
Conference Report

An 'Axis for Peace' Against the Neo-Cons

by Christine Bierre

About 150 diplomats, politicians, military figures, journalists, and artists, coming from 37 countries, notably the Arab world, the United States, Ibero-America, and Eurasia, assembled at a conference organized in Brussels on Nov. 17-18 by Réseau Voltaire (the Voltaire Network), under the title of "Axis for Peace."

The conference was called to denounce what its organizers called the "war outlook which is gradually imposing itself in international relations," with the "unilateral rearming of the United States," the unjustified attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq, and "open threats against Syria and Iran." Only the "principles of international mediation and peaceful coexistence offer an alternative to this 'rise of danger,'" states the conference program, which, invoking the spirit of the Hague conferences (1899 and 1907), and the Bandung Conference of 1955, called for all enemies of war to meet in order to "assess contemporary forms of conflict and interference, and shape a relevant and efficient discourse in favor of peace."

The conference issued a declaration which calls for protecting natural resources from financial predators, and rejects the use of "Islamic terror" to promote a clash of civilizations. It further denounces the "military coalition [which] has launched unbridled exploitation of the world's resources and energy reserves. Fuelled by neo-conservatives, it has increased its attacks, practicing all forms of interference, from forcing changes in regimes to colonial style expansionism. . . . To justify their thirst for conquest, they form terrorist groups with the aim of manipulating them, to create pretexts for military action, propagate theories of an international Muslim plot, and fuel conflicts between civilizations."

The document appeals to permanent members of the UN Security Council "to enforce the respect of sovereignty of nations, which forms the basis of international law and constitutes a precondition for the development of democracy in its genuine form."

Among those who participated or were scheduled to participate in the conference: former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros

Ghali; Arab League Secretary Amr Moussa; three-time Lebanese Prime Minister Selim al-Hoss; Israeli Knesset representative and longstanding collaborator of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Ahmed Tibi; former chief of staff of the Ecuador Army, Gen. René Vargas Pazzos; president of the Center of Strategic Studies of the Havana Higher Institute for International Studies, Enrique Román Hernández; member of the High Council of the Hugo Chávez Bolivarian movement, Jhanette Madriz Sotil; Gen. Vinod Saighal (ret.) of India; Lebanese historian Youssef El Ashkar; Gen. Leonid Ivashov, of the joint chief of staff of the Russian Army; founding member of the Arab National Congress Subhi Toma; French humorist Dieudonné Mbala Mbala; and Ray McGovern, a former CIA analyst and currently a member of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). Some of these people were unable to attend, due to pressure from the Bush Administration and its international allies. The French authorities were not particularly helpful, and French consulates did what they could to block extension of visas to some of the international participants.

International media outlets that worked in tandem with the organizers of the conference included al-Jazeera, *Gulf News*, *Russia Today*, Tele Sur, the Iranian IRIB News, Dubai TV, and the American Free Press.

LaRouche Forces Intervene

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the Civil Rights Solidarity Party (BüSo) in Germany, Jacques Cheminade, president of LaRouche-allied Solidarity and Progress Party in France, and Christine Bierre, editor-in-chief of the French newspaper *Nouvelle Solidarité* (who also represented *EIR*), were among the participants. Mrs. LaRouche, wife of the



Axis for Peace/Thierry Monasse

At the Axis for Peace conference in Brussels on Nov. 18 (left to right): Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Gen. René Vargas Pazzos (ret.), Thierry Meyssan of "Réseau Voltaire," James Petras, Russia's Gen. Leonid Ivashov, and India's Gen. Vinod Saighal (ret.).

American economist and Democratic Party figure Lyndon H. LaRouche, spoke at one of the plenary sessions, communicating optimism to the participants by briefing them on the fight in the United States to oust Dick Cheney (most participants were unaware of these developments, due to press blackouts). Cheminade intervened in a round table discussion, emphasizing the need to defend cultural sovereignty, denouncing particularly the Congress for Cultural Freedom created by the CIA after the war, ostensibly to fight Communism, but actually to destroy Classical culture as the basis for the nation-state. (See speeches, below.)

In response to a question from *EIR* about the recent Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, General Vargas Passos said that he supported those movements which aim at Ibero-American integration. "In Mar del Plata, we saw that the idea of integration, as a means to oppose re-colonization, is on its way. The people and the governments came together on this idea, something that had never occurred before. . . . It was really a success. I hope that the President of the United States assimilated this lesson and has seen that there is a different reality in South America. We want peace, we want to be friends of the United States. We know that it is an extraordinary market to trade with, but we want to do it with people who respect us, who think that our raw materials must be managed by ourselves and then sold to the rest of the world."

Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Getting Cheney Out Is the Key to Peace

Mrs. LaRouche is the chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo) in Germany, and the founder of the Schiller Institute.

What kind of balance of forces in the world could bring back equilibrium and guarantee the application of international law?

I think everybody will agree, that the absolute precondition to return to international law, is a change of U.S. policy from inside the United States. And there, I want to say emphatically, I am much more optimistic than most speakers who have spoken so far. Because there is an absolute revolt going on in Washington, where in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, a bipartisan coalition has emerged against the policies of Vice President Cheney and the neo-conservatives.

This is extremely important, because it's a simple fact: The entire world can be for peace, but if the neo-conservatives remain in power, there will be war. The problem is their stated intention to stay on their course in order to remove all "rogue states," in particular Iran, Syria, and North Korea. In reality, they want to continue on a war path, until all independent nation-states are removed and their global empire is established. And this means that the strategic situation could very quickly degenerate into global asymmetric warfare, throwing the world rapidly into a new dark age.

Seismic Shifts

The good news is, however, that there is a seismic change going on in the United States. If you are not fully aware of it, blame the media, most of which are trying very hard not to cover the full dimension of these changes, or to dilute the picture by misrepresenting the story. Last week, on Tuesday, Nov. 7, the same day the Republicans lost in the state [gubernatorial] elections in New Jersey and Virginia, and [Arnold] Schwarzenegger lost all propositions in California, Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate's Minority Leader, and two of his colleagues, held a press conference announcing the opening of phase two of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence investigation of the lies and manipulations used to lure the United States into the war against Iraq.

Senator Reid stated: "There is a dark cloud hanging over the White House. The Vice President is sadly in the middle of that storm. The manipulation of intelligence to sell the war against Iraq: Vice President Cheney is involved in that. The White House energy policy of putting big oil ahead of the American consumer: Vice President Cheney is behind that. Leaking classified information to discredit White House critics: The Vice President is behind that. Halliburton's contracting abuse, the list goes on, and it goes on."

On Nov. 8, Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman, in a conference call with reporters and activists from around the country, attacked Senator Reid for his remarks that Cheney was at the center of corruption and policy failures, and accused Reid of "having a Lyndon LaRouche moment." The fascinating thing is that, in this way, the Republicans blew the story about the Reid press conference to an even wider audience, while they had been desperately trying to block it from the media.

What did Mehlman mean when he said that Senator Reid had his "LaRouche moment"? Was Mehlman paranoid? What Mehlmann referred to is that the reason there is a storm in Washington to get Cheney out of office, is Mr. LaRouche's personal leadership role.

Yesterday, on Wednesday, Nov. 16, there was a large delegation of about 80 UAW trade unionists and elected officials, and about 100 members of the LaRouche Youth Movement meeting with 40 Senators and Congressmen, and with a larger number of Congressional offices, on the need to save the American auto sector, and to get Cheney out of office.