

Colombians remoralized by LaRouche movement

by Gretchen Small

More than 2,000 Colombians turned out in Bogotá in mid-March to hear Marivilia Carrasco, head of the Mexican branch of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), speak on “The World Financial Collapse and Lyndon LaRouche’s ‘Road to Recovery.’” The trip broke the Colombian media establishment’s two-decade-long policy of blacking out LaRouche and his Colombian associates of the MSIA. Six major radio programs, several of them broadcast nationally, interviewed Carrasco during her visit, bringing LaRouche’s ideas to tens of thousands more.

The density of the activities set off an intellectual shock-wave. In just five days, Carrasco, joined by the head of the MSIA in Colombia, Max Londoño, gave 10 presentations on LaRouche’s work, each to hundreds of people. Individual organizers and significant institutional forces in the country were alike remoralized. At every one of the events, people expressed profound gratitude that someone could explain *why* Colombia now stands on the point of disintegrating as a nation, and could provide an alternative to the Hell which life there has become.

The dramatic demonstration that LaRouche’s ideas constitute a major force in Colombia, has changed the assessment of the potentialities of the battlefield by patriotic circles, as well as by London’s Dope, Inc. machine, which thought that the country was theirs to destroy. Most Colombians and most foreigners had already written the country off. But the incredible turnout to hear Carrasco and Londoño revealed, including to the Colombians themselves, that many have not given up, but are turning for leadership to the only group which has stood firm over the years.

LaRouche was right

The LaRouche movement in Colombia has been organizing for about 25 years, under increasingly adverse circumstances as the dope cartels turned the country into a war zone. In the recent period, deep pessimism and terror paralyzed Colombians, as their government—with full international backing—handed whole chunks of the country over to the narco-terrorist armies, and called it “peace.”

But two weeks before Carrasco arrived, a new shock hit: the collapse of the currency and banking system of Colombia’s southern neighbor, Ecuador. Colombians, watching the events in Ecuador as they were being reported blow by blow in the media, saw directly how a financial system can disinte-

grate in 24-48 hours—exactly as LaRouche has warned is about to happen to the entire world system.

Colombia is only one step behind Ecuador. As Carrasco arrived, the headlines in Colombia’s papers blared that industrial output in the country had fallen by 13.3% in January alone—the greatest one-month fall since the National Association of Industrialists began measuring output in 1985. Foreign banks are meanwhile threatening to pull out of Colombia, and at the same time, the news hit that 14 of Colombia’s 26 departments (similar to U.S. states) are bankrupt, unable to meet payments for pensions, payrolls, and debts, inaugurating a crisis similar to that of Brazil.

The deans of economic faculties and business schools at six of Bogotá’s top universities decided that the time had come to open their schools up for presentations by LaRouche’s representatives. In most of these schools, no professor had dared for years to attack the reigning monetarist free-trade ideology, yet suddenly, sometimes up to half the students studying economics at the university, were joined by faculty and university administrators, to hear a systematic presentation on why the system has failed, and how to replace it.

Halfway through her visit, when Carrasco arrived at the Military University, a school with both military and civilian students, she was received as an honored visitor, met by a welcoming committee which gave her a tour of the beautiful colonial part of the university, and brought her into an auditorium filled to standing-room only. Over 550 people had come, including students from the Catholic University who had missed her earlier presentation there, but had gotten word of what she presented.

Five hundred of the 2,000 people who heard Carrasco over the course of the week, were military officers from three military schools. At one institution, where more than 200 representatives of all three branches of the Armed Forces and the police were present, so much LaRouche movement literature was sold that organizers had to return the next day, to fill orders. The presentation set off a “revolution” in thinking at that school, one participant reported later.

Significantly, in each case discussion did not focus on Colombia, but on the global situation. At each event, Carrasco first laid out the systemic nature of the financial crisis, using LaRouche’s famous Triple Curve, the Typical Collapse Function, and explaining how the strategic threat coming from the oligarchical drive to use the crisis to destroy the nation-state, has provoked a counter-reaction, the “Survivors’ Club” of nations (led by China, Russia, and India and organized around LaRouche’s Eurasian Land-Bridge proposal), which the LaRouche movement is organizing the United States and Europe to join.

From that standpoint, what is happening in Colombia suddenly made sense to people. As one military engineer said afterwards, “Now I understand that the war which Colombia is suffering, is controlled by international forces.”