

## EIR editor warns Mexico on NAFTA

"The only ones that will benefit from the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] are Wall Street bankers," said Dennis Small, longtime adviser on Ibero-American affairs to political prisoner and U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, according to the Mexican daily *Diario del Yaqui* on March 29. The LaRouche aide and *EIR* editor, and his wife Gretchen Small, just concluded a two-and-a-half week tour of Mexico. The main purpose of the tour "was to make known the situation of American political prisoner LaRouche," reported *Diario del Yaqui*. Small himself is a former political prisoner who spent 25 months in a U.S. federal prison after being convicted along with LaRouche and other members of his movement.

*Tribuna del Yaqui*, another daily that circulates primarily in the state of Sonora, noted on March 29 that "LaRouche is not an abstract figure; his struggle is intimately linked to Mexico and the other nations of Latin America." The day before, *Tribuna* published a full chronology of the U.S. government persecution of LaRouche, including the role played by Henry Kissinger. The paper reported that LaRouche got in trouble "precisely because of his valiant opposition to the designs of the International Monetary Fund [IMF], designs to benefit speculation, usury, and the payment of foreign debts of countries, even if that results in genocide."

On March 24, Small met in the city of Mexicali with legislators from the state of Baja California Norte, and briefed them on the LaRouche case. The next day he briefed legislators at a meeting in Sonora State Congress, in the state capital of Hermosillo.

In Guadalajara, Jalisco, Small held a joint press conference with Fernando Espinoza de los Monteros, president of the Mexican chapter of the International Association of Penal Law. "There are internal pressures on the part of the United States government against all those forces which oppose George Bush's new world order and, in this sense, which oppose NAFTA. We have known LaRouche for more than 10 years and we know that he is one of the most outstanding proponents of an international economic order based on justice and development," said Espinoza. The Mexican jurist said that since LaRouche became "a serious contender for the presidency, crimes have been invented to deprive him of his freedom through a totally fixed trial. Now the United States, which violates human rights in Panama, Iraq, and elsewhere, assaults one of its own citizens."

Also in Jalisco, Cong. J. Jesús González Cortázar, elected to Mexico's federal Congress on the ticket of the ruling PRI party, issued a statement denouncing the persecution against LaRouche. "It is incredible that in the United States, self-proclaimed champion of human rights, there exist political prisoners such as Lyndon LaRouche and the Puerto Rican nationalists," said González, who is also president of the National Confederation of Small Landowners.

Small briefed the Human Rights Commission of the House of Representatives of Mexico's Congress on the LaRouche case during a previous visit earlier this year.

### American consul challenged to debate

To counter the enthusiastic response accorded to the LaRouche representatives, the U.S. consul in Hermosillo suddenly convened a conference in Obregón, Sonora on March 26 to extol NAFTA. Small had long been scheduled to speak on NAFTA to businessmen there the same day.

But 40 Obregón business leaders and reporters came to hear Small. The LaRouche spokesman challenged the U.S. consul to a debate. "I wish to ask the U.S. consul how dare he come to lie to Sonorans that they should join the vibrant, developed, and modern economy of the United States, when he knows full well that the United States is now suffering an economic depression as bad as that of the 1930s," said Small. "George Bush and his neo-liberal economic policies have destroyed the American economy," he added, reported the March 29 *Diario del Yaqui*. Former Sonora state legislator Alberto Vizcarra, a leader of the Schiller Institute and of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement, said that unless the neo-liberal financiers are stopped, "the world could suffer an economic collapse of previously unknown magnitudes."

According to *Diario del Yaqui*, Gretchen Small "showed how the United States is dismantling the armies of Latin America with the aim of turning the soldiers in this part of the world into cops at the service of the Americans, as is currently happening in Panama and almost occurred in Venezuela." A study she co-authored last year with her husband Dennis, "The Bush Manual to Eliminate Ibero-America's Armed Forces," has sent shock waves throughout the continent. In it, the Smalls reported on U.S. administration plans to do away with Ibero-American militaries, because they are an obstacle to the IMF.

On April 2, the widely read Mexican magazine *Impacto* included a recent interview with Dennis Small. According to *Impacto*, Small charged that there exists an alliance between Bush, Venezuelan dictator Carlos Andrés Pérez, and other political and financial figures on the continent to enforce IMF dictates. The Bush White House is allowing certain leftist groups to take power at some levels, so long as they do not oppose IMF plans, charged Small, according to *Impacto*, which warned that Mexico was "unavoidably" in danger of being converted by the United States into the first link of a giant Ibero-American *maquiladora*.