

Rome hosts conference on LaRouche triangle plan

by Rosanna Impiccini

Less than a month before the centennial of the papal encyclical *Rerum novarum*, Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for a "Productive Triangle" of development in Central Europe, to become the locomotive for a worldwide economic recovery, was presented to a select audience of business, intellectual, and political leaders in Rome.

Speaking on April 18 to more than 70 people in the conference called to present the Italian book on the triangle, *The Development of Europe and the Danger of the Environmental Movement*, the president of the Schiller Institute in Germany, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, said, "Europe is now facing a historic opportunity that is at the same time a moral duty: to make its economy coherent with Christian principles." She stressed that Europe's integration and the role that the European economy must play in the world must be brought into accord with the principles of economics expressed in the encyclicals *Populorum progressio* and *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, by the two recent popes, Paul VI and John Paul II, in contrast to both British free market liberalism and communist collectivism.

The new perspectives facing Europe

The conference was held in the climate of eager anticipation in Rome of a new papal encyclical, which will present Catholic social teachings today in commemoration of *Rerum novarum*, in which Pope Leo XIII on May 6, 1891 had defined the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. In the new document, Pope John Paul II is expected to redefine economic relations between North and South, and between East and West, after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

"Europe is facing a desperate situation in Africa, in the Gulf, in the Middle East, in epidemic-stricken Ibero-America," Helga Zepp-LaRouche said. "Europe must develop the infrastructure system in Eastern Europe including Russia. This is not only a good economic perspective, but also a

political necessity to prevent the eruption of chaos in the former socialist empire that could lead to East-West confrontation."

After German reunification "one year was lost. . . . There is a huge possibility for productive investments in the East. The lost year allowed the Soviet *nomenklatura* to put together an authoritarian regime. This policy looks very similar to that of Bukharin between 1925 and 1927. Of course after that, the Stalin dictatorship was established."

Mrs. LaRouche then described the activity carried out by the Schiller Institute over the past year, in presenting conferences and seminars all over Europe, from East to West, on the European Productive Triangle proposed by her husband, Lyndon LaRouche: a program based on the utilization of high technology, particularly nuclear power plants and high-speed rail systems, in order to create the infrastructural corridors needed to maximize the efficiency of the continent's economy. The irregular triangle has its vertices in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, and encompasses the Lille-Charlerois region in northern France, the area around Prague, and the industrial heartland of Europe, Germany's Ruhr region; from there, spiral arms of development would extend north to Scandinavia, south to Italy and Spain, into the Balkans, and eastward toward Russia.

Mrs. LaRouche reported on the enormous interest which the project has awakened among the governments of Eastern Europe, and recalled how important it is for Italy to be part of the project which, she said, "means returning to the policy of Enrico Mattei, of opening up economic and commercial exchanges with the Arab oil-producing countries, not based merely on monetary profit, but with the aim of facilitating those nations' economic growth."

The memory of Enrico Mattei, who died in a still unexplained plane crash in 1962, is revered by his admirers and

feared by his enemies in Italy. Mattei, an anti-Fascist partisan leader during World War II, was the industrialist who created an independent national oil company, AGIP, after the war and entered into a deadly competition with the Anglo-Dutch-American oil companies.

The recent Rome conference had been organized by the Rome cooperative, Vita Nova, which is publishing the volume on the triangle, at the offices of the European Association of Journalists. Telegrams of greetings were received from Italian Transportation Minister Bernini and the president of the European Association of Physicists, Professor Ricci.

Among those attending were representatives of almost all of Italy's major public holdings, IRI (the heavy industry holding company), ENI (the National Hydrocarbons Agency, founded by Enrico Mattei), State Railways, ENEL (the national electric power utility), as well as from the transportation and industry ministries. Also on hand were spokesmen for the major construction companies, banks, military circles, journalists, and diplomatic personnel from Eastern Europe and the Maghreb countries of North Africa. The embassy of Austria, the country through which Italy would connect into the central Productive Triangle, was represented.

The nuclear imperative

Prof. Paolo Ungari, chairman of the Faculty of Political Science of the Free University of Social Studies of Rome (LUISS), gave a devastating picture of the infrastructure shortfalls in Italy, especially in the energy and transportation sectors. "Italy was the first country to decide to abandon nuclear energy, in 1987. This choice was made with the conviction that we would be the first in a long series of countries that would follow us. After five years, instead, we realize we are all alone, and that we go begging for electrical power not only from France, but even from countries like Switzerland, Austria, and Yugoslavia."

Professor Ungari reiterated the importance of creating an efficient system of rail transport, which, he said, for Italy has always been a crucial problem, from the outset of the formation of the nation-state in the middle of the last century. A century ago, he recalled, the problem was exactly the same as today: transporting farm products from the south to northern Italy and into Central Europe, where most of the potential consumers live, quickly enough that the products do not perish. The railways were extended to southern Italy and all the way to Sicily for this reason. Today we must think even beyond Sicily, Ungari continued, to North Africa and to the Middle East, and he stressed the need to supply these regions with an adequate technology for desalinating water in order to permit agricultural development.

The next speaker was Prof. Tiziano Federighi of ENEA, the National Agency for Nuclear and Alternative Energy, who discussed the problem of nuclear power in Italy, especially concerning intrinsically safe, second-generation reac-

tors. Professor Federighi pointed out that in the report published by the Vita Nova publishing house, only two types of reactors are mentioned, the German HTR (High Temperature Reactor) and the PIUS (which an Italian consortium was set up to build, between Fiat, Ansaldo, and ABB), whereas there are several other reactors of the so-called second generation. He then stressed the fact that the problem of nuclear energy is mainly political, in the sense that it is important today to single out the manner of representing the nuclear question today in Italy, effectively contrasting the propaganda campaign which 1987 had brought on the anti-nuclear referendum, and which is still going on.

There were numerous questions from the audience to Professor Federighi, and in the course of the discussion, it became clear that without nuclear energy it is useless to speak of high-speed transportation and other infrastructure in Italy.

Also addressing the meeting were Prof. Ferdinando Cattella, who heads the National Association of Transportation, and Dr. Giuseppe Filippini, president of the Vita Nova publishing house.

Zepp-LaRouche on 'Telepace'

On April 18, Helga Zepp-LaRouche was interviewed during the news program of the television channel Telepace in Rome. Telepace is a well-known Catholic television station which defines itself as "the voice of the Pope." Recently, Telepace interviewed Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the former Vatican Secretary of State, Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti, and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The interview, which lasted 30 minutes, centered on the economic program of the European Productive Triangle conceived by Lyndon LaRouche, as the only project coherent with the Church's social doctrine.

Mrs. LaRouche explained how every economic system encounters at a certain point the problem of "limited resources," which is not an absolute problem but a problem related to the technological level utilized by the system itself. By developing higher technologies, said Helga Zepp-LaRouche, such limits will automatically be overcome, and new, broader resources will become available. Thus from oil we pass to nuclear energy, and from fission we will go on to nuclear fusion, and so forth. The motor of this development is man, Mrs. LaRouche underlined, the most precious of all resources. The development of the population and its standard of living, in the economic theory of Lyndon LaRouche, must be faced from this standpoint.

Mrs. LaRouche then explained that whereas British "free market" economic theories consider usury as the basis of wealth, and the communist economic theories view human labor, on a par with that of beasts, as the source of wealth, according to LaRouche the only wealth is the exercise of that quality which distinguishes man from the beasts—his creativity.