

## Why Europe must become a bastion of freedom

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

*The following policy statement was released in the Federal Republic of Germany on Oct. 10 by Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, who is chairman of the Patriots for Germany party. It has been translated from the German.*

The sense of desperation with which tens of thousands of refugees from East Germany have fought their way to freedom, is dramatic proof that an era is coming to an end. These people left everything behind them, and some risked their own and their small children's lives in order to escape the hated repression there. And within a few short weeks, they have also created a situation in which the word "freedom" means something again. Beneath their often panicked decisions to flee, lay their well-founded fear that soon after the 40 anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.), there would be a wave of repression such as occurred in China; and the brutality shown by the East German police against the demonstrators in many cities has already given us a foretaste of what is to come.

The reaction of the West German public to this wave of emigration, gives us a striking example of how swiftly public opinion can do an about-face in times of crisis. For years—indeed, for decades—the West has sought to court and assuage the East Berlin regime by proffering multiple economic assistance packages. West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) compulsively pushed ahead with its fraternization offers with East Germany's ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED). But now, all of a sudden, a large chunk has fallen from the façade, revealing the SED state's ugly face under-

neath. Suddenly, everyone is speaking of the G.D.R. as a great jailhouse holding 16 million Germans prisoner, and that to live in the G.D.R. means being swindled out of the best part of one's life.

It is patently evident, that the parties in West Germany's capital Bonn have no idea how they should react to this situation. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is suddenly not sounding so self-assured that he can weather any crisis, and one cannot help getting the impression that he, like many of his more realistic colleagues, is terrified by the events now unfolding in the East bloc. The SPD, meanwhile, is about to see the complete demise of its policy of "change through convergence" with the SED; and all the liberals' assurances that the "German question" can only be settled in a European context, have the hollow ring of all such empty formulas in times of crisis.

While Bonn is basically adrift, limiting itself to humanitarian assistance and supplies for the refugees, a few articles have appeared in journals in other European countries, warning that the specter of a possible reunification of the two Germanies has returned to haunt European political life, and arguing that the German question is too important to leave it up to the Germans themselves. But what the writers of these articles completely overlook, is that what these refugees from the G.D.R. desire above all else, is *freedom*; and people in France, at least—in this 200th anniversary of the French Revolution—really ought to have some understanding of that.

What, then, shall we do? How can the dangerous political vacuum be filled?

The current strategic situation is chiefly determined by two elements: the collapse of the Communist empire, including China; and the rapidly worsening world economic depression and the associated immediate danger of an international financial crash. No political initiative will succeed unless it takes this political reality into account. Therefore, all considerations must begin with a sober and illusion-free evaluation of these two aspects.

### The collapse of the Soviet Empire

The Soviet Empire is in the throes of an irreversible collapse; we are witnessing the death of Communism as an ideological system. The more than 40 years of primitive accumulation practiced by Moscow toward the various nationalities inside the Soviet Union and its satellite states in the East bloc, has reached a certain objective limit. The essential reason why the East bloc states have been so ruthlessly plundered—preventing their citizens from ever having a standard of living fit for human beings—lay, of course, in the Soviets' striving to achieve military superiority over the West. Especially since 1983, when the the Ogarkov plan for a pre-war economic and military mobilization began to enormously intensify the plundering of the people of the East bloc for military purposes, there has been a tremendous increase within the Eastern European nations, and within the Soviet Union itself, of the will to resist the central authorities in Moscow.

*Perestroika*, i.e., restructuring, means nothing other than putting the Soviet Union's economy on a footing to sustain the pre-war mobilization. Gorbachov saw the policy of *glasnost* as his only means of winning over the popular masses—who are rather backward culturally and hence tend to resist all innovation—into supporting this mobilization. But to the degree that the authorities permitted open discussion of the former crimes of Josef Stalin—the supposed proof that Gorbachov's new leadership was different from what came before—to that same degree there grew a desire to throw off today's repressive system, and the resulting demand for national independence. So, for Gorbachov, *glasnost* has turned out to be a genie in the bottle: Once he let it out, he could never force it back inside.

Over the past few months, the entire East bloc economy has undergone a further dramatic collapse. The supply situation in the Soviet Union is in fact worse today than it was in 1953 under Stalin. This, in turn, has led to strikes and uprisings in virtually every part of the Soviet Union, along with serious frictions in Eastern Europe. The Eastern Institute in Cologne recently issued a study which predicts a catastrophic winter and "Romanian conditions" throughout the East bloc, including the G.D.R. and Czechoslovakia. Recall that in Romania last winter, many people either starved or froze to death.

It is not difficult to anticipate that hunger, combined with a pressing lack of basic daily necessities, will make



"No to the Evil Empire," declares this poster circulated by the Patriots for Germany party shortly after its founding in 1985. Many West Germans are now regretting that they didn't follow that advice back then.

the political oppression even more unbearable. This fully confirms Lyndon LaRouche's warning that the worldwide food shortage has become the number-one threat to world peace. At the most recent meeting of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' U.S.A.-Canada Institute in Vermont, the Soviet representatives confronted their terrified Western interlocutors—who had set their hopes on a great *perestroika* boom—with the candid assertion that Moscow will soon have no choice but to send the Russian Army into the hotbeds of political unrest.

Such brutal repression by the Army is not all that far off; there are just too many crises breaking out simultaneously. In stark contrast to wishful thinking in the West about Gorbachov, the Soviet leader has made it quite clear to the SED leadership, that even though the SED will have to find its own way out of the crisis, under no circumstances must stability be threatened on the western frontier. Even if Honecker is replaced at the SED's upcoming party congress in November, or if he steps down earlier than that for health reasons, this should be no cause for celebration. Those who know the system first-hand—namely, the refugees from the G.D.R.—describe the upcoming generation of SED functionaries as hardened party technocrats who are even worse than Honecker. There may be a few cosmetic reforms, perhaps; but without a fundamental change—a change which would have to be introduced through a policy shift in the West—the crisis in the G.D.R. will grow progressively worse. If the SED regime reaches the point of losing control, the most probable option will be a direct intervention by the Soviet army.

How long will Moscow put up with the course of events in the Baltic nations? After Lithuania, now also Latvia has demanded independence, and has already drafted emergency

plans to ensure vital supplies in the event of a total boycott by the central government in Moscow. In Poland the supply situation is desperate, and Lech Walesa has already warned of the imminent danger of civil war. In Armenia, even the Russian military has so far been unable to break the blockade in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. Bloody fighting is going on between Azerbaijanis and Armenians. But the situation is also extremely tense in Siberia, the Ukraine, Georgia, and the Moldavian Republic. And it is highly doubtful that workers will honor the Supreme Soviet's decision to ban all strikes in virtually every sector of the economy.

Meanwhile, Gorbachov, who only a few weeks ago was ridiculing those who were "talking a crisis into existence," changed his tune in an alarming speech before the Supreme Soviet, saying that the situation is catastrophic and that the Moscow leadership is losing control. Gorbachov's economic adviser Leonid Abalkin declared that it were better that the necessary control measures be taken by the present leadership, rather than by a future one. Gorbachov's reason for hesitating to order such comprehensive repressive measures, must lie in his recognition that it would shatter his image as a reformer, just as surely as Deng Xiaoping's image was shattered on June 4.

### **No objective basis for a superpower condominium**

Following the massacre in Beijing, Lyndon LaRouche stated with great precision that China's action had destroyed any objective basis for maintaining the condominium of the superpowers. For, the moment the Chinese leadership lost its "mandate from heaven" in the eyes of the people along with it died the illusion of "reform Communism." The brutality shown by the military in executing Deng's orders against the Chinese youth, conclusively exposed "reform Communism" as a Communist trick, whose only purpose was to lull the "useful idiots" in the West. At the same time, it became evident that a massacre similar to the one at Tiananmen Square could be easily replicated in other locations within the East bloc.

It should be recalled, that I presented precisely this analysis of East bloc developments during a campaign spot which I made for the European parliament elections, and which had been scheduled to be shown over the ARD and ZDF television stations on June 14. But in an unparalleled example of political censorship, ZDF refused to air the program, because on that same day Gorbachov was in West Germany on a state visit, and Gorbymania in Bonn had reached fever pitch. It took a court order to force ZDF to belatedly air the program, whereas ARD jawboned, claiming technical difficulties, so that it only aired the program after Gorbachov had already departed.

Since then, warnings about an impending Beijing-style crackdown against the opposition in the East bloc have been repeated by numerous commentators, and even by Honecker

himself. So, who was right?

The breath-taking speed with which the process of disintegration has been unfolding throughout the East bloc over the past few months, has more than confirmed LaRouche's analysis. The objective basis for a condominium of the two superpowers no longer exists—even if the Bush administration still wants to cling to that illusion. Meanwhile, a ham-fisted battle is being fought out within the Soviet *nomenklatura*: On the one side stands the grouping around Gorbachov which wants to stick with *perestroika*, so as to entice the West into giving further financial and economic assistance; on the other side is a faction within the military and the party which is convinced that Gorbachov has allowed developments to drift out of control for too long in the Transcaucasus, in the Baltic, and elsewhere.

Up to now, Gorbachov has been able to steer these conflicts to his own advantage, which has allowed him to accumulate increasing power in his own hands. But it is only a matter of time before he will be replaced by those who want to try using bloody repression as a means of bringing the situation under control. The most probable result will be a lengthy civil war.

### **The crisis in the West**

The lack of any sense of reality within the Bush administration extends not only to its misevaluation of the possibility of maintaining a condominium arrangement with Moscow, but also to its distorted view of the economic and monetary system in the West. For the past two decades, the United States has been systematically reducing its industrial capacity, and its "post-industrial" economic and financial policies, which are solely oriented toward monetary criteria, has caused a grave economic crisis, with the result that the U.S. banking system is now on the verge of collapse.

Even if people might manage to once again postpone an outright banking collapse by means of massive expansion of monetary aggregates, such a combination of inflation and deflation will only exacerbate the problems of the real, goods-producing economy. It makes no difference whether the great banking collapse will be ultimately unleashed by worthless junk bonds, by failed leveraged buyouts, by the inability of Third World countries to pay their debt, or by the shock of a bloody crackdown in the East bloc; the fact is, one day in the near future, the speculative financial bubble is definitely going to burst.

Over the last few weeks, the Europeans' dwindling trust in the Bush administration has become one of the most important factors in policymaking. A veritable earthquake was set off among insider circles recently, when Central Intelligence Agency director William Webster gave a speech in Los Angeles, declaring that henceforth the CIA would concern itself less with the Soviet threat, and would instead concentrate more on America's allies who are also its economic competitors. The French daily *Le Figaro* correctly pointed

out that this reflects a new political orientation on the part of the Bush administration, turning it away from the Western Alliance and toward a condominium with Moscow. Henceforth, the newspaper stated, European firms should expect to find the CIA bugging their internal planning meetings.

Out of all this, it becomes clear that the postwar order is coming to a close—both for the Communist bloc as well as for the foreseeable relations within the Western Alliance. Under these circumstances, how can Western Europe protect its own interests, while defining a policy direction which answers the political vacuum in a positive way, furthering the cause of peace?

### **A new monetary system**

Precisely because the United States is apparently dead-set on relinquishing its leadership role in the world, Western Europe itself must now prepare to become a bastion of economic growth and technological progress, in order to counter the impending chaos of a worldwide economic depression. If in the United States there is no sign of a return to economic reason, then Western Europe must take measures to protect itself against the effects of a financial crash and of a general depression.

It is therefore urgent that we expand the European Monetary System along the lines already specified by Lyndon LaRouche back in 1978, at a time when Western Europe was confronted with the equally unpredictable Carter administration. Back then, the unreliability of the U.S. administration prompted Chancellor Helmut Schmidt into repeated warnings that the world was on the brink of a Third World War. Responding to this danger, Schmidt and French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing laid the foundations for a European Monetary System; but in its implementation, they fell far short of LaRouche's original proposal.

But now there is every reason to finally implement the full program. This would entail, first, linking European currencies into a firm alliance with fixed parities. These currencies should be backed by a gold reserve which could be used by the central banks for settling outstanding balances. The price of the monetized gold should be set by treaty between member states, at a rate above the current market price for gold.

In order to effect an immediate economic upswing, the national central banks—which should be put under the control of their respective governments—must issue long-term credits at low interest rates for productive investment in industry, agriculture, and infrastructure. These project-tied credits, with an effective interest rate of 2%, could then be passed on through the banking system. Such a method of money creation would not be inflationary, since these credits would be exclusively tied to the production of new physical goods. Because of the emphasis on technological innovation, these investments would probably even have a deflationary effect.

Provided this is done, Western Europe's economy would immediately experience an enormous upswing—especially if such a reorganization of the economic system within the European Community were linked with an export drive, particularly of capital goods, into those developing countries which are inclined to cooperate. Over the past years and months, European banks have been drawing the obvious conclusion from the Third World debt crisis, and have been writing off substantial portions of their outstanding credits. Now we can return to a policy like that pursued in the 1970s by Jürgen Ponto, the late chairman of the Dresdner Bank, of helping the nations of the so-called Third World to develop their own economies, and in so doing, making them into future expanding markets for us. To do this, we will need to open new credit lines for these countries, with the stipulation that such credits be tied to clearly defined projects for improving infrastructure, industry, and agriculture.

The core of such an expanded European Monetary System would have to be close cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany, France, and Italy. Such a strong economic bloc could then form the basis for supporting the less developed Western European nations and regions, such as Spain, Portugal, and Italy's Mezzogiorno.

Once the EC is economically stabilized in this way, it could then turn to a further urgent task, namely, the reconstruction of the Polish economy. Indeed, the quantity and quality of support provided to the new Polish government—which must primarily come in the form of economic assistance—will determine the fate not only of Poland, but of the entire East bloc. Success, or lack thereof, in making Poland into a model of successful economic reconstruction of an East bloc country, might well be the decisive factor in whether the world will have war or peace.

### **Food for peace**

A beefing-up of the EMS should be complemented by one further urgent measure: an emergency agricultural program. I have already mentioned the danger that the worsening worldwide food shortage is becoming the number-one threat to world peace. Thanks to the neo-malthusian policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the EC Commission, today neither the United States nor the EC has any significant food reserves. This state of affairs was dramatically underscored by the difficulties encountered in assembling food supplies for relief shipments to Poland.

Now that winter is approaching, very little can be done in our latitudes to relieve this situation, until next spring. So if there is to be any short-term gearing up of agricultural production to deal with the emergency in the developing nations and in the East bloc, this would have to come largely from the Southern Hemisphere, where spring planting is now under way. The two nations which are predestined, as it

were, to make major contributions to the preservation of world peace through a massive expansion of their agricultural production, are Brazil and Argentina.

Therefore, Western Europe should decide to make short-term lines of credit available to these two countries so that they can maximize the acreage planted. Additional agreements should be made in order to increase imports of high-quality beef from Ibero-America.

The other nations of Ibero-America should be given comparable incentives to gear up their own agricultural production, not only for its own sake, but as a means of supporting those governments in their war against the drug mafia by encouraging peasants to grow food instead of drugs. Simply imagine the catastrophic effects of hunger riots in the East bloc, and what the food situation will look like this coming February, and it should be obvious that there is not a day to lose in putting these emergency measures into effect. At the same time, the West would also benefit by gaining greater maneuvering room in its negotiations with Moscow.

In view of the outrageous fact that according to World Health Organization statistics, only 1.8 billion people are adequately nourished, 1.5 billion poorly nourished, and 1.7 billion suffer from undernourishment, and in view of the shocking and shameful fact that over this decade millions of human beings have already died of hunger or its effects, the moral challenge of our century must be to eliminate this inhuman and utterly unnecessary state of affairs, and to set the stage for a general agricultural reconstruction program in the Southern Hemisphere. Looking beyond all the details, such a "food for peace" program is the only workable concept for preventing an impending war.

### Science cities

It would be highly desirable that each Western European nation define approximately 20 great projects which could turn Western Europe into a bastion of economic progress. In the Federal Republic of Germany, for example, such a task would include the assembly and export of high-temperature gas-cooled nuclear reactors to the developing countries on a grand scale. These reactors would not only deliver cheap and environmentally safe electricity to build the economy, but could also produce heat for industrial applications while guaranteeing maximum safety because of their manner of construction.

The best way to highlight Western Europe's new orientation, would be for each country to undertake the construction of a new science city. For West Germany, this writer has already presented a proposal, in the form of a draft plan for a "Cusanusstadt."<sup>1</sup> The essential idea is to erect, from the ground up, an entirely new city which would gather together all future-oriented branches of science, but which would also be a work of art in its own right, both architecturally and from a city-planning standpoint, in the best tradition of Euro-

pean city-building. Such a city, if coupled with an emphasis on humanist<sup>2</sup> education and continuing education of its residents, could become a symbol for the new humanist renaissance.

West Germany has very immediate grounds for building such a Cusanusstadt. Since the beginning of this year alone, 135,000 people have come over to us from East Germany by one route or another. New housing will have to be built for them; if the construction of these new housing units is not simply left up to the haphazard decisions of individual communities, but is instead considered in connection with the Cusanusstadt plan, then it could provide an immense impulse for our overall economic development.

The doubts and suspicions which many people in France may harbor about such a perspective of a much-strengthened German industry, are without foundation. Such people ought to consider what is in store for us West Germans, in the event that Western Europe is unable to make this new orientation. And they should not forget that it was precisely the lack of a German national identity, which up to now has made Germans so susceptible to the campaigns for a neutralized Germany.<sup>3</sup> In the context of a newly defined perspective for all of Western Europe, West Germany's economic strength would be a great boon, especially for its partners within the European Community.

There is only one way humanity can overcome the crises which are engulfing almost every part of the globe, and which are even putting the future existence of mankind into question: We must spark a new humanist renaissance. Western Europe, by virtue of its historic tradition, has a special role to play in this undertaking. We must return to the basic values of the Judeo-Christian West. The shift in moral values over the past 20 years, which is evident in the manifold manifestations of social collapse we see today, must be reversed. The face of Europe is distinguished by its many nations, each of which has developed its own culture and its own identity. Provided that we in Europe harken back to the very best of our tradition, infuse it with new life, and connect it with the peaceful aim of developing the Southern Hemisphere, then we in Europe indeed stand on the threshold of an exciting and hopeful future.

No matter what may come to pass, the Patriots for Germany are determined to put its constructive policies into the service of bringing about a renaissance of the European nations.

### Editor's notes

1. "Cusa City," named after Nicolaus of Cusa (1401-1464), who can be regarded as the founder of modern non-euclidean mathematical physics.
2. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche uses the accepted European definition of the term "humanism," signifying the Judeo-Christian humanism which asserts the potential divinity of the human soul and of man's ability to master the laws of the universe.
3. Under present political conditions, any reunification of the two Germanies would mean the de facto incorporation of West Germany into the Soviet Union's sphere of influence.