on them, "since they have declared war on humanity." As the General Director of Juridical Affairs in Peru, he headed a special operation against drugs, terror, and corruption, and found that in 1982, drug bankers in Peru laundered \$1.5 billion in drug money, with the support of Finance Minister Manuel Ulloa. He noted how these corrupt forces have allowed the Soviets to turn drug trafficking into a tool of subversion, beginning in 1960.

BOLIVIA: Gen. Lucio Añez, former Bolivian delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board and adviser to the Bolivian Joint Chiefs of Staff, detailed the brutal effects of austerity imposed on Bolivia by the International Monetary Fund, and how this has led to the growth of the “informal sector” economy fueled by the drug trade. “Nothing is more dangerous to democratic institutions than the austerity programs of creditor banks backed by the government of the U.S.,” Añez said.

“Lyndon LaRouche knows what is happening in my country,” Añez said. “He has great knowledge of my country. This surprised me, because very few Americans know anything.” He cited LaRouche’s 15-point program for a military-style war on drugs, noting that when he first read the book, *Dope, Inc.*, commissioned by LaRouche, “it seemed like science fiction to me, because it seems unbelievable that people so rich always want so much more, even at the expense of our children.” He also cited LaRouche’s Operation Juárez proposal for Ibero-American economic integration, and a paper written specifically on the Bolivian economy, he said, has been studied at the highest levels in Bolivia.

PANAMA: Mario Parther, a member of the National Directorate of the ruling Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama, officially designated by his party to testify, linked the destabilization of Panama to the persecution of LaRouche. “Project Democracy never forgave Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega for his role in the Contadora, for his common purpose with Peru’s Alan García, and for his commitment to the dignity, right to national sovereignty, and self-determination of peoples,” he said. Likewise, he said, Lyndon LaRouche represents the “spirit of the U.S. founding fathers.” The sinister interests who showed their hand with the scandal of Irangate want to carry out a coup against my government, he said: “What right do they have to destroy my country?” The Organization of American States voted 17-1, with the United States the lone dissenting vote, to side with the Panamanian government against meddling in its internal affairs by the United States.

“We are fortunate that men emerge such as Lyndon LaRouche who denounce historical mistakes such as Project Democracy, which operates a secret government that does not represent the aspirations of the people of the U.S.,” he said. LaRouche “tells the truth about the conspiracy against Panama.” “This is concrete proof of his unyielding commitment to the truth about Panama,” against “those who would mourn the fate of newspapers in Panama that incite riots and war, while in the U.S. they callously close the newspapers and magazines of LaRouche which expose Project Democracy.”

ASIA: Ramtanu Maitra of India, editor of *Fusion Asia* magazine, outlined how the nations of Asia have “looked to LaRouche for guidance,” beginning in 1980, when LaRouche commissioned a report on a 40-year development perspective for India, based on applying American System

economic methods to the development of nuclear power, water management, and education there. In 1983, *Fusion Asia* was founded at LaRouche’s initiative, and participated with an official government agency in a January 1985 conference on advanced nuclear physics in Bangladesh. In 1983, LaRouche proposed linking the economies of the Indian and Pacific Oceans with the aid of a canal across the Kra Peninsula in Thailand. Several conferences have been held as a result of this proposal, and it is now advancing toward realization in Thailand.

LaRouche traveled to Japan in 1983 and 1984 to discuss economic and strategic issues with leaders there, and in 1986 he inspired a Tokyo conference advocating Japanese participation in the U.S. SDI program. The Japanese decided to join the SDI shortly after that conference.

WESTERN EUROPE: Webster Tarpley, president of the Schiller Institute, outlined the scope of LaRouche’s influence in Western Europe. “Europe has the largest industrial and productive potential in the world. It is the strategic key to the planet. LaRouche is passionately concerned with the fate of Europe as a component of the fate of mankind,” he said. He outlined LaRouche’s influence in the areas of 1) defense of its economy, 2) its battles against terrorism and drugs, 3) its cultural values in the areas of scientific method, music, culture and theology, 4) the threat of Soviet aggression and decoupling, 5) the danger of the AIDS pandemic.

Nationally syndicated columnist Ralph De Toledano, author of 19 books and writer for the Copley News Service, said that Lyndon LaRouche’s suit against the Soviet government for slander, currently before a Paris court, could have an historic impact on the battle against Soviet disinformation in the West. De Toledano said that “LaRouche has put the Soviets on the defensive” in the trial, and that “if he wins, then there could be hundreds of thousands of libel actions against Soviet publications, which have destroyed the reputations of good men, falsified history, and done the work of Satan.”

De Toledano reported on his fact-finding mission to Europe and the Middle East to determine whether there might be any substance to the media allegations about LaRouche. His tour included a six-hour interview with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, and meetings with French resistance fighter Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, and Israeli leader Meir Pa’il. He said that as an expert on the subject of totalitarianism, who can recognize a totalitarian mind when he encounters one, through years of journalistic experience with Nazism and Communism, “Listening to LaRouche, I heard absolutely none of this, only reasoned analysis of the problems that beset society, the Western world and civilization.”

He cited remarks made by Madame Fourcade, that LaRouche’s commitment to a space shield against a missile attack was “above all, serious, resolute, and indifferent to popular prejudices in judging rightly a policy.” He noted her professed “great esteem” for LaRouche’s commitment to

"battle hunger and Malthusianism with a fight for a just, new world economic order and a new Marshall Plan." She called LaRouche "a man of heart seeking solutions with great courage," he said. Pa'il, De Toledano reported, expressed his "high approval" of LaRouche's proposal for a "Middle East Economic Community," including Israel, noting that LaRouche's proposals can be construed as neither anti-Israel nor anti-Semitic. "All charges of anti-Semitism were laid to rest by my conversations in Israel," De Toledano said.

UNITED STATES: Warren Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, cited the lengthy list of statements of support for the Democratic presidential candidate LaRouche from leading U.S. scientists, which had been presented to the committee, including those of Dr. James Frazer and Dr. Ben Soldano. Other scientists, Dr. Robert Moon and Dr. John Seale, testified in person. Hamerman cited representatives of political constituencies "last unified in World War II," including: Milton Croom, of the Peace Through Strength organization, who also testified in person; Roy Innis of the Congress of Racial Equality; Irma Craven of the Right to Life; Linda Everett of the Club of Life; John Weber, a major benefactor of Hebrew Union College; Rabbi Gerald Kaplan; and former National Association of Raw Materials President Fred Huenefeld, both of whom testified in person. He also cited the late Hulan Jack, "founding father" of the U.S. civil rights movement, who dedicated a section of his autobiography, *Fifty Years a Democrat* to his close association with LaRouche during his last years.

Hamerman noted LaRouche's efforts in creating a "candidates' movement" that transformed over 2,000 American patriots into candidates for public office in 1984 alone, and drew over 10 million votes in recent years. The two historic events of 1986—the upset victory of two candidates associated with LaRouche in the Illinois statewide primary and the collection of the signatures of over 700,000 Californians to place an anti-AIDS referendum on the ballot there—were the result of many years of effort by LaRouche, including his initiation in 1974 of an interdisciplinary group that prepared a report then on the causal relationship between economic breakdown and the emergence of deadly new pandemics, a virtual forecast of the AIDS epidemic.

"Athens was judged by the trial of Socrates. They failed the test, and the result was the long dark age of the Roman Empire. Florence in 1302 expelled Dante, and 46 years later came the Black Plague. History shall judge how America judges LaRouche today," Hamerman said.

Operations against LaRouche

The Oct. 6, 1986 raid and all related harassment of LaRouche and associates were run by the same "secret government" network responsible for the Iran/Contra scandal, counterintelligence expert Robert Greenberg documented in testimony read to the committee by his associate Herbert Quinde. Greenberg showed how the intelligence guidelines

12331, 12333 and 12334, signed by President Reagan on Dec. 4, 1981, enabled a specific network of "right-wing social democrats" linked to Project Democracy to operate with impunity against LaRouche and to set up the components of the Iran/Contra operation.

Testimony was presented on FBI and Secret Service harassment of private citizens who have contributed to LaRouche's presidential campaign, supported his policies, or subscribed to publications produced by his associates. Supporters from New York, Alabama, New Jersey, and Illinois gave shocking accounts of FBI and Secret Service harassment, while Suzanne Rose, a volunteer for the Human Rights Commission, read letters from a handful more of the better than 1,500 to 2,000 contributors estimated to have been harassed for supporting LaRouche and his policies. Equally remarkable was the courage expressed by these supporters in standing up to the harassment.

As Rose said, however, others have been silenced through fear, as a result of the harassment, and even the strongest of those who testified today admitted to experiencing the destabilizing effects that the harassment is intended to have. Most of the witnesses characterized the FBI behavior as aggressive and threatening, and definitely a violation of their rights to freedom of association.

Supporters of Democratic presidential candidate LaRouche, Louis and Andrea du Pont Smith and Elizabeth Rose, testified on the efforts of their families to have them declared mentally incompetent in order to prevent them from financially supporting LaRouche, his policies, and his movement.

CANADA: Attorney Gerard Guay described ongoing attempts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to deny rights of members of the Party for the Commonwealth of Canada to politically organize at the airports there since 1984, as well as a consistent campaign of media slander which extended to him.

FRANCE: Claude Albert, President of the European Labor Party (POE) in France, cited two extraordinary cases: 1) the terrorist bombings in April 1986 of the offices of the *Executive Intelligence Review* and POE in Paris by a group, "Black War," linked to the "Direct Action" terrorists, which was intended, according to French police, to burn down the entire building and to take lives, and came two months after the Schiller Institute received a letter from the Libyan embassy in Bonn, West Germany, warning the group to expect to be a target of a bombing, and 2) two cases of libel against LaRouche by Soviet publications circulated in France.

SWEDEN: Michael Ericson, spokesman for the European Labor Party (EAP) in Sweden, presented the Committee with the astonishing account of Soviet-directed attempts through influence in the Swedish media (which spilled over into the United States via NBC TV and other outlets) to link LaRouche and his associates to the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, which occurred Feb. 28, 1986.