

# LaRouche, Bedoya, in Washington, urge defense of nation-state, war on drugs

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

On Feb. 23, one day after his victory in the Michigan Democratic Party primary, Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche was joined in Washington, D.C. by former Colombian Defense Minister Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.), who is also former head of his country's Armed Forces, in a seminar on the "War on Drugs and the Defense of the Sovereign Nation-State."

General Bedoya made clear that his intention was to issue a "wake-up call" to the American people, to "launch an SOS to save Colombia, and the rest of the world," from the ravages of narco-terrorism. He said that he had come to the United States this trip, to have a closer look at the Presidential campaign and candidates. Given the United States' world responsibilities, he said, it cannot afford to have "liars" in office. Thus far, he has found no candidates addressing the life-and-death issues facing Colombia and the United States itself. LaRouche, he said, is the only one who understands the Colombian situation, and is telling America to wake up, not to be indifferent to the looming tragedy.

## Defending the nation-state

LaRouche was introduced, first to a press conference, and then to a seminar of diplomats and other officials, by Debra Freeman, national spokeswoman for his campaign. Referring to the Michigan primary the previous day, Freeman emphasized the fact that the LaRouche campaign had succeeded in throwing a monkey wrench into the attempt by Wall Street, to rig the elections. "Gore and Bush," she said, "were to have been consolidated by now as the choices" for November, "but that is now an open question." She stressed the significance of the fact that, despite the Democratic Party order "not to vote, or to vote Republican for McCain," still thousands of Democrats voted for LaRouche, handing him his first primary victory. Freeman also underlined the importance of General Bedoya's endorsement of LaRouche's candidacy and his presence at the seminar with the candidate, in light of the fact that the Colombian military leader had himself run for the Presidency in his country in 1998.

LaRouche spoke first, situating Bedoya's report on the war on drugs, in the broader context of the defense of the nation-state. He called for resuming the cause of the independent Americas, as developed since the time of John Quincy Adams and James Monroe, whereby it was understood that

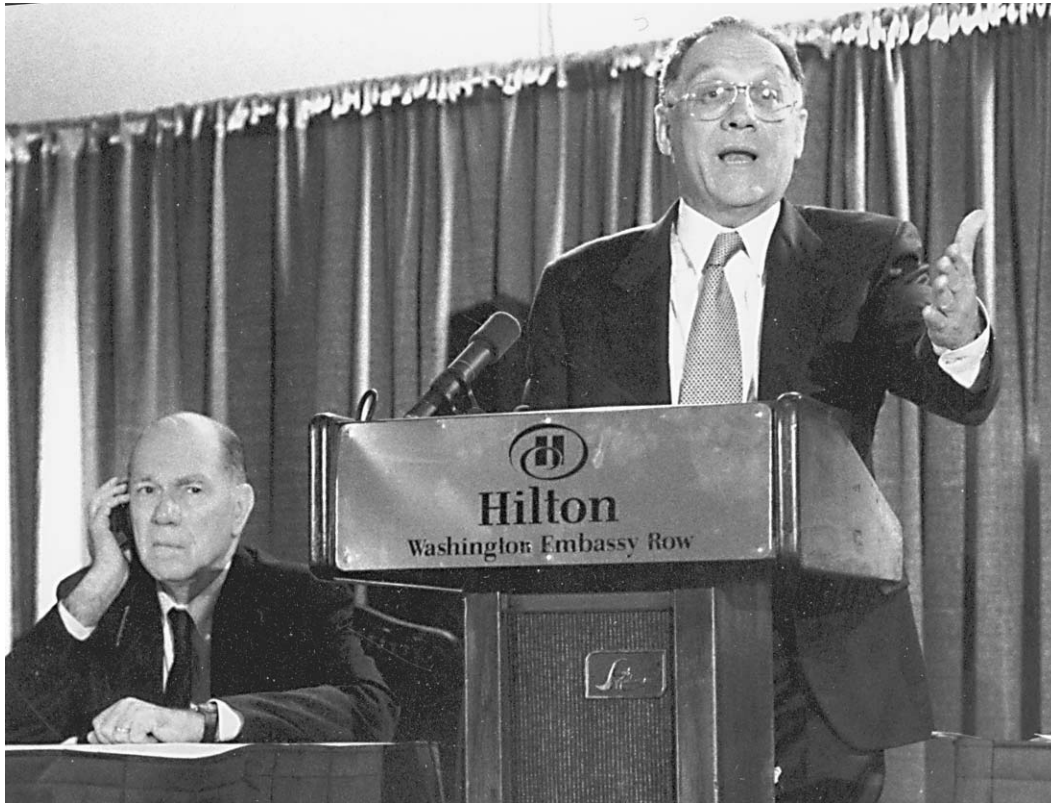
the defense of what were then the emerging republics of Ibero-America, was an integral part of the defense of the United States, which was the first true republic, dedicated to natural law and the General Welfare. Today, as Mexico is threatened, Ecuador is disintegrating, Colombia is being destroyed, and Argentina, Peru, and Brazil are under the gun, LaRouche said, we must take up the fight against drugs as a rallying point for the defense of the nation-state.

LaRouche situated this perspective in the context of the impending financial collapse. We must see the great failures of the past, he said, citing the 1932-33 events in Germany leading to Hitler's seizure of power, and see the successes, such as Franklin Roosevelt's policies of 1933-45, and revive the principles of that success. The United States is crucial, because only the U.S. Presidency, if competent, can bring together Russia, China, India, and other nations, to set up a new monetary system, using the methods of FDR. We must set forth these options for action, which make the difference between a golden age and a dark age.

The characteristic danger of the present moment, LaRouche said, is the attempt to eliminate the institution of the sovereign nation-state. This is evident in the way in which the Wall Street financiers are attempting to manipulate the Presidential elections. Since neither Bush nor Gore is capable or morally qualified to be President, LaRouche argued, why do their masters want them? What is their talent? They're both willing to kill. Both want to eliminate the nation-state, and to reduce the world population. The way to resist this, said LaRouche, is to defend the nation-state, not geographically, but axiomatically.

LaRouche cited two cases in which enemies of the nation-state moved to set up a world empire under a financial oligarchy, using sociological weapons such as drugs: the 18th-century British assault on China, through imposition of opium, and the narco-terrorist assaults on Colombia, and the United States, today. The leaderships of both the Republican and the Democratic parties, he said, are pushing drugs and legalization for the same reason Gore is pushing "free trade"—to destroy the nation-state.

Therefore, he said, the issue posed by Bedoya must not be viewed as a Colombian one, but as a line drawn in the sand, from which none dare retreat. Drugs are Satan, and it is not illegal to kill Satan. We have to find those who will



*Lyndon LaRouche (left) and Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.) at a joint press conference in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 23.*

fight with us, and establish a community of sovereign nation-states.

### **Bedoya on 'Plan Colombia'**

General Bedoya focussed his report on the so-called "Plan Colombia," which the Clinton and Pastrana governments are presenting as a blueprint, carrying a \$7 billion-plus price-tag, to eliminate drugs in Colombia. Citing statements made just days earlier by President Clinton, to the effect that he supports recovering southern Colombia from the narco-terrorists, General Bedoya said that such a goal is fine, but he could not find it identified in the Plan.

Just what the Plan is, where it comes from, what its true intent is, are shrouded in mystery. In Colombia, people think it was drafted by the U.S. State Department; in the United States, people say it was the work of the Colombian government, but Bedoya has concluded it must be the work of ghost-writers, who have no idea of anything; or, worse, of the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) itself.

The reasons Bedoya has come to this conclusion became clear in his discussion of the Plan: It calls for a 12-year war, in which 50% of the drug crops are to be destroyed and land recaptured in the first six years, and the rest in the second six. But this is a fraud, he said; first, because no population can be expected to endure war conditions over 12 years; second, because, with the amount of land under coca cultivation hav-

ing doubled over the past four years, even a reduction of 50% in six years would not prevent a major increase in coca production.

Most damning is the Plan's refusal even to identify the enemy in the proposed war. Moreover, in discussing land areas to be retaken and crops destroyed, the Plan excludes areas of the country which are completely controlled by the FARC. Thus, the Plan abets crimes and turns criminals into heroes, the General concluded.

### **Naming the names**

General Bedoya named names. Peter Romero, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, sent an official envoy to meet with the FARC drug lords in Costa Rica; Richard Grasso, president of the New York Stock Exchange, met the "economics" head of the FARC, Raúl Reyes; the International Monetary Fund, after these meetings, announced that it would count \$700 million in drug revenues as part of Colombia's GDP, and plans to give financing for the FARC-run area. In essence, Bedoya said, this money will go to the drug mafias; it would be equivalent to having given Marshall Plan funds to Hitler and Mussolini during World War II. Bedoya also ridiculed the testimony given by "a certain Mr. [Thomas] Pickering," the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, at Senate hearings just days earlier. Pickering had claimed that the United States was complying with the desire of the Colombians, in supporting President Andrés Pastrana's "peace pro-

cess,” which has withdrawn government forces from a “demilitarized zone” and delivered large parts of the country to the narco-terrorists. Pickering also said that financial institutions were preparing a \$750,000 to \$1 billion package, to add onto Plan Colombia, in recognition of the “good health” of the economy. He also said that the FARC was learning the ways of the modern world, on their European tour. Bedoya said, when he heard the testimony, that he thought Pickering “must be talking about Saturn or Neptune, certainly not about Colombia.”

Bedoya proposed a totally different approach to that of the Plan: not 12 years, but a campaign of two years maximum, to wipe out the narco-traffickers, the enemy. This the Colombian military can do, given the equipment and political support. My hope, the General said, is that this meeting will force the United States to come to its senses, and will show President Clinton that the Plan does not meet his expectations. Bedoya also said, that he was sure that Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.) had neither seen nor approved of the Plan.

All the countries of Ibero-America perceive the danger, Bedoya concluded, that if the plague is not stopped in Colombia it will spread continent-wide. He reiterated his SOS, and thanked LaRouche for his leadership, for speaking with the voice of realism, and of hope. Lamenting the pathetic absenteeism and capitulationism of Pastrana, who spends most of his time outside the country, Bedoya stressed that the world needs great leaders who will fight in spite of slander, threat, or lack of resources. LaRouche, he said, is such a leader.

### **The moral issue**

In the rich discussion period which followed both the press conference and seminar, LaRouche and General Bedoya hammered away at the fundamental moral issue involved in the war on drugs. In answer to one question, “Why not legalize drugs, gambling, and prostitution, and take the money out of the hands of the narcos?” LaRouche was unequivocal. Drugs, he said, are destroying people’s minds; furthermore, by substituting a narco-economy for a once-productive economy, the Colombian economy has been destroyed, and the state has been put into the hands of evil forces. Colombia, which has tremendous natural resources, was making modest economic progress, until the narco-economy reversed it. “If we are serious about defending the nation-state and relations among nation-states,” he said, “we must fight drugs.”

In addressing the same question, General Bedoya said that drug legalization, if it went through, would be worldwide, and would signal “the end of all times.” He pointed to the absurdity of spending \$150 billion for rehabilitation and prevention programs, when drugs could be eradicated, and minds, instead of being destroyed, could and should be developed.

Other questioners brought up the charges, made by so-called human rights organizations, that the Colombian mili-

tary were guilty of human rights violations, in their pursuit of narco-terrorists. General Bedoya responded with the question: Why is the enemy, narco-terrorism, not being attacked? Why, instead, are the military attacked for trying to purchase U.S. helicopters, to fight the enemy? Why is the enemy FARC being allowed to tour Europe? Most important, he asked why elements of the U.S. government were meeting with the narco-terrorists, when the FARC has been listed by the State Department as a terrorist organization. As for charges that the Colombian military had cooperated with paramilitary units in human rights violations, he responded, that not one officer had been charged with such crimes in Colombia. Then, he asked, “Why don’t the police or military have human rights,” according to these groups, “although terrorists do?”

### **Cultural warfare**

LaRouche developed the cultural aspect of the “modern opium war” being waged by the drug mafia against the nation-state and its populations, in response to a question about Mexico’s transformation from a transit land into a major consumer country. As early as the 1940s, he said, he had observed the influence of such people as Jacques Soustelle, and then Jean-Paul Sartre and Frantz Fanon, on the predominantly Catholic cultures of Ibero-America. These existentialists are essentially fascists, he said, who represent the idea of Martin Heidegger, an existentialist and Nazi, that man is not human, but is rather something thrown into a society, where there is no truth, only opinions, all equally valid.

Despite the impact of the cultural warfare waged by these ideologues, Mexico managed to hold together, he said, until 1982, when Mexico was targeted for destruction by New York financial warfare. At that time, LaRouche recalled, he had been invited by Mexican friends to draft a program in defense of Mexico. “Operation Juárez,” as the program was known, outlined measures for monetary and financial reform, to deal with the after-effects of the 1971 floating-exchange-rate crisis. When President José López Portillo, who moved to introduce LaRouche’s program, was crushed, Mexico was destroyed, under U.S. supervision with British advice.

Before that time, LaRouche said, Mexico had pursued development of water systems, railways, and other infrastructure, but after the enemy went in and smashed institutions from the top, in Mexico, then in Panama and Colombia, people began to lose confidence, and cultural pessimism, introduced by the existentialist poison, spread. This laid the basis for the spread of drugs and of irrationalist movements widespread today. “We,” he said, “who understand what is wrong, must take those actions, which permit us to reach those people, who have gone into destruction and despair.” Ultimately, it is a question of leadership, of intervening in a time of crisis, and being able to communicate a conception of man, which is human.

Such leadership is precisely what LaRouche and General Bedoya embodied in their appearance in the nation’s capital.