

ice. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was brought in to determine whether the plant were still operable—they ruled that it was, with only minor repairs and upgrading required.

Finally, in October, “Atoms for Peace, Philippines, Inc.” was formally established in Manila, as the nation’s first and only institution dedicated to renewing the country’s nuclear position in the world. Valdes is the president, while other members include Ramon Pedrosa, chairman of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Dr. Jose Julianano, a University of the Philippines physics professor and nuclear energy authority; former Undersecretary of Energy Jun Delfin; Bill Shaare, an engineer who worked with President Marcos in the 1980s, and others. The current Under-

secretary of Energy, Mar Salazar, is an advisor to the institution.

In May of this year, the LaRouche Society, the PLYM, and several scientists toured the mothballed nuclear plant (see box), confirming the opinion of the IAEA.

The opening of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant would be far more than an immediate source of desperately needed electricity and water (through desalination facilities that could be added to the original construction). It would represent a process of overturning the globalization policies implemented during the 1980s and 1990s, and a fight to put the pressing needs of the populations of the underdeveloped nations back on the agenda.

Touring the Bataan Plant

The following is taken from a report by Ligaya Rebolos of the Philippines LaRouche Youth Movement; the full text is on the website of the Philippines LaRouche Society, www.larouchephil.com/LaRouche_phil_prometheus_tries_again.html.

In May 2008, the Philippines LaRouche Society (PLS) had the rare opportunity to visit the first and only nuclear power plant in Southeast Asia, the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. This unique occasion resulted from the efforts of a small group of youth, who provoked society and government by challenging the pseudo-science and Malthusian genocidal philosophy of Al Gore’s anti-nuclear scare. It was these young people’s intervention at various conferences on global warming, which sparked audiences—including leading government officials—to question the value of “alternative energy,” by posing the necessity of the most advanced technological form of power generation: nuclear power.

The purpose of the tour, arranged by the Department of Energy, was to investigate the effects of 22 years in which the plant had not been used, and to determine whether it could become operational again. On the one hand, we found computers and control panels that were high-end technology during

the late 1970s, but are now obsolete. A lack of proper temperature and humidity controls in the plant had accelerated the deterioration of some machinery. But the plant was fundamentally sound, and could be relatively easily reactivated.

The PLS also discovered excitement, not among one another, but among the engineers who had been employed these past 22 years in maintaining the plant as best they could. They had stretched each cent of the limited government funding to preserve the plant, without ever doubting that what they did would not be in vain. Some of the engineers admitted to being duped during the anti-Marcos campaigns, realizing only later that the political decision to mothball the nuclear plant was a tragic one and should be reversed.

Organizing the engineers around the limitless potential that technological growth would bring, by utilizing nuclear power to provide the energy for water desalination plants and magnetically levitated rail, and producing hydrogen for the hydrogen economy of the future, inspired them even further. Furthermore, the idea that these industrially vectored projects would be a means of achieving a sovereign nation-state republic, was a fundamental breakthrough which these engineers will cherish for a lifetime.

The Philippine LaRouche Society’s determination to bring about a nuclear renaissance means that, one day, this plant will become operational, and the construction of many more will become a reality.