

Palestinians live in refugee camps, is simple: "It is expected that the 6.3% annual growth in hotel rooms seen over the past ten years will increase dramatically, as will the current average occupancy rate of 65% and the current average daily tourist spending rate of US\$96." Jordanian planners consciously make the comparison with Israel's tourist "industry": "To further clarify the underdeveloped nature of Jordan's Dead Sea area, a comparison with Israeli Dead Sea tourism figures is instructive. Recent information provided by hoteliers indicates that Israel has some 2,000 rooms situated on the Dead Sea oriented toward the health/beauty market. Collectively, the hotels are averaging a 75% occupancy rate, with some visitors spending in excess of US\$3,000 per week on hotel accommodation, meals, and health/beauty services." The background piece concludes: "There are an additional 1,300 rooms now under construction on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, with another 3,000 rooms in the design/permit stage, involving major chains such as Hyatt and Holiday Inn. By contrast, Jordan at the present time has only approximately 100 rooms available on the Dead Sea."

The *Jordan Times* reported on Dec. 10, that Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Ilah Al Khatib predicted a meteoric rise in tourism revenues. One million foreign tourists in 1995 were expected to bring in \$723 million—a 24% increase over 1994. Based on this trend in the peace dividend, 5 million foreign tourists are expected by the year 2000, "making tourism the biggest hard currency earner in Jordan's economy," according to the *Jordan Times*. "Jordan," it con-

tinued, "wants to catch up with Israel, which had a record 2.17 million visitors in 1994 and \$2.75 billion revenue."

The fallacy of such "get-rich-quick" thinking was debunked by LaRouche in an interview which appeared during the Amman summit, in a special English-language version of *Al Aswaq*. LaRouche pointed out that the IMF and World Bank for the last 25 years had "almost consistently demanded that so-called 'developing nations' avoid any significant investment in infrastructural development, and place the emphasis upon the general use of cheap-labor investments, with special emphasis upon the promotion of cheap-labor-based tourism as a source for gathering hard-currency receipts." This "tourism-pivoted cheap-labor-investments policy," he said, had become dominant because of the credibility accorded it in the academic community and the insistence with which international institutions pushed it. "The facts," he said, "do not support the propaganda," as shown in the fact that nations "lured into such tourism-centered orientations, end up looting their people and their land, in real terms."

When one considers what the impact would be, of a comparable financial effort to achieve the construction of roads, telecommunications, water facilities, and energy, to build new towns and cities, or even to expand existing ones, to house those who are now living in temporary dwellings, one begins to understand why many people in the region do not find the economic fruits of peace to be so sweet. One grasps as well the urgency of addressing the issue of economic policy in a serious manner.

## LaRouche program debated in Amman, Barcelona

Although not present personally at the Amman summit on the Middle East and North Africa, or the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean conference, Lyndon LaRouche was the subject of animated debate among the thousands of political figures and businessmen present. During the three-day conference held in the Jordanian capital, the Arabic language daily *Al Aswaq* issued a special English-language edition for the conference, called "Amman '95." On the first day of the conference, it featured an article from *EIR* on the critical economic policy issues which would be at the center of debate: a dirigistic approach to regional infrastructure versus the "free-market" approach of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Economic Forum, the sponsoring organization.

On the third day of the meeting, portions of an interview with LaRouche appeared in the daily, entitled: "LaRouche: A Vision of Regional Development." In it, the physical economist developed the parameters for a

financial institution that would issue credits for real development in the region. LaRouche defined the comparative economic advantages of the area as three: "First, that the region is one of the chokepoints, between the Mediterranean and Indian-Pacific littorals, and, for that reason, also one of the world's highest economic potential 'land-bridge' regions. It is here that produce of the two oceanic basins, a large portion of the world's sea-borne exportable wealth, comes to port regions bringing together an array of primary and semi-finished products which are the required supply for a great industrial center. Second, that the population has the potential for supplying a skilled, high-technology labor force. Third, that the nations of the region are highly motivated to succeed, by the fact that the present levels of population could not survive in decency without acquiring such development."

At the Barcelona conference, *Al Aswaq* issued a special round-up from Amman, as its contribution to the discussion in Spain. The issue, 2,000 copies of which were distributed, carried an *EIR* summary report on the Amman summit, as well as the complete text of LaRouche's interview, which also appeared in *EIR*, Nov. 17, 1995.