After Bretton Woods: building a new monetary order

by Marianna Wertz and Katherine Notley

One hundred and seventy-five people from all over the world gathered in Andover, Massachusetts over the Jan. 30-31 weekend under the auspices of the Schiller Institute, to share their views on the need to replace the bankrupt world monetary system set up at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire 44 years ago, with a "new, just world economic order." Taking its theme from Pope Paul VI's 1967 encyclical Populorum Progressio, the conference was titled "The New Name for Peace Is Development." A broad cross-section of international forces was addressed by nearly two dozen political, scientific, and religious leaders, including speaker Lyndon H. LaRouche, who put forth a financial reorganization plan to finally end poverty and develop the Third World.

Underlining the importance of the conference were messages of greeting from the Vatican, and from Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia, and Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal. President Kaunda is President Diouf's successor as head of the Organization of African Unity. In his two-page message Diouf said, "In the present context of the world economy, your sessions are distinguished particularly for the pertinence and timeliness of the topics... There can be no more important questions than these, and I must solemnly thank the organizers of this meeting for having launched this initiative and for having desired that I associate myself with it." In a shorter communication, Kaunda regretted "that I will be unable to join you" to "discuss matters affecting the new world economic order, the way out of the depression... I wish you every success."

Msgr. Mario Pimpo, Prelate of Honor of His Holiness, Vicarage of Rome, invoked "from God heavenly blessings for your commitment to build a better world... founded wholly on Christian principles."

The conference was opened by Schiller Institute chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who called for the creation of a new world order based on "respect for national sovereignty," which alone "can protect the freedom of the individual."

Mrs. LaRouche was followed by the chairman of the conference, Dr. Frederick Wills, former foreign minister of Guyana. Wills's courageous leadership over the past two decades, to forge a Third World alliance for a new world economic order,
was warmly recognized by conference attendees. The bankrupt Bretton Woods monetary system, he said, was set up “not in the expectation of good, embedded in hope, but in the expectation of evil, embedded in fear.” “The original sin of the Bretton Woods system,” he said, “was that it insisted that access to its credit was the price of surrender of economic sovereignty for 80% of the world’s population.” Noting the dollar is a “political creation,” Wills said that a monetary system properly is a servant of humanity, and not its controller nor an end in itself. “If our planet is destroyed, it will be by mismanagement of economic science, and not by mis-management of physical science,” he predicted, adding, “When reason is ignored, the forces of nature serve up terrible reminders.”

‘A question of human survival’

Lyndon LaRouche’s keynote presentation focused on “The Task of Establishing an Equitable New International Monetary Order.” “We’re at an existential point, where the question of a new monetary system, a new economic order, is no longer a question of choice. It’s no longer a question of abstract morality. It’s no longer an ethical question, as we define the word ‘ethics’ of whether the human race does or does not have the capability of making those decisions which constitute our species’ moral fitness to survive. It is not an abstract question of justice: It’s a question of human survival of us all, and of the grandchildren of the coming generations.” (The printed below.)

In response to a question from a Senegalese economics professor, who wanted to know why there were such great difficulties in implementing great projects in the developing countries, LaRouche attacked the master race ideology of the families that run the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. This is satanism, he said; these families are driven by pure evil. Take Prince Philip and Prince Bernhard, who “appropriately” belong to the World Wildlife Fund. They wish to exterminate the black African population, reduce it to a level where there were only enough blacks to carry their trunks and luggage. They know they are destroying economies, murdering the population: They intend to do that. You can’t convince them to change their policies. Can you convince a man-eating tiger to become a vegetarian?

Developing sector nations can only defeat this together, in a war to fight Satan, LaRouche stressed.

The second day of the conference was opened by Helga Zepp-LaRouche. In her speech on “The Dignity of Man in a New World Economic Order,” Mrs. LaRouche called on the assembled leaders to be “warrior angels for the good.” She put forth a vision of a world in which man, through the achievements of technology, will have “eliminated misery, where Africa will be a garden, the Sahara a flowering field. Where mankind will have missions into space, and people will stop being bestial.”

For development and the dignity of Man

The following brief summaries give a sense of the scope of the conference; future issues of EIR will publish more of the speeches.

Former U.S. Sen. Frank Moss, (D-
described the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) project for which he had fought as the chairman of Senate subcommittees on water development in the mid-1960s.

Congressman Irajá Rodrigues, Democratic Movement of Brazil (PMDB) Committee, told the audience, “On account of the debt alone, 60,000 children die per year in Brazil.” In one state, half a million children ages 1-5 Brazil stopped paying the debt because of the moratorium, he said. In fact last year, Brazil paid $8.6 billion in interest and debt service. “I am part of the foreign debt commission . . . and because I felt I would find men and women who feel as I do, I am here.” He said the debt of Brazil will not be paid over the next five years, until the real debt is verified, as opposed to amounts owing due to speculation and usury.

Dr. Farouk Shakweer, general secretary of the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations from Egypt, representing 24 African states, said that after five consecutive years of drought, 5 million Africans are dying annually. He called for support of a new economic development bank as advocated crash development programs. Shakweer painted a grim picture of Africa’s economy: debt was more than $200 billion in 1987, and debt service was 50-ings; 95% of Africa’s exports are commodities that are subject to massive fluctuations in prices and stagnation of international trade. While 96% of Africa’s trade is extra-continental, its share of world trade has declined by 25%.

Webster G. Tarpley, president, Schiller Institute, Washington, D.C. made a presentation titled, “Who Is Responsible for the Coming Crash.”

A member of the Oklahoma state legislature said that his state has become “like a Third World country, itself.” He is preparing emergency legislation to deal with total economic collapse, including “terminating the exclusive franchises the five major grain companies have on providing ‘certified seed.’”

Prof. Dercio Munhoz, economic adviser to the PMDB, Brazil said that debt is now 30% of income in Brazil, with inflation rates of 25% per month, threatening the political stability of the country.

Mpinga Kalongi, a Zairean diplomat, said that “the power to act can be corrupted by a perverse thirst for destruction. A desire for growth and flourishing radicalism is not our object. It ing.” Calling for North-South “Your responsibility is immense. You must help the weaker economies. I call upon you to discover what we must do to foster the dignity of Man. Let us support and celebrate this consciousness.”

Jorge Panay, economist of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), debt must be solved in a political way through the sovereign participation of all countries. We are under the fire of Washington to destroy our government and our people.”

Patricio Estévez, Sonora state congresswoman, Mexico said that the current government of Mexico has capitulated to the IMF: $40 billion leaves the country annually, compared to $25 billion that is circulated through the domestic banking system; 56% of every peso goes to pay foreign debt and only 3% to agriculture.

Federico S. Sosa Solis, Yucatan state congresswoman, Mexico presented a “Bill to Declare a Debt Moratorium for Mexico.”

Zoraida Elsevif, economist, Dominican Republic Ministry of Agriculture spoke on the necessity to center economic criteria on man as the primary resource.

Amelia Robinson, from Selma, Alabama is a veteran of civil rights struggle of Martin Luther King. “Black America knows what is happening in this world,” she said. “We know there are many who have ridden on the backs of the poor and the oppressed . . . America is great, but . . . the problem is that, when America became fully grown, she felt ‘I have made it,’ and began to slip back.”

LaRouche is another leader designated by God, humble, understanding and wise, like Martin Luther King. I think Lyndon LaRouche has not decided he wants to be President. He has an inward force saying ‘Things have been given mental tools to straighten this country out.’ ” If such a leader were President, sh our voices and sing with a clear voice and a clear conscience, My Country ‘Tis of Thee. Then we will be able to sing, “Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I’m free at last.”

Rev. Wade Watts, former Oklahoma chairman (NAACP), and Martin Luther King and today target LaRouche and his supporters. “But they renamed it and they call it the FBI,” he said. “The reason I’m telling you this is so that you know that when you start out to fix this corruption, it’s extremely dangerous.”


Fernando Quijano, Schiller Institute America spoke on “The War on Drugs in the Fight for a New Economic Order.”

Don Eret, former state legislator, Nebraska, spoke on “How International Pricing Systems Have Destroyed Agriculture.”

Dr. Ricardo Veronesi, of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases, Sao Paulo, said that “the present evidence shows that the outbreak of AIDS in Asia and Latin America is following the African model, i. lies put out by the CDC and WHO.”

Dr. James Frazer, professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, presented his view of “Medical Research in a New World Economic Order.”