

‘The war on drugs and the fight for national sovereignty’

U.S. Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, and Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.), former Defense Minister and former head of the Armed Forces of Colombia, as well as a Presidential candidate in his country in 1997, were the featured speakers at a Washington, D.C. seminar on “The War on Drugs and the Defense of the Sovereign Nation-State.” The Feb. 23 event, sponsored by the Presidential campaign committee, LaRouche’s Committee for a New Bretton Woods, followed a well-attended press conference given by the two political leaders.

The seminar was simultaneously videocast on the Internet, in both English and Spanish, on the website of LaRouche’s Presidential campaign (www.larouchecampaign.org). After their opening presentations, which appear immediately below, LaRouche and Bedoya had a lively discussion with the seminar participants. Three of their questions and the speakers’ answers are included, following the transcripts of their speeches.

Mr. LaRouche and General Bedoya were introduced by Mr. LaRouche’s campaign spokesman Debra Hanania Freeman. Subheads have been added.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

I shall try to encapsulate a strategic view of the specific subject on which General Bedoya will concentrate—I don’t know exactly what he’s going to say, but I do know the general area of his concern, and I shall try to situate that in terms of what U.S. and world policy should be, on this and related questions.

We’re now, as we speak—though you might not know that from reading the U.S. press, or hearing U.S. political spokesmen—we’re now in the terminal phase of a process of collapse of the world’s present financial system. If this collapse is not dealt with appropriately, this will lead to a New Dark Age on this planet, perhaps of two or three generations, a collapse resembling that which hit Europe, perhaps in the 14th century, or during the periods of great religious wars, from about 1513 to 1648 in the continent of Europe, the so-called religious war period—which was also a little Dark Age.

The question therefore, given the idiocy which has prevailed, which has become customary, accepted opinion and so forth, which has led us to this point—when a people receive a great shock, as the United States did on Dec. 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the American people had been persuaded at that time that the war which was going on in Europe, was not going to come here. We would be involved indirectly, but we would sit back like fat cats, and watch the war go on. So then, on that particular Sunday morning, early afternoon, between Dec. 7, when the bombing occurred, and Dec. 8, the following Monday, when the President announced a declaration of war, the American people underwent a very sudden, very rapid, change in their outlook. You had people who were rushing to find where the place to volunteer, to mobilize, to join the Army was. All the recruiting booths were packed; offices which were closed on Sunday, were being besieged by people applying to get into the Army to fight.

So that, when great crises occur, after a period of great folly, great foolishness, a foolishness that’s shared by the majority of the people—as the foolishness of the American people today, especially those in the upper 20% of family-income brackets—there comes an opportunity for the fools to stop being fools; to come to their senses, like a man coming out of a nightmare; and to grope around, to try to find out ways to address real problems, realistically.

In those circumstances, we see the great failures, and the great successes. Franklin Roosevelt’s instance, both in 1932-33, and again in 1940-41, was a success. With the overthrow and the killing of Kurt von Schleicher in Germany, between January 1933 and the summer of 1934, Hitler was made inevitable, World War II was made inevitable, because people *intervened* to prevent an available leader in Germany, who would have succeeded in taking the measures which would have prevented Hitler’s consolidation of power, and World War II as well.

We were fortunate here that Franklin Roosevelt was not assassinated, as had been intended, according to Gen. Smedley Butler, who testified about the Wall Street plot of the Du Ponts, the Morgans, and the Mellons, and so forth, to assassinate the President of the United States, and conduct a military coup against the U.S. government here. That didn’t occur, and it had been planned for the United States, as it was



Lyndon LaRouche and Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.) (at podium), at a seminar in Washington on Feb. 23. The defense of the nation-state and the principle of the General Welfare, said LaRouche, is "the issue posed immediately by General Bedoya, not as a case, not as Colombia, but as a line in the sand from which no part of humanity must retreat."

planned also for Germany—by the same British and American people, including the Harriman family, whose Prescott Bush, the grandfather of the present idiot, or “It,” as they call him, George W. Bush, was responsible, together with certain British interests, which he was partner with, in putting Adolf Hitler into power, in January of 1933.

So, we have the situation that, if we have leaders, leading voices which can speak clearly, with effective answers, effective statement of the nature of the problem, people coming out of the fog of illusion, the fog of foolishness, can suddenly come to their senses, because they have a voice which answers their question, and answers it effectively. We’re now in such a time.

One of the great symptoms of this problem is, of course, the collapse of the institution of the sovereign nation-state. And I can tell you, unless the present trend toward globalization not only *ceases*, but is reversed, this planet will go into a Dark Age. The United States is crucial, because, only the President of the United States, if he’s a competent person, can bring together, *suddenly*, groups of nations, including China, India, Russia, a core group of nations of continental Europe, nations from the Americas, South and Central America, and Africa, and bring together the heads of state for emergency action, to set up a new monetary organization, which will enable the world to escape the worst effects of an inevitable general financial and monetary collapse.

Return to the precedents that worked

The methods we would follow would probably be the methods, very similar to those used by Franklin Roosevelt, from 1933 on. And we would use those methods because they worked once before; they worked during the 1930s; they

worked during the wartime mobilization. They worked with some dilution in the period up to 1958, and on into the middle of the 1960s: that, in the United States, and in Europe, Western Europe, in some cases in parts of the Americas, and a few other locations, Japan, in particular, there was a great economic recovery and general development of conditions of life, of nations and peoples, in some areas of the world, as the result of the system which Franklin Roosevelt set into motion.

Therefore, today, having entered a period of the last thirty years, under the reign of a system that does not work, we shall then have turned back to precedents, which are known by people, which can be easily understood as recent experience, and say: We must turn back to successful periods of recent experience, to find models for which to begin emergency agreements on the way to proceed from that point on.

We shall not be able to create final solutions for our economic woes. But we shall be able to create a platform, based on precedent, from which we can then work to work out, and develop, more fulsome solutions to these problems. We could be entering a Dark Age of humanity, or we could be, in the latter case, entering a Golden Age of humanity. It’s a choice that will have to be made.

Therefore, at this time, even before the crisis is fully recognized by most of the fools in the United States, it’s important to set forth, for people to see and hear, what the options of action are, by which we can address the grievous problems which threaten civilization as a whole, at this point.

The perfectly sovereign nation-state

The most characteristic danger in the world today is the attempt to eliminate the institution of the perfectly sovereign nation-state, as this concept of a perfectly sovereign nation-

state was introduced as a *new conception* in the 15th century in Europe, in the period of the Renaissance. Where for the first time, a principle which had been characteristic of Christianity at the inception — that all men are made equal, equally made in the image of the Creator of the universe — and therefore society must be based on that principle, and government has no legitimate authority except through its commitment, efficient commitment, to promote and defend the General Welfare of the living, and their posterity. Which is the principle on which this nation, presumably, was founded.

The United States, for reasons of the great civil war in Europe, the religious wars in Europe, and other developments, was not able to set up that kind of institution in full form [anywhere else]. You have no true republics in western Europe today. You had an attempt under Gen. Charles de Gaulle to move in that direction. But all attempts so far have been abortive ones. What we've had in Europe, is we've had reforms of the feudal system, in the form of a democratization of the parliamentary form of government; but the parliamentary form of government is an intrinsically corrupt form of government, because it is a vehicle, in the tradition of feudalism, under which oligarchies behind the scenes control the institutions of government, and are able to orchestrate, through corrupt press in particular, the overthrow, through scandals, of parliamentary governments, almost on will, as they tried to do with Clinton, here in the United States, during '98 and '99, during that period.

Thus, in this process, the United States, as constituted in the 18th century, became what was called a "Temple of Liberty and Beacon of Hope for all mankind." Because in our Constitutional structure, we were the first republic, fully constituted, as expressed in the first three paragraphs of our Declaration of Independence, and in the Preamble of our Constitution, to an essential commitment to natural law, and General Welfare, or, what was called in English, the Commonwealth, or as similar ideas were expressed under Louis XI in France, in the 15th century.

And therefore, around the world, people hoped that this young, small republic in the United States would lead to the formation of republics in their own countries. From the beginning, it was the belief of those in Europe who supported this, as well as in the United States, that the United States' future existence, depended upon its model being used to inspire the constitution of similar republics in the rest of the world. John Quincy Adams, in his term as Secretary of State, expressed this as a "community of principle" among perfectly sovereign nation-states, asserting then why the United States had no basis for a treaty alliance with the British monarchy, because the United States and the British monarchy had directly opposite principles — which were incompatible with one another. And that the United States saw, as its fundamental interest, strategic interest, the defense of the emerging sovereign republics to our south, in the Americas, as a foundation of the security of the United States.

And in later periods, all the best patriots of the United States, including President Monroe, President John Quincy Adams, President Abraham Lincoln, President Garfield, President McKinley, while he lived, President [Franklin] Roosevelt, and for a brief period, President Kennedy as well, saw the defense of the Americas, the defense of their perfect sovereignty, their rights to develop, as the standard of security for the United States itself. A standard which we must extend, hopefully, to include other nations of the world, to create a global community of principle among perfectly sovereign nation-state republics.

Don't play the fool: This system is dying

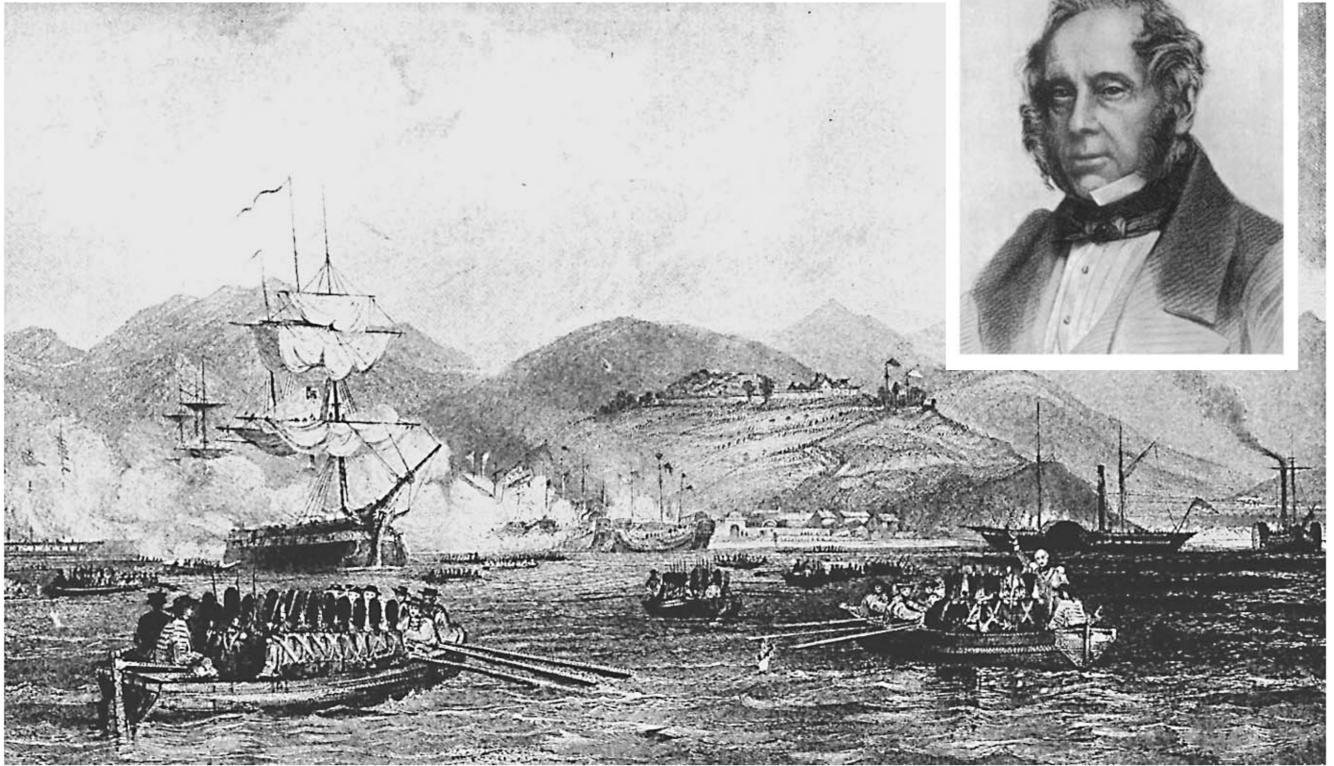
Now, under this system, it is possible for us to deal with a great calamity, such as that which is striking us now. No one can say what day the system will go under, but I can assure you, the crisis is systemic, this is not a cyclical crisis, the existing financial system is as doomed today, as the Weimar Reichsmark was under hyperinflationary conditions in the spring and summer of 1923.

We cannot tell how long the fools will be able to play the fool; to continue to pump value into a bankrupt system, as a way of keeping it afloat for another day. The hyperinflationary effects are already showing in terms of increase of petroleum prices, globally, which is hitting the U.S. population hard, in heating fuel prices, during the recent months. But it's coming. In a state like this, don't try to find the date at which the system collapsed; recognize the patient is dying. The condition is a *dying* patient. Don't worry about what day it's going to die; it is dying, and nothing can save its life. It's finished. There is no cure.

The question is, can we cure *us*? Can we survive the death of the system?

In order to do that, and to do that efficiently, we have to proceed as Franklin Roosevelt did in the conditions of world depression in the 1930s. We have to use the power of the sovereign nation-state, to put bankrupt institutions through bankruptcy, generalized bankruptcy; to establish new forms of credit, institutions of national credit; to maintain social security; to promote stability; to promote growth; and thus grow our way out of the ravages of a crisis.

If the nation-state is dissolved, as George Bush's backers — George Bush has no ideas, he is a member of the "Addams Family," of cartoon history, the "It" branch of the Addams family; he is simply a puppet of certain Wall Street interests. But he is selected for one purpose. Neither Gore nor Bush are mentally capable of being President, not morally qualified. But why do people — some of the most powerful people in the United States, the Wall Street people — want to put certifiable idiots, or maniacs, in the position of the next President of the United States? What is the talent of a George Bush, or an Al Gore, as President, for their masters in Wall Street, which owns them both, equally? They're both willing to kill.



British ships capture Chusan, China, during the Opium War. The same people who forced opium on China, are forcing the drug trade on Colombia today, to destroy the nation-states of the Americas. (Inset) Lord Palmerston, 1861.

The only time you put a thug, a professional hit-man, in government, to run the government, is when you want some killing done. And these people are out to kill.

They're also committed to globalize and loot the world, to eliminate the power of the sovereign nation-state; both are committed to that. Gore is committed, absolutely, to reduce the world's population, by the methods by which that could be accomplished. The only thing that can save us, is to save the sovereign nation-state, because only the power of the sovereign nation-state, established as a power greater than any financial cabal, than any financial oligarchy, can get us out of this mess.

Otherwise, the financial oligarchy will pick each other's bones, and ours, and loot the world, as George W. Bush and his daddy are doing—in Asia, as they did in the Americas, as they're doing in the Americas. And therefore, we must defend the nation-states.

Britain's Opium Wars, then and now

To do that, we must understand the nature of this nation-state, and its enemies. To put that into focus, let us look at two cases: China, in the 19th century, and Colombia, and adjoining countries today. And also the United States, as General Bedoya has said.

The same people, or the same current of thought, which

dreamed up the opium trade as a way of destroying China, is the same crowd which dreamed up the drug trade as a way of destroying the people of the United States, and destroying the Americas.

Let's go back. Where did this idea come from? This didn't begin in the 19th century. Here in Europe and the United States, it began during the 1920s, around a satanic movement called the Theosophists, the Theosophical Society, of Alistair Crowley, a close associate of Bertrand Russell. It was spread by people associated with that, that we should have a drug society. This was part of the program.

But it didn't begin in the 19th century either. It began in the 18th century. It began under a man who probably was the second most evil man of the 18th century. The most evil man of the 18th century was a Venetian gentleman, resident in Paris, by the name of Abbot Antonio Conti. He was the inventor of an organization which became known as the Enlightenment. He was the illegitimate father of Voltaire, among his other achievements. He created a Europe-wide network; he created the myth of Isaac Newton. He also was the creator of a figure of British society, rather notorious, called Lord Shelburne, who was educated in France under the influence of Antonio Conti and his network, a Voltairean. This man became a leading power in Britain. He was the man who created Adam Smith. Adam Smith was his lackey, his paid

lackey. The free-trade system of Adam Smith, was created by this man. He was the man who got Gibbon to write *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, as a study of how Britain might create a new world empire for itself. He was the man who became, by accident, in a sense, Prime Minister of Britain in 1782, and during this period, he put one of his lackeys, Jeremy Bentham, into the position as head, first head, of the newly established British Foreign Office.

It was Bentham who caused the troubles that happened in the Americas, from Britain. Simón Bolívar wrote about this role of Bentham in the history of Colombia, referring to his experience with Benthamites in the other parts of the Americas, warning that Bentham's influence was the most dangerous, corrupting in the Americas, and the greatest threat to the emerging new sovereign states of the Americas.

Bentham was the creator of Lord Palmerston, his chief successor. Lord Palmerston, who organized the Mazzinian revolutions in Europe. The Lord Palmerston who laid the basis for creating the Confederacy, that is, actually organizing it. The Lord Palmerston who was behind those forces in the United States who ran filibustering operations against the nations of the Caribbean, and other parts of the Americas.

So, these people have always been out to destroy the nation-state as an institution. Because the heirs of Shelburne conceived of establishing a world empire, ruled by a financier oligarchy, which would control all parts of the world, and loot them as they chose. And would use social weapons, sociological and psychological weapons, as a way of destroying nations, depriving them of the power to establish and maintain their sovereignty. That was what was done in the case of China, by Palmerston and his crowd, following the work of Bentham.

The targetting of China began in the 1790s, under Bentham. It was continued and enforced by Palmerston. This was the destruction of China.

So, you take the model of what was done to China, the destruction of the population of China, of the minds of the people of China, of the institutions of China, and you look at the same thing that's being done in Colombia, and other countries of Central and South America, and look at what's being done to the people of the United States themselves.

Drug pushers for 'democracy'

There are many symptoms. I won't go into it, but just indicate that this is the problem.

So, therefore, if we want a solution, we must understand not merely what places we must defend, but what principle we must defend. There's a distinction.

For example. As you would learn from a simple, elementary Euclidean geometry, that all the theorems which are considered legitimate in a schoolbook geometry, are derived from acceptance of certain definitions, axioms, and postulates. And in a formal mathematics, or a formal mathematical physics, that's the way all ideas are generated. So therefore, if you



South American revolutionary leader Gen. Simón Bolívar (1783-1830) denounced the corrupting influence of Britain's Jeremy Bentham as the greatest threat to the emerging new sovereign states of the Americas.

want to find out what's wrong with the *system*, don't try to find out what's wrong with a particular choice of policy. Find out what's wrong with the definitions, axioms, and postulates, which cause people to *keep making the wrong decisions*, because they're accepting certain false assumptions, false definitions, false axioms, and false postulates. And therefore, when they sit to calculate and negotiate, they agree on these things, and that leads them inevitably to the wrong idea.

The way the words "democracy" and "human rights" are used, for example, are new postulates put into a system—the very use of the term "democracy" and "human rights," as used by the National Endowment for Democracy, or Project Democracy, which runs both the Republican and Democratic party machines from the top today, since 1982, and which is running the legalization of drugs in the Americas! Project Democracy, National Endowment for Democracy! These are the drug pushers!

These drug pushers are ensconced in the leadership of both the Republican and Democratic party machines in the United States. So even though there may be people who give lip service against the drug traffic, they nonetheless, at the very top of the party machines, the little lackeys, the snakes, the bureaucratic snakes in the background, who control the rise and fall of particular politicians—they're pushing the drug traffic. And they're pushing it for exactly the same reason that Al Gore says he's pushing globalization: They are deter-

mined to destroy the institution of the sovereign nation-state throughout the planet. They are determined to destroy the *willingness*, and concern, of people, to defend their own sovereign nation-state!

They say things are better *without* the nation-state; that government is *bad*; you must have an international rule of law. By what? By drug pushers?

This business with the Colombia Plan; this business of taking what we know is a terrorist gang, two terrorist gangs; the FARC and the ELN are both narco-terrorist gangs, tied to other terrorist gangs, destabilizing Mexico, destabilizing Central America, destabilizing Venezuela, trying to get an attack on Chile, with support of Carter—former President Carter, who’s denouncing the system of Fujimori of Peru, which successfully defended itself against narco-terrorists—because Carter objects to their having defeated, at least temporarily, the narco-terrorists in Peru, who are part of the same thing that’s going on in Colombia.

You have the tendency to cut up the Amazon region of Brazil, as narco-terrorist empires! To conjoin the borders of Colombia, with a narco-terrorist empire in Brazil. Venezuela is being destroyed. Argentina is on the verge of becoming totally dollarized, that is, losing the last vestige of its sovereignty. And anybody who *objects* to this, is called “undemocratic.”

These people make the very word “democracy,” the very word “human rights,” an anathema, an evil, ugly thing.

Because they’re not concerned about the rights and well-being of people, or the universal rights of people as individual people. They want a Roman, proletarian population, filled with entertainment, their minds blasted by drugs and cults, marching happily and merrily into the Arena for entertainment, watching the lions tear apart the Christians. *That’s what they want.* It’s evil.

Saving mankind from a New Dark Age

Thus, if we do not understand, and do not examine, the axioms, definitions, and postulates, which underlie the history and the conception of the nation-state, we shall not *have* the sovereign nation-state. If we do not have the sovereign nation-state, I can assure you there’s nothing on this planet that can save civilization, from plunging into several generations at least, of a vast depopulation, and New Dark Age.

And thus, the most important thing to understand, and the place to organize ourselves, politically, inside the United States and in relation to the states outside, is to say, there is a fundamental principle of law here, which has two aspects: One is the principle of the General Welfare, as measured in the condition of life, and improvement of conditions of life, of all individual persons, and their posterity. Number one. The fundamental principle of natural law, for statecraft.

Secondly, this principle of natural law cannot be realized without an institution which is efficiently capable, and dedicated to that principle. That institution is the sovereign nation-

state republic. Therefore, if we do not understand, and agree, that the sovereign nation-state republic is the *instrument* to realize efficiently the purposes of the General Welfare, and if we do not defend that institution *axiomatically*, without question; if we do not respect sovereignty of nation-states, without question; then we shall have no means to pull this planet out of chaos.

And in the case of the Americas, look at the world’s population. We have approaching 400,000 million people, estimated, in South America, Central America. We have—the majority of the world’s population is located in Asia. These are parts of the developing area. The largest, single largest potential food-producing area of the world, is Africa, which is not producing enough food to feed itself right now, and is being destroyed.

Therefore, if you’re talking about the General Welfare of humanity—you have to concentrate in the United States *first*—what about the nations to our South? Is the General Welfare being promoted? Is sovereignty being defended, and promoted?

We then look to Asia: How do we find a *union* with states of Asia, based on the principle of the sovereign nation-state, and on the principle of the General Welfare, as the fundamental duty of the sovereign nation-state? How do we find the joint effort among Europeans, Asians, and people in the Americas, to take the *horror* story, which is Africa, and say: “They’re poor, they lack the means to develop themselves, and we just *join*, as nation-states, in the interest of the General Welfare of the population of this planet as a whole, to see to it that justice—the opportunity for justice, and justice—is brought to Africa.”

So, the issue here, that General Bedoya is most actively representing, is a crucial one for us all. If we do not find cases where people in nation-states are engaged in defending the nation-state and the principle of the General Welfare together, then you have nothing in that nation-state that is going to fight to defend the nation-state. If you have no nation-states in which such fighters exist, you have no chance of saving civilization. And therefore, you have to look at *this issue*, the issue posed immediately by General Bedoya, not as a case, not as Colombia, but as a *line in the sand* from which no part of humanity must retreat.

The drug-pushing operation is the enemy of humanity. It is not illegal to kill Satan. *Kill it*, and save the people. Kill it, and save the nations. And wherever we find someone in a nation, who is capable and willing to stand up and defend those principles, we must work with them. We must find them as representative of what we hope to build on this planet, a community of principle among sovereign nation-states, as the future, we hope, permanent guarantor of a condition of peace on this planet, from which standpoint humanity can go forward, to become finally, what we have not yet achieved: to become truly the human beings we were made to be.

Thank you.

Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.)

Good afternoon, friends around the world. I would once again like to express my thanks to Mr. LaRouche, for having me at this forum of the Americas and of the world, to speak realistically, but also to give words of hope and strength to the peoples of the world.

The crises that we are facing today throughout the world, but most especially here in the Americas, require leaders, *great* leaders, who understand the issues, and who are willing to assume responsibility, and *fight*, come what may, without becoming intimidated by lies and slanders, by tragedies, by lack of means or resources. Because, above and beyond man lies the strength of a God, Who shall lead us to the promised land of freedom, democracy, and all of that for which we have been born, and for which we shall die.

So, I'm *not* too concerned about living through moments of difficulty, because it is precisely at such moments of crisis that people are reborn, solutions emerge, and leaders such as Lyndon LaRouche appear, to tell the world to wake up, to tell Americans to *please* not be indifferent to this tragedy that we are facing throughout the Americas and the world.

We must repeat the story that Amelia Robinson told us, about how to awaken the mule that doesn't want to work. Everybody knew that this was an excellent, hard-working mule, but when it changed owners, it just went to sleep. This is why I'm here, telling you, telling the world, telling everybody: Let's take that two-by-four that Amelia told us about, and let's whack that mule and wake the world up. This is an "S.O.S.!" The world is dying; Colombia is dying. We must not be indifferent, because this tragedy will eventually reach us all, if we do not take a clear, good look at what's coming.

I was telling you, that I've come to the United States at the invitation of Lyndon LaRouche, to spend these few days with you, to take a closer look at this Presidential campaign, from this stage of freedom and democracy which is the United States. This is a leading country, a country whose responsibility is for the development and freedom and democracy of the entire world, because it has built itself up as the only powerful nation, on every level.

So that is why we cannot have any doubts here, we cannot allow any *liars* here. That is why betrayals cannot be permitted here. That is why this people needs to see, in all honesty, what is happening to the world. I told you, I've come here to hear the various Presidential candidates, and to know what they are saying about this world tragedy, about this tragedy that corrodes us: narco-terrorism, drug-trafficking, corruption, the lack of freedom and human dignity.

Last night, I heard candidates, but I didn't hear any of them address what we are talking about here, what it is that is corrupting us. There isn't much time left for these candidates to tell us how they expect to save the world, how they propose

to end the violence, corruption, crime, lies, and slavery that we are seeing throughout the world.

That leader must be born *here*. He, or she, should lead all of us, so that our countries may live again. But this is a debate that is just beginning, and Lyndon LaRouche is talking to us, and telling us that, hopefully, when we knock on that door of the soul and heart of the world, we will awaken it, and all of us will emerge victorious at the end of this millennium.

Well, I've come here, because we talk in Colombia about the United States wishing to deal with the drug problem through something that is called the "Colombia Plan." The Colombia Plan is a plan drafted, by I don't know whom. In Colombia, they say it was drafted here, in the U.S., because we Colombians never heard of it. In the United States, they say the Colombians wrote it. I think it was written by ghost-writers, with no idea whom the Plan was written for, nor why it was written, nor to what it will lead us.

President Clinton told the world that he wants to recover those territories in the south of Colombia, which are in the hands of the drug trade. Can we look at this map of Colombia? [Figure 1.] I want to show you what President Clinton says he wants to do. He wants to recover this territory in Colombia,

FIGURE 1
Colombia's two narco-DMZs



because the Colombian government has surrendered it to terrorists and drug-traffickers. They gave these people five counties, which would be the equivalent of two or three Central American countries. And from there, the entire Amazon basin is controlled, for the rest of South America.

So, Clinton said he wanted to take that territory back. Fine, I thought. It's great for the President of the most powerful country in the world to lend his support to this project, and that is what I tried to find in the Colombia Plan. This Plan is supposed to recover 500,000 square kilometers that were lost because of the political corruption that reigns in Colombia today, and which permits this tragedy, in which more than 1 million Colombians who live there, are now enslaved by mafia criminals who are daily killing them, kidnapping them, impoverishing them.

I wanted to find this objective of President Clinton's in the Plan, but I couldn't find it. I'm still looking for it, to see what this Plan really says. But I did find something highly sensitive. The Plan says that it is a 12-year plan. Listen to this: We're going to wage war on the drug trade for 12 years, according to the Plan. And it says, in six years, 50% of Colombia will be recovered, and 50% of the crops and drug production will be destroyed. Get this clear—six years!

Which means that if 50% is recovered in six years, then 100% will be recovered in 12 years. In other words, this is a 12-year plan. And so I ask: What country, anywhere in the world, can survive 12 years, fighting a scourge such as the drug trade? No country in the world could endure a 12-year war.

Perhaps this might be compared to the Vietnam War, which lasted 14 years, between 1961-75. In that sense, there are some parallels, but the United States *lost* that war. So, are we going to repeat history? Didn't we even learn the lesson, that wars cannot be waged that way? Wars have to be fast, they can't be dragged out. Like what happened in Yugoslavia, what happened in the Korean War, in the Second World War. But, a 12-year war? Destroying 50% of crops over six years? That is the Big Lie of the Colombia Plan. We could call this Plan the biggest con game in the world.

What is going on? In Colombia, drug production is multiplying at a rate of 100% every four years. That is, if at this moment Colombia has 120,000 hectares of drug crops, or of coca, at that rate of growth [and if you wipe out 50% every six years], at the end of 12 years you will end up with 270,000 hectares of coca. So, if we are proposing to eliminate 50% every six years, when we know that every four years the area is doubling in size, or increasing by 100%, then you have a mathematical absurdity. If you work it out mathematically, it means that the drug problem will *never* end.

And worse, the Plan is designed without real objectives. For instance, let's look at the map again. It says, for example, that there are three phases to this plan to destroy the drug trade. The first phase is destroying crops in the south of the country, in a region called Putumayo. According to the Plan,

we should spend a year to deal with the problem. But, further on in the Plan, it says that phase two is to destroy drugs in the southeast of Colombia; that is, along the border with Brazil. And on this we are going to spend three years. And later it says the rest of the country will be dealt with in six years. So, if you add one year, plus three years, plus six, you get 10 years. But the Plan is a 12-year plan. So, they're either two years short, or they couldn't even count right.

I think that this is the most topsy-turvy plan I've ever seen. A plan that doesn't even say who we're fighting. It turns out that the enemy which needs to be fought, is not being fought. They are not pursuing the enemy, not the laboratories, not the crops, not the illegal airstrips, not the people who are involved in this activity.

I think that the Plan was prepared in the "demilitarized zone," in the territory where the government gave the drug-traffickers vital space, the breathing space, the means of communication, the civilian population, an entire criminal system protected by the state and, worse, protected by this Plan. This Plan is not meant to include retaking the territories that the government is protecting. This is what is called complicity. This is a plan which abets crime; that is, it turns criminals into heroes.

The FARC narco-terrorists

I would like you to know that the leaders of this mafia in southern Colombia, are currently in Europe. Hopefully, the Europeans who are here [at the seminar] know where they are. But last I heard, they were in Sweden and Norway. I think they were seeking a meeting with the Pope. Today they are with [Prime Minister José María] Aznar of Spain, and I don't know where else. They are intimidating the world and presenting themselves as political guerrillas, when the U.S. State Department itself, the U.S. Congress itself, have for years identified the FARC as an international terrorist organization and a drug-trafficking organization. And last year, in December, they were listed—these organizations—as threats to the national security of the United States.

These contradictions are going to drive the world crazy. No one can figure out how it is that the United States can say they are bad guys for the United States, but good for us Colombians. So, what's bad for the United States—holding dialogue with drug-traffickers, holding dialogue with terrorists, negotiating sovereignty with terrorists—is good for us to do in Colombia. And worse, the United States government fosters these undignified acts, these attacks on sovereignty, the disintegration of the Colombian nation-state.

Just a little over a year ago, the current U.S. ambassador (to Colombia) went down there to the cocaine laboratories, with this FARC criminal organization. Mr. Peter Romero, Undersecretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, met with that organization in San José, Costa Rica through a delegated representative, met with an organization which he himself had characterized as drug-trafficking and terrorist. Mr. Richard



The infamous “Grasso Abrazo”: Richard Grasso, president of the New York Stock Exchange, embraces narco-terrorist Raúl Reyes, head of finances for the FARC, during a June 1999 visit to Colombia.

Grasso, the president of the New York Stock Exchange which manages the whole financial system, all the dollars and finances of the world monetary system, went down to those laboratories, met with the financial chieftain of the drug trade. You can see him there in the photo, hugging Raúl Reyes, a terrorist.

I ask myself, what was Mr. Richard Grasso going to do there at those laboratories, in speaking with the head of finances, who moves \$120, \$200, \$500 billion per year— which is the terrorists’ yield from 500 tons of coca a year? What message are they giving Colombians, except that getting drug dollars is good business? Mr. Grasso is giving the kiss of death to the economy of Colombia, and to the world. This same guy met again with the Colombian Finance Minister, who also exchanged hugs with the head of the FARC, Mr. “Sureshot.” This Finance Minister cannot hug him hard enough, cannot smile widely enough, cannot be undignified enough with these criminals. And from that embrace, the Finance Minister left for Cartagena to meet again with Mr. Grasso, to bring him messages from the head of Colombia’s international mafias.

I ask: Why this double standard on the part of the United States toward these organizations, where they are one thing here and another thing there? I don’t get it.

The IMF imposes drug legalization

And what’s worse, right after these meetings, the International Monetary Fund demanded that Colombia count its coca crops, equivalent to \$700 million, as part of its Gross National

Product. And these are officially counted as part of the GNP today. What does this mean? Quite simply, that we are being forced by the IMF, by Mr. Grasso, to legalize drugs through the dirty dollars of the drug trade. This is the message being given to the Colombian people, who are dying, who are fighting, who are being subjected to enslavement by these criminal organizations. And all pushed from here, from the capital of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the world.

That is why this meeting is so important. Because this forum of freedom for the world, must awaken the world. We are not going to survive this tragedy if the United States doesn’t wake up, if Americans don’t wake up, if they don’t realize what is going on, if they don’t understand that the god of the dollar is going to kill us all. We don’t know where these dollars are coming from. They are coming from corruption, drug-trafficking, crime, kidnappings. They are coming from all sides. But nobody cares as long as there are dollars in their pockets.

And worse still, within this Colombia Plan, the International Monetary Fund has agreed to lend Colombia approximately \$4 billion to, among other things, promote alternative crops throughout this entire drug-trafficking region. And one of the clauses in the loan agreement with the IMF is that these monies will be directly invested in the area which is under the control of the mafia, and within the area that President Clinton said would be recaptured for Colombia, and for the world.

So, I ask again: What kind of deal do these mafias have with the IMF? What kind of deal exists between the Fund and Mr. Grasso? What is the deal between the Colombian

government and organized crime? That is why it is so important that the freest nation in the world, the United States, come to grips with this reality, and straighten this Plan out.

I'm so glad that the U.S. Congress has begun to examine this Plan, and has begun to make a plan that can save Colombia—a war plan! Because there is no way to expect peace with drug-traffickers, peace with terrorists. They must first be defeated, and then there can be reconstruction. Was the Marshall Plan not undertaken *after* the Axis troops were defeated? First, we had to smash them, and then rebuild Europe. Korea had to be recovered, before it could be rebuilt. But here, they want to do the opposite. We want to tell Hitler to go on destroying the world; we would still have Hitler and Mussolini destroying the world today, with all the Marshall Plan money in the hands of their lackeys and criminal allies!

The world must think we're ignorant, deaf, and blind, without any common sense. They want to make 12-year plans for recovering Colombia, when we know that the production of drugs is doubling every four years. That is like telling the world, telling Colombians, you do not deserve to live. That state must be wiped out, destroyed for the sake of drug dollars.

An S.O.S. to the world

What I can tell you is that Colombia has to get help from the United States, and *soon*. What I am sending out here is an S.O.S. to the world. Colombia must be rescued, but not by the corrupt mafias and political criminals who are in power. It must not be forgotten that the drug-traffickers elect a President in Colombia every four years. The previous government was elected by a drug cartel, known as the Cali Cartel, and the current one was chosen by the drug cartel of Grasso and Sure-shot. [President Andrés] Pastrana met with them before the elections, and struck his secret deals. For example, he may have received a great deal of money, because these people can easily move half a billion dollars a year, or \$100 billion or \$200 billion. It's difficult to estimate, when a kilo of cocaine in Miami is worth \$25,000, and in New York it's worth \$100,000. When you multiply that by 500 tons, there is no computer, no Internet, that can calculate it. But the dollars are there. And this is what Mr. Grasso is down there for, let's have no doubts about that.

That is why we need the courageous and decent people to raise the cry of pain and sadness, because we cannot remain under the sway of these corrupt mafias. We in Colombia have to give battle. Yes, we have our patriots. Forty million Colombians are not all drug-traffickers. There is a mafia which took political power, economic power, the power of terror that these criminals wield. But they represent far less than 1%. The rest of us are slaves.

That is why the plan I propose is for two years, maximum. In two years, we can do it. You have great allies there. You have an ally in the Colombian people. The Armed Forces are allies. Let us create a real plan.

Let us believe the generals. I am very worried when I see and hear General McCaffrey, General Clark of NATO, the current Southern Command commander, who say what I am saying, but are not believed. You would think that all the generals are crazy, because nobody listens to them. The ones to listen to are the ghosts who write these upside-down plans to destroy the world. But we should believe the honest people, the good people, the people who want freedom, who want democracy, who want sovereignty, who want to live in peace, who don't want drugs, who don't want violence, who don't want terrorism. Why don't we listen to them?

And this is where I would hope the Europeans, the South Americans—I've been travelling, fortunately, in the past year, to countries such as Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay. And in all those countries, they see this threat coming, and they have no one to turn to. Very different, of course, from the United States.

When General McCaffrey visits Peru, or Brazil, or Argentina, he is treated as if the Messiah had come again, just because he understands this problem, but no one else does. When we see something like this, we have to ask if McCaffrey has even seen this Plan, since no general, no military leader in Colombia, no Colombian patriot would have anything to do with this. How sad. But this, they tell us, is worth \$1.5 billion.

So, I am back with you once again. We have to figure out who the enemy is, who we are going to fight. I would propose, and am going to propose, what it is we should be doing. Let's look at the map of Colombia again. Let's set things straight. Let us bring out the things which are hidden, let us see the objective. The objective is the "demilitarized zone," where the problem lies, where the violence is, where the drug-trafficking is, where the laboratories are. All of this, which they don't want to destroy, we have to destroy. And we can do it in two years, no more.

And let us not think that this is a Colombian problem. No, the international mafia is involved in this. We have here the Russian mafia, the U.S. mafia, the European mafia, the South American mafia. All the mafias are here; the Mexican mafia too. What happened is that the worst part fell to us. Colombia's jungles, its geographic location, permitted this to happen here. But above all, this is happening in Colombia because there is political corruption, which will not permit a rightly conceived plan.

But we can do it. *You* can do it. I hope, I wish, the U.S. Congress would do it, and get Colombia out of this mess, and the whole region and the United States along with it.

It is my hope that here, with this meeting we are holding, that the U.S. Congress will come to its senses, that President Clinton will open his eyes, when he realizes that this Plan cannot meet the objectives he has laid out. The U.S. military forces, who know about this, are going to wake up. And the American people are going to wake up, in order to help their brothers, who are those Americans who live south of the Rio Grande.

A tragedy throughout the continent

As you can see, the case of Colombia is a very serious one, and could lead us all to tragedy. Given the situation in Colombia, there are going to be thousands, even millions of Colombians, who are going to seek refuge in any country of the world, as is already happening in the United States. Here, millions of Colombians are arriving: in Miami, New York, Washington, many U.S. cities. And the Colombians come and stay here; they come as tourists, but stay as exiles. So, this is not a Cuban exodus, but a Colombian one. Why? Because the United States, with its passive attitude, allowed this Colombian tragedy.

And I call on the U.S. government to allow these Colombians to live decently in the United States, to work with dignity, without being persecuted by American authorities, because what is happening to us is primarily the responsibility of the United States, which has not headed off this Colombian tragedy. And if they have not allowed the Colombian problem to be resolved, at least, while we are resolving it, which I hope will be soon, these people should be allowed to remain here, as has occurred with the Central Americans, the Guatemalans, the Salvadorans, or the Nicaraguans, with the “PPS” status—which I understand is today being studied here at the State Department. Hopefully, this will be resolved quickly, because the Colombian problem is not going to be resolved until we do away with these criminal mafias which are destroying Colombia.

You needn't have the slightest doubt that tomorrow you are going to have here the Venezuelan exiles, the Peruvians, the Brazilians, the Ecuadoreans, and the Panamanians. All of these exiles are going to come here until we have put an end to this monster which is corrupting us all.

It is very important also that you understand that Ibero-America is going through some very difficult moments. There is Venezuela, under the government of Col. [Hugo] Chávez, of President Chávez, which is declared a “neutral territory.” Neutral for whom? For the terrorists, for the drug-traffickers, for the criminals. That is, for them, there is no difference between the terrorist acts of a criminal and those of honest people of good-will. The drug-traffickers of Colombia live there. And so, Venezuela has not weighed in, in the fight against drugs and terrorism.

In Brazil, the situation could be the same. There, the fight against the drug trade is also not being waged. We have virtually a semi-neutral country, with respect to crime and violence. When we speak of Ecuador, well, you all know what is going on in Ecuador. It is disappearing. Ecuador has become a Latin American exodus. There, the economic crisis has reached rock bottom. They are facing a problem of dollarization, which is going to drive that country into total crisis.

And we haven't even spoken of Panama. You know that the United States handed Panama over to nobody in particular. Panama was the Canal Zone which, some 100 years ago, Colombia sold to the United States for \$25 million, because the United States insisted that it was the only power capable

of guaranteeing the sovereignty, security, and neutrality of the Canal. But it appears that that arrangement of neutrality, security, and sovereignty ran out, because on Dec. 31 of last year, it was handed over to nobody in particular, to a country without military forces, which cannot protect the Canal, to a country which is pretty much adrift. We all know that Panama is a paradise for contraband-smugglers, for mafias, for drug-traffickers, for criminals. The FARC are involved there. The Panama Canal is going to remain in nobody's hands. That is, we have this lost flank, because the United States moved [its Southern Command out of Panama] to Florida, and practically abandoned the responsibility that it itself had demanded 100 years earlier.

So, what is going to happen to South America, I ask myself, when all those leaders who built the Americas no longer exist, and everything is surrendered without even realizing what is being lost? If we don't take quick action, there is surely going to be a civil war—I'm talking about a South American, or Latin American, or Central American war, not just Colombian.

So, what was once the U.S. guard in the Canal Zone, the vanguard point toward the south, is now going to end up being the vanguard of terrorism and the drug trade. That is, the values have changed, the schemes are inverted, the products are inverted. How to recover the Canal Zone, the most important zone of the Americas? Every day, you are going to start seeing tragedies like the one now going on in the Republic of Colombia.

Nor are we talking about Argentina, about Uruguay: These are countries that are suffering virtually the same problems. There is economic crisis; dirty money from the drug trade. In Uruguay, in Montevideo, as in all the Caribbean islands, there are the fiscal paradises. And all the drug money is doing away with the real economy, is going away with the true potential of all these countries.

The State Department and globalization

This crisis of violence, of terrorism, of drug-trafficking, that Colombia is going through, intensified with globalization. Simply put, globalization pitted impoverished, ignorant, and sick peasants in competition against agriculturally developed countries. I say to myself: That's a totally unequal fight. The agricultural economy of Colombia is finished. We aren't even producing the most elemental product, that the Indians produced, which is corn. Colombia is now importing corn from all over the world. We import rice: Colombia was once a rice-producing country, but we no longer produce it. Worse, the Indians produced potatoes; we are no longer producing potatoes, but importing them.

And what do the peasants do when globalization invades the Colombian economy? They go to the only thing left to them, which is growing narcotics crops. And that is why those peasants are dying of diseases and infections, because the only ones getting the drug money are the drug-trafficking bosses, and Mr. Grasso.



Colombian Finance Minister Juan Camilo Restrepo (right) embraces FARC chieftain Manuel "Tirofijo" ("Sureshot") Marulanda Velez, on Jan. 20, 2000.

Things are fine for them, and that's why they go down to the Caguán jungles, with the latest-style shirts and pants and shoes. But come and see how our peasants are living, and dying. Globalization has destroyed the Colombian economy.

Yesterday in the U.S. Congress, some questions were asked of Mr. Pickering, who is the Undersecretary of State who was appearing before one of the Congressional subcommittees. He was talking about how they were going to give more than a billion dollars in military aid to Colombia, and when he started talking about Colombia, I said to myself, "No, that is not Colombia. That is Mars or Jupiter or Neptune, or some other planet in the universe, but not Colombia."

Look at what this gentleman said, who is supposed to know Colombia perfectly. He said that the economy was doing very well in Colombia. Well, of course it is, because there is a lot of coca money. Because of this, it should be doing very well. He said that countries were going to lend money to Colombia because its economy was so good—this, of a country whose only real product today is petroleum, and that's the only thing left to us, because coffee production is also falling. Practically nothing is left of trade, except the trade of imports, because there is hardly any exporting.

And so, this Mr. Pickering, look what he said: That Pastrana had promised peace to Colombians. Lie! No one can ask Colombians to accept a peace in which we have surrendered our sovereignty, where we have surrendered our territories, where crime, drug-trafficking, terrorism, kidnapping, is protected. This was never promised. He said he was going to

make peace. But it is not happening. And all the polls say—and you can read them—all the polls coming out in Colombia say that the people do not agree with Pastrana. Eighty percent or more, 84-86% of Colombians do not support the current government in this policy, nor in any other policy because it has been a truly bad—I would say criminal—government, against the Colombian people.

Mr. Pickering also said that Norway supported the FARC. I cannot imagine that the countries of Europe could support organizations that have destroyed the life, honor, goods, health, and economy of a people. I don't believe the Europeans live in such ignorance of the Colombian reality that they would dare to say that those characters are politicians or heroes who seek freedom for the people, when the very United States itself has said every year that this is an international terrorist organization, and an international drug-trafficking organization.

So, hopefully, the Europeans will realize, after this forum, that they are going to be accomplices of these criminal organizations. Hopefully, they will realize that they are making an apology for crime, turning the executioners of a society and of its people, into heroes.

Mr. Pickering also said that Venezuela is helping Colombia to control its borders. And I ask: How can Venezuela help Colombia, when it has declared its territory to be neutral, and when terrorists and drug-traffickers can live there? That is another solemn lie.

Either Mr. Pickering does not know, or has been badly

informed, or he is lying. Mr. Pickering says that alternative development is needed, because that's what Bolivia and Peru did. Mr. Pickering, this is impossible: In Peru, the problem of the terrorist organizations was resolved because they were confronted and defeated. That is why today, drug production has fallen to extremely low levels. And the same in Bolivia. In the Colombian case, there is no comparison. But Mr. Pickering says that we have to do the same thing here. Mistake, or lies?

He talks about competing with coca prices, that alternative crops need to be sown to compete with coca. How can coca be competed with, this coca that they are planning to get rid of within the next 12 years? Imagine we are living in 2012. I don't think there will be any youth left by then. By then, no one will be alive. We will all be dead. Colombia will have disappeared. Already, Colombia doesn't exist; it is like a balkanized Yugoslavia. When we are ready to dust off this Plan, America will have ceased to exist.

So, that is what the Undersecretary of State said yesterday. If they are going to tell such lies before these committees in the Congress of the United States, without blushing, then I ask: How many more lies are the Congress or the President of the United States being told by their close advisers?

I don't think that this Plan was made either by the State Department or by the Colombians. I am certain that this Plan was written by the FARC. The only way such a backwards plan could be written is by them, because what is written in that Plan wouldn't occur to anyone else.

We are living in a globalized world, in a world with a world power that is the United States, in a world which puts a value on living in freedom, with democracy and with human rights. And so, I ask: Isn't it the case that these values no longer exist? Isn't it the case that there is no democracy in Colombia? What kind of democracy could there be, when the mafias elect the President every four years? That is democracy? That cannot be democracy. What there is in Colombia, is democracy in form only. Real democracy, that of freedom, of a dignified people, that of electing a President without buying votes, that democracy does not exist in Colombia.

Yet that is the democracy the United States defends. And that is why we see President Pastrana of Colombia here, talking with President Clinton. But Clinton doesn't know that that gentleman traded the country to the narco-terrorist mafias of the FARC before he became President. I don't know if this news ever reached Clinton, but everyone in Colombia knows it. All Colombians know it, and know that their ruler does not live in Colombia. The ruler lives somewhere outside the country, issuing statements from outside Colombia. I can guarantee—and I'll bet any one of you—that if we find where the President of Colombia is today, I will guarantee that he will not be in Colombia. He could be in Africa, or in Europe, or here at the State Department or White House. But he is not in Colombia. He is always outside the country, and never solves the great problems facing the Colombian nation.

When this Colombia Plan is correct, it will save Colombia, and I hope that it will be corrected with a two-year plan. A plan for investment, sure, but first things first. First, is to do away with the drug trade, to do away with narco-terrorism, which is the same thing. Here they like to say that the drug-traffickers are one thing, and the terrorists are another. In Colombia, they are the same thing, a single cartel, the same person. But not here. Unfortunately, here in the State Department, it is said that "there is money to fight the narcos, but the money can't be used against the terrorists." This is impossible, the truth cannot be covered up.

I'm telling you that the Plan as it now stands is very much like the Vietnam War. Vietnam lasted 14 years, and was lost. And this is being planned for 12 years: you'd almost think that it was drafted by the Vietnamese in order to lose the war. These wars cannot be waged for 12 years. No war can be waged for 12 years. They must be waged in much less time, six months, a year, two years maximum, but no more.

And don't believe that there is a real democracy, or real freedoms, in Colombia.

We could continue to talk a great deal about this, and you will have the opportunity later to ask me questions about specific issues. But I want you to be sure that in this forum, in this meeting, we are talking about a real problem that is afflicting the Americas, and the world. And that leadership must be born from the truth. Leadership has to be born of knowledge, it has to be born of the strength of the people, and that leadership also has to be born here, in the United States.

Thank you very much.

An exchange with Bedoya and LaRouche

Here are three of the questions and answers from the seminar with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and Gen. Harold Bedoya (ret.). General Bedoya's remarks have been translated from the Spanish.

Q: General Bedoya, I'm a new student of this concept of nation-state, I guess I could say, and some of Mr. LaRouche's ideas. . . .

One of the areas in which I'd like you to open a front of optimism in this war on drugs, is the idea of building a second Panama Canal, through Colombia, a way to organize optimism against these narco-terrorists; and possibly using the skills from China, the United States, and Brazil, as a way of financing, and engineering, and building, a second canal through Colombia.

Bedoya: Thanks very much. There is the potential to build two inter-oceanic canals in Colombia. One is the Atrato-

Truandó, very near to the Panama Canal. The other is the Atrato-San Juan. And there is another, which would be a “land canal.” So, in fact, there would be three canals. And that possibility exists.

But under the current circumstances of extreme violence, terrorism, drug-trafficking, and corruption, not a single country in the world is going to want to support Colombia on this idea. First, we must resolve the question of security; the fight against corruption and drug-trafficking needs to be waged, and won.

That is precisely what I am proposing. This Plan we’re talking about, the Colombia Plan, is a plan that I believe could be effective if arranged, if organized, from the standpoint of winning the battle. And the United States would triumph in the fight against the enemies of its national security, which are the drug trade, terrorism, and the exile of thousands of people who are coming here to the United States.

The United States must understand that this is not merely a problem for Colombia, which is an underdeveloped country which lacks the resources to fight a war against the world’s mafias, who move \$200, \$300, \$500 billion a year. Colombia is a country whose Gross Domestic Product does not reach \$100 billion. So, it needs assistance, it needs help, it needs the cooperation of the great democracy that is the United States.

Aside from this, we are going to build. We are going to build great things. That is why I am offering Colombians my name. Last year, I campaigned politically [for President], because I knew that these wars cannot be waged, nor can they be won, by the corrupt drug-trafficking leaders who rule Colombia today. That is why I threw my hat in the ring. And I still continue to offer myself, because I have not found another person capable of replacing me in saving Colombia.

The project that you propose sounds very interesting to me, and I think it could be an alternative solution to the great economic problems of the country and of the world. There are great development projects to be undertaken. For example, all of the Amazon zone that President Clinton says he wants to see recovered—which is a zone of jungles, a zone of indigenous communities, a jungle of biodiversity, a jungle of natural resources, of life—these jungles must be integrated with the rest of the country.

For example, we don’t have a railroad that can link the extreme east of Colombia to Ecuador. With such a railroad, we could cross the most beautiful jungle region in the world. Remember that Colombia has 500,000 square kilometers of jungle—half the country is jungle. These jungles are available to the world so that the world can enjoy them.

We could build large infrastructure projects: highways, bridges, railways, airports, sea and river ports. Colombia is one of the richest countries, in terms of water. We have rivers throughout the two mountain ranges. Well, not only two: We actually have five mountain ranges in Colombia, and all of them are the headwaters, the sources, of water.

But, unfortunately, Colombians have been unable to en-

joy that wealth, because these criminal organizations have appeared, which have the power of violence, of force, of crime. And we have been unable to take them on, because we have not made the political decision nor shown the political will to win these wars, as has happened in other countries. We have the example of Peru, which was in a situation as serious as, or perhaps less serious than, what we are facing today in the Republic of Colombia.

Q: Mr. Bedoya, I want to know: Does the military of Colombia support Pastrana?

Bedoya: In Colombia, the supreme chief of the military forces is the President of the Republic, in this case President Andrés Pastrana. And they have accepted the mistaken policy of President Pastrana, that we are seeing today.

The Constitution states clearly: The military forces have a responsibility, which is to guarantee the sovereignty, the independence, the territorial integrity, and the constitutional order. These are the military forces’ primary responsibilities. And because this surrender of territory [to the FARC] is unconstitutional, because it violates that norm which guarantees territorial integrity, this government—and especially the previous one—invented a law to violate the Constitution, which says that territory can be given away to facilitate dialogue.

That is, there is a very serious situation in Colombia. There is political corruption inside the government, inside the Presidency; it is also inside the Congress of the Republic, which legislates in favor of these criminal organizations; and it is inside Colombia’s justice system. These three great branches of power are infiltrated by corruption and by the drug trade. And they accommodate; they accommodate their laws to enable these absurd things to happen in Colombia today, which are not happening anywhere else in the world, where they hand over territory, half the country, to the mafias.

Thus, there is virtual justice; there are virtual laws, there is a virtual Congress, which is not what the country really needs. The military forces are supporting this, because they believe that this is constitutional and legal.

When I was the general commander of the military forces, this same thing was going to happen. But when the previous government—which, because it was smeared with corruption and the drug trade, had always wanted to hand territory over to the mafias—was in power, I told it: “This cannot be done, because it is unconstitutional. And to do this is to commit the crime of treason against the Fatherland, which is in the penal code. I am not a traitor to my people. So, Mr. President, while I regret this, as general commander, I cannot do this.”

The government agreed with me, and during that period, they didn’t do that. But this law I mentioned was invented to violate the Constitution; it is openly unconstitutional. At this point, I am going before the Colombian Constitutional Court, to get it overturned and, logically, to put an end to this territorial giveaway.

But in any case, what is happening in Colombia is sup-

ported by the military forces. They may not be in agreement, but they are accepting a reality that is bringing about the tragedy you all already know, and which I have described to you today.

Q: I'm from the state of Sonora, in Mexico. Mr. LaRouche, I want to ask you about the drug issue. I am in complete agreement with what General Bedoya has said. We need a frontal war, to defeat the mafias. What I have seen in Sonora, is that the youth are being totally taken over by drugs. The consumption of drugs by youth is incredible. And what they say, if you ask them why they are doing this, is, "Money, money, money." And I'm really stunned, because Mexico is supposed to be only a transit point for the drugs, but they are staying in our country. The mafia is taking control of the country, and we need to do something.

Could you comment on this?

LaRouche: Well, the problem is—I've lived with this problem for a long time. I first saw this problem developing, in the Americas, in the Hispanic Americas, in the 1940s—late-1940s postwar period. What I saw, was the influence of people such as Jacques Soustelle, and so forth, in Mexico, and other existentialist currents, which were specifically adapting themselves to nations which had a Catholic religious cultural matrix, in the leading sections of the population. And, you will find that the spread of existentialism, of the type of Soustelle, or by his patron—for example: The development of the *Sendero Luminoso* [Shining Path] leadership, at the university in Peru, was a result of the influence from France, of specifically the kind of existentialist philosophy associated with Soustelle and his friends.

So, this existentialist potential was the undermining, the cultural undermining, the attack on Classical culture, among the educated strata, of the countries of the Spanish-speaking Americas. The most dangerous tendency.

What you see today, in this case, like the thing you described in Sonora: What you're seeing, is you're seeing Nazism in a special form. You're seeing the Conservative Revolution, as typified by the Frankfurt School, or by Jean-Paul Sartre, or by Soustelle, from a slightly different standpoint—who's also a fascist. Sartre was actually a fascist. Frantz Fanon is a fascist product of Sartre; he's a creation of Jean-Paul Sartre. Jean-Paul Sartre is a creation of Martin Heidegger, the Nazi philosopher of Nietzsche. Heidegger's idea, which is one of the most popular versions of this kind of existentialism, today, asserts that man is not human; that man is an individual, thrown into society, which is intrinsically his enemy. They also base themselves partly on Kant, as do Jaspers and others, in saying, there's no such thing as truthfulness or truth: that every individual opinion is just as good as another; there is no *functional definition* of truthfulness, in the sense of the Socratic principle, for example, of Plato's *Republic*, or other writings of Plato.

There's no sense of *truthfulness*, in the sense of a classical

Christian Apostolic doctrine. Doesn't exist.

So, what happens now? The society continues, say in Mexico: The society held together until about October of 1982, which was a turning point in Mexico. And, I was *there*, in a sense; I was involved in the middle of this at that time. In the same year, you remember, there were two countries that were destroyed, or began to be destroyed in 1982. One, was by Margaret Thatcher and her people, together with the assistance of Caspar Weinberger, in the case of the Malvinas War. This was a bait-and-switch effort, on the part of the British government, with the collaboration of a man who received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II—Caspar Weinberger—for assisting this. And, the purpose was, to destroy Argentina.

We became involved in the fight against this destruction of Argentina—I became personally involved, deeply, in it—at the same time that *I knew* that people in New York were out to destroy Mexico, with financial warfare. And, that's when I had this personal meeting with our friend López Portillo, who was then President, and, among other people in the hemisphere, talked to me in that period, and said: "What are we going to do? Why don't you write a book? You've expressed ideas about what the problem is, and so forth, why don't you write a book, a report, which will be a guide, to pull together for all of us in these nations, how we should approach this problem, collectively?" And, I discussed that also with the President of Mexico, in our meeting in the spring that year, and he said: "What are they going to do?" I said: "They are going to come in, and destroy your country, beginning no later than September, with a crisis. It's all obvious."

So, I wrote this book (which I wrote speedily), which is called *Operation Juárez*, commemorating the alliance of Abraham Lincoln and his friends—such as, before him, one of his earlier mentors, the Secretary of State, and President, John Quincy Adams, who was one of the people behind Lincoln's development—as an approach, to reorganize the crisis, to deal with the aftermath of the 1971-72 floating-exchange-rate crisis, and deal with this.

We hoped to get some people in the United States, in the Reagan administration and elsewhere, to *recognize* the strategic importance of doing this.

When that failed, when Mexico was crushed, when López Portillo was *crushed* by massive force, and when the leadership in Argentina and the President of Brazil *betrayed him*, on an agreement which he had negotiated on these issues, he was hung out to dry; Mexico was hung out to dry. Since that time, Mexico has been destroyed, systemically destroyed, under the direct supervision of the United States, with British advice.

Now, in this process, you think about what was going on in Mexico prior to that time: what López Portillo represented as President, what the heritage of Mexico was. We had *ideas*. Mexico was *full* of ideas! Water systems, north-south water systems on the Atlantic coast and the Caribbean coast; development of new cities; renovate the railway system; open up

this water development project, up in the north, near Sonora; build up agriculture, build up industry; utilize the petroleum resources to build up a nuclear industry for Mexico — nuclear energy — to build up cities on the coast, where you could not build up cities, because of environmental conditions, without *energy to do so*.

All these ideas were afloat. The Mexican people, the PRI, the party, the institutions, were *filled* with these ideas of development and progress, left over from an earlier heritage.

So, what happened is, the enemy came in and *smashed the institutions from the top!*

The Mexican population was thrown increasingly into despair. The drug mafia, particularly with George Bush coming in, with his Iran-Contra drug operation; which is how the Medellín Cartel got supported by George Bush, 1985-86, where he got some cocaine, which he converted to crack, on the West Coast of the United States, as a way of dumping it. That, in this period, everything began to fall apart.

What happened against Panama. What happened against *all* these countries. What happened in Colombia. That you began to get the operation, where the Mexican people, began to lose their confidence in the future.

Under these circumstances, the existentialist poison — typified by Soustelle, and Jean-Paul Sartre, and so forth; Octavio Paz, others of the same type — this *pollution*, began to suppurate in a population, which had become *pessimistic*, as the German population had tended to become pessimistic after the Carlsbad Decrees of 1819.

So, what we're seeing today, is a population which had been *driven into pessimism*, and driven into a *pus of infection*, a cultural infection, of existentialism, which had been spread through the Americas in that period. And, you find that this is the *root*, of all these little, crazy movements of today.

The only cure for the thing, is to, first of all, *recognize the source, and factors, of the disease, the cultural disease*. And to define the cure, from the standpoint of understanding the disease. The cure is to bring optimism, to reverse the effects of cultural pessimism; and you feel this, when you act like an evangelist, and try to deal with some of these people who are corrupted by this sort of thing. They ask you: "What do you have to *offer*, in exchange for what we're doing now?" And, if you don't have the answer, you walk away, knowing you haven't given the answer. Or, if you have the answer, and they

don't believe it's feasible, you walk away with a similar result.

And, people are going for this kind of degeneracy, which we saw in Europe: You had *hordes of people*, homeless people, marching up and down the landscape like locusts, destroying cities and towns wherever they went, by looting them. The Flagellants, flagellating themselves: a crazy cult of insanity! We've had such things before.

And, the only thing is, that we, who have some ability, at the top of society, who can understand what has gone wrong, have to recognize that *we must take those actions, which permit us to be able to reach those people* who've gone down into the pit of existentialist self-destruction and degradation! *We must have the means, the power, to be able to say to them: Yes! We do have an alternative!* You don't *have* to live like this. You don't have to *think* like this.

And, as I've said this week, and I've said it repeatedly, before — my whole life is sort of centered around this question: If you can not say, that man has a certain quality, distinct from the animal — a quality of cognition, of creation of ideas, valid ideas, which links us to all past humanity, and all future humanity, and that we are all each individually a *moment* in an infinite, endless, temporal eternity, and that our identity is located in what we are able to with that power of cognition, to realize the best contributions of the past, and to contribute to the future, then — if you don't have that conception — what can you do with mankind? Mankind is, indeed, then, just an existentialist animal.

However, if you say that's the case, and you say it with one of these lost souls out there — as you talk about this Sonora case — and there are many around the world; if you can't *show* them, also, that what you're saying about man and his nature, is not just an abstract idea, but is a matter of *feasible, available practice, how are you going to evangelize them*, and bring them back to humanity?

That's the problem.

So, yes, here's the problem: We have to recognize where it came from, how it came about, where the infection came from, how the infection was turned into a raging disease — say, in Mexico, in 1982, throughout the hemisphere, generally, in 1982. If you compare the situation in the hemisphere before 1982, and after 1982, you see a fundamental shift. A phase-shift. And this phase-shift, what you've described from Sonora, is *inevitable, without leadership*. Leadership depends upon a *ideas, a conception of man*; but the conception of man must be made *actual*. And, therefore, you must have leaders who make it actual for the people.

And, they'll believe you, once they see it's actual. I've seen that before, in the mobilization for World War II, where desperate, existentialist people suddenly became human, because they became optimistic; and that was so, *because we were doing something!* Something to conform to what we were promising. And, therefore, the two things are inseparable, the one from the other: the ideas, the conception — and the practice.

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