

EIR's 'Eurasian Land-Bridge' report presented in Washington

by Nancy Spannaus

Representatives of 11 embassies from nations of Central and East Asia attended an in-depth seminar on *EIR*'s definitive *Special Report* on "The Eurasian Land-Bridge," in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 5. They, along with three dozen others, heard leading economist Lyndon LaRouche and Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche, present the case for the United States putting its support behind the global development project which China, Iran, and a dozen other nations are already implementing. While neither Capitol Hill, nor the administration, were officially represented, one can only hope that they rapidly get the message.

The presentation was made at the ninth in a series of policy forums by FDR-PAC, the political action committee which sponsored the seminar, along with *EIR* magazine. A two-hour videotape will be produced for sale by the PAC, and made available in two to three weeks. FDR-PAC, which the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party founded in August 1996, is currently circulating hundreds of videotapes on vital policy issues among political activists in Washington, and around the country, in an explicit drive to set the agenda of the second Clinton administration.

After a short introduction by this author, Lyndon LaRouche made opening remarks, after which his wife gave a nearly two-hour lecture, which included many maps and illustrations. A short question-and-answer period followed.

Three requirements

The Eurasian Land-Bridge is one of three elements of policy upon which the future of civilization depends, LaRouche stated at the outset. The Land-Bridge has been adopted as policy by a large number of nations, led by China, and it is gaining support among such nations as Iran, India, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia, the Foreign Ministry of Russia, and now even the French government. This mega-development project re-raises the questions which LaRouche himself put on the table back in 1983, with the Strategic Defense Initiative proposal, and with his proposals of 1988 and 1989-90. And this occurs within the context of an inevitable financial collapse, despite the facade of prosperity in certain areas.

The first requirement to save civilization, LaRouche said, is that a number of governments, emphatically including the United States, must establish a "New Bretton Woods" system,

which must include the best features of the pre-1966 fixed parity system. The second is to find a major series of large-scale infrastructure projects, because actual economic development requires such projects. The Eurasian Land-Bridge is the premier of these, he said, and derived from an idea first developed in the 19th century by Lincoln's economist Henry Carey, and then adopted by Germany, Russia, and Japan. The British responded with the reaction-formation that led to World War I.

The third requirement is a return to the Machine-Tool Principle, LaRouche said, which means sustaining a strategic machine-tool sector of the type identified with military industry.

LaRouche then introduced his wife, Helga, to present the history and concept of the Land-Bridge policy which she has been involved in developing, and promoting.

The development of the Land-Bridge plan

Mrs. LaRouche first discussed the Davos World Economic Forum, noting that the Chinese Land-Bridge perspective, as well as the perspective of imminent financial disaster, was a major topic of discussion there. She reviewed the pattern of European press warnings about the coming financial crash, underscoring the reality of the crisis which so many in the United States want to pretend is not happening.

She then reviewed the major global financial reorganization, and development, proposals which her husband Lyndon LaRouche had put forward from 1975 on, going from the International Development Bank proposal of 1975, to Operation Juarez of 1982, to the Pacific Basin program of 1983, to the Food for Peace and German reunification proposals of 1988, to the Productive Triangle of 1990, and, most recently, to the 1992 concept of the Eurasian infrastructure alliance.

The Chinese began to move against the *maquiladora*-style policy of Special Enterprise Zones, toward the Land-Bridge, around 1993. Their concept picked up from the work of Sun Yat-sen, and, as of 1994, *EIR* was already involved in conferences and discussions on the concept with the Chinese. Mrs. LaRouche cited the April 1996 conference in Beijing as a crucial turning point, where a commitment was adopted to ensure that countries were no longer deprived of economic development just because of their geographical position. Mrs. LaRouche herself participated in that conference, and much



EIR Founding editor Lyndon LaRouche (seated) and Helga Zepp LaRouche speaking at the press conference for the release of the EIR Special Report, "The Eurasian Land-Bridge: The 'New Silk Road'—Locomotive for Worldwide Economic Development," in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 5.

of the proceedings are included in *EIR's Special Report*.

Mrs. LaRouche reviewed many of the elements of the Chinese plan. Domestically, China plans to build 100 airports, 100 ports, 200 cities of 1 million people, and so forth. She continued by showing rail routes, describing the Three Gorges Dam project, and the port projects, including the massive Bohai region development plan, which encompasses 3,600 projects itself. One major result of the river projects will be to "let the Gobi Desert bloom," she said.

These Chinese coastal development projects will serve as a driver for development in the interior, she said. She showed many maps of rail development north and south, and the development corridors, which will include energy, optical fiber links, and transport. There are plans for rapid completion of an optical fiber cable from Frankfurt, Germany, to Shanghai.

She then moved to central Asia, under the heading of urging a change in U.S. policy toward Iran. Iran sees itself as a gate between North and South, and East and West. The Tennessee Valley Authority, which has consulted with the Chinese on their water projects, once had plans for water development in the Caspian Sea area, she noted. There has been, and should again be, a different U.S. perspective toward the area, since Iran is committed to development.

The Central Asia republics have no hope without joining the Silk Road plan, she argued, and she gave an overview of the devastation and potential in the area.

Development Corridors

Mrs. LaRouche went through some theoretical aspects of the Land-Bridge development plan. This included a direct attack on the prevalent environmentalist dicta on population and energy. Low population density is a negative for economic development, she said. It's necessary to have high population density, and high energy density. She further elaborated the way in which the development corridors work, as multipliers for development, rather than simply transmission belts from one place to another. She also pointed to some of the necessary technologies to do the job with maximum efficiency, especially the development of nuclear energy.

In conclusion, Mrs. LaRouche referenced the crises in Russia and Germany. Linking up with the Land-Bridge is the only hope for Russia, which is now being destroyed by the International Monetary Fund process, she said. She then issued an impassioned plea for saving Germany's machine-tool potential, as an indispensable contribution to this project.

The strategic consequences of not following the Land-Bridge policy were very briefly referenced, by way of the maps of Bosnia and Africa. Both of these regions could easily turn into conflagrations, she noted, unless the perspective of the Land-Bridge is adopted. Therefore, she urged, the United States must go back to the policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, policies of getting out of economic disaster through promoting large projects.