

not, incidentally, deter him as Prime Minister from basing his economic policy on fuel exports.

Prospects for the future: dangers and forecasts

For the longer term, certain dangers need to be anticipated. Reduced growth rates in the developed countries will lead to worsening conditions for raw materials exports. The possibility of attracting foreign investors will likely decline, and their terms will become tougher. It will become more difficult to place federal and regional securities on the world market. The collapse of the stock markets, under conditions of growing financial difficulties for the federal government, will foster a tendency to sell off still more state enterprises and natural resources at giveaway prices, and their acquisition by foreign capital. The world financial oligarchy's attempts to exploit Russia's resources, as a counterweight to inflationary pressures from the pyramid of fictitious capital, will intensify.

Measures for counteracting these unfavorable tendencies should entail a reduction of Russia's orientation toward the world market and foreign capital investment, and more attention to the search for internal resources, while the center of economic policy should be shifted from financial stabilization to economic growth and technological retooling.

We need protective measures, to prevent the purchase or acquisition, as compensation for debts, of Russian land by foreign capital. There should be no further commercialization, disintegration, or transfer to foreign capital of Russian infrastructure networks—the rail and pipeline systems, electricity supply, communications, and so on. Foreign borrowing by regional governments must be brought under strict federal control.

Radical measures are needed, to clean out the financial pyramid and rescue Russia from debt slavery. It is not the right time to permit foreign banks and savings operations to do business with the Russian population.

There were also, however, some favorable tendencies in the wake of the ruble devaluation of Aug. 17, 1998. In the fourth quarter of 1998, Russia experienced a tangible increase of industrial production, especially in the food industry, machine-building, and chemicals and petrochemicals. The fact that this reflects not merely inflationary effects, is confirmed by the increase of production of some important products, expressed in physical units. Among these were light automobiles and trucks, buses, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, television sets, vegetable oil, vodka and liqueurs, and groats. There was notable growth in the production of goods for domestic consumption.

These achievements, however, did not prevent President Yeltsin from firing the Primakov government.

The growth of production could become an impetus for an economic upswing, on condition that it be maintained by means of productive investment and the growth of effective demand. The skimpy budget is a serious obstacle. But, an

even greater threat comes from the IMF's continuing pressure on Russia, aimed at forcing it to continue a harsh monetarist policy.

Greetings

López Portillo: Listen to LaRouche

The following message of greetings to the Paris conference from former Mexican President José López Portillo, was transmitted by Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) president Marivilia Carrasco.

Lic. José López Portillo
Mexico, D.F., May 25, 1999

Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche

To the participants in the Seminar for a New Bretton Woods, gathered in Paris, France:

In December 1998 I had the opportunity to share the podium with Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche at an event held at the Mexican Society for Geography and Statistics, in Mexico City. On that occasion, after listening to Doña Helga's presentation, I commented on how important it is that someone in the world is thinking on behalf of everyone, and is opening doors, and that they enlighten us as to what is happening, as to what will happen, and as to what can be corrected. I also expressed my wish that, hopefully, her husband can influence the government of the United States, so that the proposals that she presented, can, in some way, be realized.

After reading the proceedings of the intense and fruitful dialogue, exchange of ideas, and presentation of points of agreement and disagreement, which occurred on April 21 at the Bonn-Bad Godesberg gathering sponsored by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, I am pleased that such an opening of doors is growing in intensity, frequency, and scope.

Today, when, at times, it seems that the worst threats to the peaceful coexistence among nations are becoming reality, it is yet more urgent that efforts be redoubled to open the way for good sense and sanity, and for the encouraging idea of the development of justice, in which peoples can express their peculiarities in culture and in all possible regards. From afar, I share with you the concerns of the moment and, as I stated a half-year ago: It is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche.

I wish you the greatest success in your deliberations.
José López Portillo