

# Houston meet: Revive Non-Aligned Movement

by Harley Schlanger

With dramatic developments in the world economy as a backdrop, representatives from key Asian and African nations participated in a seminar in Houston on Aug. 15 sponsored by *Executive Intelligence Review*, to formulate a strategy to establish a New Bretton Woods monetary system. The panel included speakers from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nigeria, while in attendance were consular officials from the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, and Venezuela.

The specific focus of the seminar was the critical role which must be played by those developing sector nations which formed the core of the Non-Aligned Movement, in reorganizing the present, bankrupt world monetary system into a New Bretton Woods system. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, has called for a revival of the Non-Aligned Movement, as a force which could tip the balance toward the grand design of her husband, economist Lyndon LaRouche, who is the author of the proposal for a New Bretton Woods system.

The keynote of the seminar was delivered by Harley Schlanger of *EIR*, who outlined both the initiatives of the LaRouches—the New Bretton Woods, and the revival of the Non-Aligned Movement to implement it—and the intense political warfare which has erupted over them. The future of humanity depends today on defeating the British Empire, and what Franklin Roosevelt referred to, with disdain, as “18th-century British methods.” Drawing upon the analysis in the groundbreaking strategic study by Lyndon LaRouche, “Where Franklin Roosevelt Was Interrupted” (*EIR*, July 17, 1998), he demonstrated why failure to defeat the British-American-Canadian financial oligarchy today will ensure the descent of mankind into a deadly Dark Age.

## Scrap the old order

The second presentation was submitted by Syed A. Ahsani, who served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Ghana and Sudan. Ahsani's speech was presented by Mohammad H. Morshed, former Ambassador from Bangladesh to Libya. Ahsani sharply criticized the present monetary system, arguing that the “policies of the developed world through the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank have failed to usher in the promised land of peace and plenty, widening the disparity between the rich and poor nations. Since the old economic order has failed, it is imperative that it be scrapped and replaced by a new order.”

He reviewed the effects of the debt burden on developing nations, and how cheap labor and raw materials prices imposed on them subsidize a small percentage of wealthy people in the developed countries, while building a speculative debt bubble. “Now, the world economic bubble has exploded in East Asia, Africa, Latin America, Russia, and is about to burst in . . . the U.S., resulting in worldwide depression. The seeds lay in the usurious free trade economic system postulated in the wake of World War II. The colonial powers granted political independence to Asian and African nations, but enslaved them economically.”

Concurring with LaRouche's analysis of the tragic consequences of FDR's death in April 1945, Ahsani said it was “Truman and Churchill [who] reversed Franklin D. Roosevelt's policy of U.S.-Soviet-China entente and self-determination and reconstruction of the Third World.” This led to a return to colonialism for the Third World, and to the division of the advanced sector into competing superpowers. To avoid entanglement in the Cold War, and to decolonize, the Non-Aligned Movement was launched in April 1955.

Despite advances made since then, the “paradigm shift from national economy to rentier-financier economy” under Adam Smith free-trade dogma has replaced an economy “based on production of tangible goods and services” with one designed “to make money out of money, pure speculation and gambling.” Attacking derivatives and speculation, Ahsani concluded, “It is necessary that a New Bretton Woods conference . . . be convened, based on national economy, whereby each country will determine its tariffs, quotas, exchange rate, and subsidies on essential goods and services needed by the poor. Currency speculation will be banned and there will be no devaluation.” He endorsed the LaRouche proposal for construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, in the tradition of the American System of Henry Carey and FDR's Tennessee Valley Authority.

Following him was Andi Jularto, president of the Indonesian Students Association of Houston. He said that LaRouche's proposal for a new world monetary system “has a strong argument,” given the collapse of the present system. He reviewed the battle of his nation against Dutch colonialism, and its role in establishing the Non-Aligned Movement.

With the end of the Cold War, he said, one might ask, “Is the Non-Aligned Movement still relevant today?” In the present crisis, North-South dialogue, and South-South dialogue, is urgent. “Mr. LaRouche says that the Bretton Woods system must be changed,” he said, “and the Non-Aligned Movement might become a tool to bridge the old system to the new. . . . I think it is an excellent idea.”

The final speaker, Abdullahi Audu Sule, a leader in the Nigerian community in the United States, stressed that African nations suffer from the same economic problems as those of Asia and Ibero-America. He added his voice to the call for a New Bretton Woods, and said that Nigeria must play a leading role in the fight to end the present IMF system.