
Final Report of the Fact-Finding Committee

International panel finds 'wholesale' violation of rights in LaRouche case

Released on October 1, 1987:

The Fact-Finding Committee of the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, established to examine possible human rights violations in the "LaRouche case," hereby issues its findings. The "LaRouche case" is the series of prosecutions ongoing in the United States against declared presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and his associates.

The members of this Committee are jurists from Europe, North and South America, and Asia, each with professional competence and background which guarantee their professionalism, independence, and absolute objectivity, which is the very essence of justice. Committee Chairman Víctor Girauta y Armada, is a jurist from Barcelona, Spain. Committee Secretary Dr. Edwin Vieira, is a constitutional attorney from Virginia, United States. The other distinguished members of the Committee are Dr. Frederick Wills, former Minister of Justice and Foreign Affairs of Guyana, now a professor of political science at Rutgers University, New Jersey; Mr. S. C. Birla, attorney at the Supreme Court of India and General Secretary of the All-India Lawyers Federation; Mr. Lennart Hane, attorney from Stockholm, Sweden, and author of several works documenting the growth of Soviet-style justice in Sweden; and Larry Lopez-Alexander, former judge, attorney, and journalist from Colorado, United States.

In our investigation into the LaRouche case, we held hearings, listened to testimony, and accepted exhibits for four full days in Washington, D.C., on May 26-27, 1987, and again on September 9-10, 1987. We received a great deal of evidence, much of it with detailed documentation, from people of the highest intellectual and professional level.

The witnesses who appeared before the Committee included attorneys, journalists, political analysts, artists, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious leaders, high-ranking military officers, national and state-level elected officials, medical doctors, scientists, publishers of scientific and cultural magazines, and prominent representatives of the intelligentsia from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Austria, Sweden, West Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Mexico,

Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, India, Madagascar, and Thailand. Moreover, at our request, we obtained through the United States Freedom of Information Act public documents that constitute further evidence.

Each member of the Committee prepared his own, or joined with other members in formulating, findings. This report represents a compilation of those findings.

In summary, our findings are as follows:

ONE: There is prima facie proof of wide-ranging, severe, and systematic violations of human rights in the LaRouche case. Specifically, the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments of the United States Constitution; American civil rights laws; the United Nations Charter; and the Helsinki Accords have apparently been violated in a wholesale manner.

TWO: KGB- or Gestapo-style police-state brutalities and other excesses have been committed in the name of "law enforcement."

THREE: Persons and political interests operating through and under color of the authority of the U.S. Department of Justice and other agencies of the national and state governments have manufactured intrigues and manipulated the investigatory, enforcement, and judicial processes, in order to rationalize accusations against and prosecutions of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.

FOUR: At the same time, financial contributors to the LaRouche movement have been persecuted, threatened, and otherwise intimidated by persons and political interests misusing the investigative arms of the U.S. Justice Department and other agencies, apparently for the purpose of cutting off financial support to the LaRouche political movement.

FIVE: Two notorious cases illustrate the persecution of important contributors to LaRouche-associated enterprises—Mr. Lewis du Pont Smith and Mrs. Elizabeth Rose. Du Pont Smith, through financial contributions and loans, made possible the publication of the book *Dope, Inc.*, which represents the first really serious, thoroughly documented attack on the international traffic in illicit drugs. This work has been used by Western security agencies—according to their own

testimony to this Committee—to strike at the large drug-trafficking mafia all over the world. Apparently because of his political support for Mr. LaRouche, Mr. du Pont Smith has been declared “mentally incompetent” and stripped of fundamental civil rights by two courts of law in the United States. Similarly, Mrs. Rose has suffered fundamental violations of her human rights, apparently because of her decision to contribute to the placing on the California State ballot a proposition declaring AIDS a communicable disease.

SIX: The sudden seizure and suppression of newspapers and magazines published by organizations associated with Mr. LaRouche’s political movement, forcing those organizations into involuntary bankruptcy, and depriving them of the financial means to support their defense to criminal charges pending in other courts, is without precedent in the United States, and ominous in its implications for constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech, free press, and due process of law.

SEVEN: A carefully elaborated and persistent pattern of prosecutions against LaRouche and his associates has developed, with an intensity and expenditure of effort on the part of various government agencies, wildly disproportionate to the objective importance of the charges leveled in these cases. Revealingly, even before LaRouche himself was formally indicted on a single count of “conspiracy to obstruct justice,” there was an attempt, internationally orchestrated through the media in cooperation with certain circles in Western and East bloc governments, to destroy his public image. Also preliminary to indictment of LaRouche, large numbers of his political associates were indicted, several on identical charges in two or more jurisdictions, with the prosecutors apparently focusing especially on those individuals responsible for LaRouche’s political fundraising and security. Unconscionably excessive bail, of up to \$500,000, or refusal to grant bail at all, has been imposed in connection with these indictments, in an atmosphere not unfairly describable as reeking with political, judicial, and media hysteria reminiscent of “witchhunts” of bygone eras.

EIGHT: United States Executive Orders 12333, 12334, and 12331 have apparently been knowingly and flagrantly abused in these investigations and prosecutions. Members of the intelligence community affected by these Executive Orders, who could have come forward to testify to the aid and assistance that Mr. LaRouche and his associates have provided to them and to U.S. government agencies in strategic matters, have failed or refused to do so.

NINE: As to the source of this persecution or its underlying motivation, we find highly probative the conclusions of two expert witnesses, who voluntarily came before this Committee and its parent Commission:

Brig. General (ret.) Paul-Albert Scherer, former head of military counterintelligence of the Army of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Ralph de Toledano, noted American journalist, nationally syndicated columnist, and author of

several works on U.S. foreign policy, Soviet espionage, and communist penetration of the U.S. government.

General Scherer identified the complex of events preceding and surrounding the LaRouche case as a “typical, targeted psychological terror campaign of worldwide proportions against the person of Lyndon LaRouche and against his potential influence.” The purpose of this campaign, he explained, is to “eliminat[e] 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.”

Ralph de Toledano stated that the U.S. “Justice Department has conducted a campaign of harassment and villification deliberately aimed to interfere with Mr. LaRouche’s efforts to compete for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination.” Still other evidence revealed the international scope of Mr. LaRouche’s actions and influence in the world, be it his projects for monetary reform and economic development, his support for strategic defense, the war he launched on illicit drugs and drug-related terrorism, or his proposals for fighting AIDS. We were surprised to see that a man so respected in Europe, Latin America, Asia, and the Third World generally could be so persecuted in his own country.

It is in the context of an American Executive submerged by the expanding economic crisis and a phenomenon of internal decomposition reminiscent of the Watergate affair, and grasping shamelessly for a peace treaty with the Soviet Union, that “l’affaire LaRouche” takes place. Apparently because Lyndon LaRouche predicted the present economic crisis and political chaos; because he is the intellectual author of the Strategic Defense Initiative; because he denounced the existence of the shadowy “parallel government” now slowly being exposed through the ongoing investigations of the U.S. Congress and the “Irangate” Special Prosecutor—because of all this, certain people and groups operating within or through the Executive decided it was absolutely necessary to destroy LaRouche’s influence totally and finally.

These people want no presidential candidate who informs the nation about the corruption infecting American policy. The Soviet regime wants no American spokesman who speaks cogently against its plans for world hegemony. Those members of the American “Establishment” implicated in narcotics traffic, illegal international debt manipulations, destabilization of friendly and strategically vital foreign countries, and other misdeeds, desperately fear an opinion-maker like LaRouche. For this part of the “Establishment,” human rights and justice do not exist for such a man.

We fervently hope that our report will make some contribution toward correcting this situation.

Editors’ note: *Previous coverage of testimony to the Fact-Finding Committee’s hearings and the Paris conference of Sept. 25-26, has appeared in this journal, Vol. 14, Nos. 37, 38, 39, and 40.*