

measures. One of them is to make sure that *Operation Juárez*, the plan for debt relief for Ibero-America, written by Lyndon LaRouche, is implemented as soon as possible. The second is stopping capital flight by imposing exchange controls. The third, is to generate long-term, low-interest credit, exactly as Alexander Hamilton, the Treasury Secretary of George Washington, did. If we follow these three simple measures, and also if we do our part for Ibero-American integration, we will be able not only to solve the problem of the debt and turn this continent into a great industrial power, but we will surely stop the advance of the guerrillas and narco-terrorism.

Even though we arrived very late in the electoral campaign, only nine weeks ago, we have made a political miracle. We are late because we were fighting for three years with the Supreme Electoral Court, which did not legalize the PLV until nine weeks ago, just because we were helping to distribute the book *Narcotráfico, SA*, known in English as *Dope, Inc.*, which denounces the drug traffic and the Soviet operation that is being manipulated by the big banks, and here in Venezuela there are certain families that are puppets of Rockefeller and were mentioned in this book.

We are friends of Lyndon LaRouche, and our party belongs to the same political current that Mr. LaRouche belongs to in the United States. These two reasons were enough for us to be victims of a prosecution to try to stop our legalization, even though we submitted 40,000 signatures of Venezuelans who support our legalization.

So we had to sue the Supreme Electoral Court and finally in the Supreme Court of Justice we won the case nine weeks ago. What the Venezuelan Labor Party has presented is the program to make Venezuela an industrial power by the year 2015, with 30 years of hard work. In a certain sense this broke up the electoral circus.

**EIR:** How has the program been received?

**Peña:** With extraordinary interest. It is the first time any political party offered citizens a detailed plan for how to develop the country, what resources, what zones, etc. We put out a pamphlet of nearly 59 pages, with charts and maps. It was first published on Nov. 6 as a supplement to the Sunday edition of the paper *El Informador* in the city of Barquisimeto, with a press run of 40,000. Today we received the first run of the pamphlet version of the program, 50,000 copies.

I was able to run through the whole program in a two-hour television interview on the Maracaibo television station. The station got almost 100 phone calls. It's worth noting that the interview was broadcast live the day after Carlos Andrés Pérez released his presidential campaign platform, in the same city of Maracaibo.

We think that, unless we are victims of a large fraud, we should win two or three seats in the Congress. From there we'll continue the fight for the creation of a national movement to make Venezuela a great country, and reverse the decline Venezuela has suffered in the last 15 years.

## PLO throws the ball into Israel's court

by Thierry Lalevée

Whether it is too little too late, is ultimately not relevant to the series of diplomatic initiatives taken by the Palestine National Council during its recent conference in Algiers on Nov 12-15. During the three days of heated discussions, and indeed, after months if not years of hard bargaining, the parliamentary body of the PLO decided to recognize the U.N. Resolution 242, while calling for the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel according to the 1947 U.N. Resolution 181.

As the final communiqué underlined, the precise borders of that state will remain to be negotiated and defined as part of an International Peace Conference to be sponsored by the United Nations within the terms of the 242 and 338 resolutions.

Obviously, this is a far cry from other steps which could have been taken, such as the creation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, and an explicit and official recognition of the state of Israel. Yet, it is the underlining spirit which matters: the deliberate choice to play the card of peace negotiations, and not the card of military and terror-related confrontation.

As such, these moves have been greeted favorably by most moderate Muslim countries, with Turkey being probably the most significant country to recognize the newly declared "State of Palestine."

Doubtless, had such decisions been taken prior to the Nov. 1 Israeli parliamentary elections, they would have influenced the results, if not in favor of the more moderate Labour, at least of those candidates notwithstanding party affiliation who have campaigned for peace negotiations. As it turned out, the right-wing hardliners have come out the winners. The PLO resolutions must now be negotiated with hawks.

### Moscow's game

Ultimately, that simple issue underlines the dilemma and the limits of the PLO decisions. It is known that Arafat decided to postpone the meeting of the Palestine National Council—originally scheduled for the end of August, then for September, and then for October—at the explicit request of the Soviet Union. Moscow's direct interest was and re-

mains to prevent any direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Instead, it wants an international peace conference where its status as a superpower in the region, equalled only by the United States, would be officially and definitely recognized.

To armtwist the PLO into going along with this ploy, Moscow committed itself to ensuring the neutrality of Syria during the council proceedings, and the neutrality of the Palestinian radicals. Local observers could not but notice the feverish activities of a four-man delegation from the Soviet Foreign Ministry, which was involved in hard bargaining with George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh, of the terrorist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The result is known.

In a rare scene of Palestinian unity, Habash announced that he disagreed with the decisions of the council, but that contrary to previous occasions, he would abide by the majority decision and not split once again from the PLO. Moscow delivered to Yasser Arafat what it had promised, though Arafat knows that Moscow actually needs to have its allies within the movement as a negotiating card. Syria has so far preferred to keep silent on the issue.

The danger ahead should be obvious. Once more, the PLO has made the decision that to survive, it has to abide by the rules of a game imposed by the superpowers, rather than challenging the rules and the game, too. The PLO is obviously no newcomer to that sport of wheeling and dealing, but only months ago, PLO foreign affairs specialist Khaled al Hassan could be heard denouncing the danger of a "New Yalta" deal between the superpowers, to be concluded at the expense of the rest of the world.

Yet, the PLO itself has now created a situation in which, if it wants its resolutions to become the basis for actual momentum toward peace, and not merely one more success for Soviet foreign policy soon forgotten for other issues, it will have to challenge the game with predictable risks. Among other things, it will require the PLO to face the issue of direct negotiations with Israel and Israeli leaders, bypassing the superpowers' agenda—initiatives which would be more than welcome by mainstream Israelis who, like many others, look suspiciously at the threat of a "superpower condominium" over the Middle East.

### More conflicts

No doubt, the Middle East will be a prominent feature of discussions in the hurriedly organized summit between Mikhail Gorbachov, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush in early December. Yet, neither power is expected to rush things, and will want to wait until at least next spring before setting events into motion. Indeed, the Israeli political situation affords them a good pretext for waiting.

The worst-case scenario is a Likud-led right-wing coalition, the other a new national unity coalition in which Labour

is a minority, with Yitzhak Rabin maintained as Defense Minister and becoming de facto, if not the actual, leader of the Labour Party. This would be a stalemated situation, which is at least what Moscow wanted, and most likely, Washington, too. Ultimately, it will provide for both superpowers to demonstrate, within limits, their cooperation by leaning over the Israeli administration.

There is not expected to be any slowdown in the tempo of Israeli-Soviet diplomatic negotiations, and it is unrealistic at this point to expect a breakthrough in American-PLO relations, despite the Palestinian leaders' hope that Bush may be closer to the Arab cause than Reagan was, and that Secretary of State Baker may be a "pragmatist ready to face reality."

But a crucial issue will be the question of the *Intifada*, the 11-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Occupied Territories, which, while following diplomatic events, has a momentum of its own that could lead to desperate actions on both sides. Some Israelis believe that once the Palestinians in the Territories realize that the PLO "is going nowhere," the *Intifada* "may just die down." That is, to say the least, a miscalculation. To the contrary, such a realization may lead the Palestinians into even more desperate actions, which could cancel out the Palestine National Council's olive-branch resolutions, driving the region back to square one.

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