

Talks Held in Mexico on LaRouche's 'Great American Desert' Development

by Marcia Merry Baker

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, visiting the northern Mexican state of Coahuila last November, participated in conferences and interviews, at which he raised the urgent need for large-scale development of basic economic infrastructure—power, water, and rail—common to the Southwestern U.S. states and the Northern Mexican states, in order to provide the basis for restoring U.S.-Mexican relations and providing needed development and employment (see *EIR*, Nov. 22, 2002). The “Great American Desert” is the traditional name for the multi-state area LaRouche referred to, and a team he commissioned will be releasing his “Great American Desert” development program in full, in early May, including maps and charts, technology reviews, and key parameters. Such an infrastructure outline, on fundamentally similar economic principles, was also presented in 1994 by the American transport development expert Dr. Hal B.H. Cooper, Jr., who today supports LaRouche’s candidacy.

In Mexico City over April 11-13, discussions took place on the LaRouche development perspective for border states/desert lands. Dennis Small, *EIR* Ibero-American Intelligence Director, and leader of the program team, presented specifics, first, to a seminar of engineers and other specialists, then to other interested political collaborators, and finally, and most importantly, to a conference of 30 student leaders on April 12.



On Nov. 5, 2002, Lyndon LaRouche proposed the common infrastructure “economic driver” program for the Southwest United States and Mexico, at an address videoconferenced to Mexican universities from the University of Coahuila at Saltillo.

LaRouche himself addressed these students the same day (by tele-conference from Europe), stressing that we are in the midst of a worldwide collapse of the economy. Devastation is dramatic in the U.S.-Mexico border states, where the last ten years of *maquiladora* assembly plant operations were concentrated, based on slave-labor pay, with no infrastructure, and in a desert! Now job cuts, disease, and desperate out-migration are rampant. Meantime, Mexico and the United States are fighting over the depleted waters of the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) River Basin, as similar insanity reigns in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

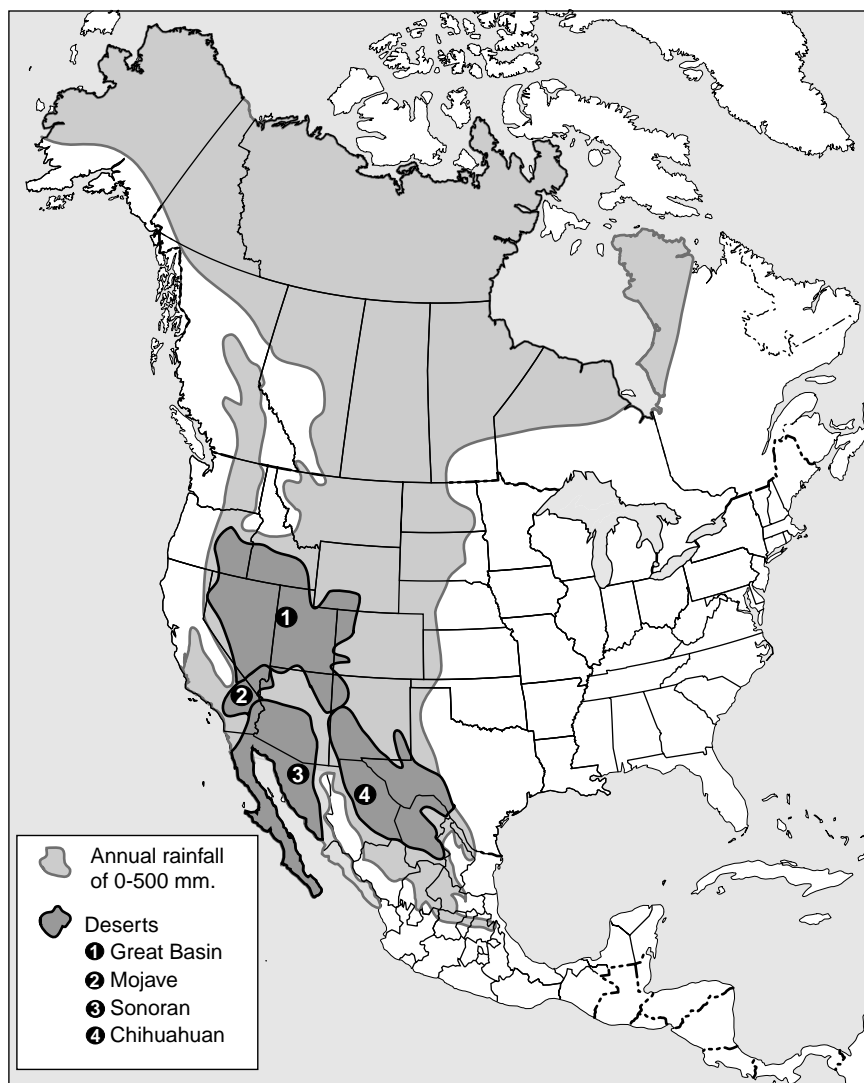
But LaRouche said, “We have a positive side to this picture, which is the development of the idea of an economic alternative, a positive alternative to the collapse of the present world monetary-financial system. This solution for the present crisis, is presently centered in Eurasia, and is focussed upon the prospect of cooperation among France, Germany, and Russia, on the one side; and on Russia, China, and India, and other countries, on the other side. . . . A *Eurasian* connection of cooperation in technology-sharing and long-term projects of capital improvement, infrastructure, which means a solution for the economic crisis in Asia, if that is done properly. And the same thing, the same principle applies to the Americas. So, the solution exists.”

On April 26 in Los Angeles, Harley Schlanger, the Western states representative of the LaRouche in 2004 campaign committee for the Democratic Presidential nomination, will preview this development program at a weekend organizing school of the LaRouche Youth Movement from the Southwestern states. It was at a similar youth leader event in San Pedro, California, on Aug. 18, 2002, where LaRouche personally announced his “Emergency Infrastructure-Building Program” for the United States, for which the youth leaders are now mobilizing in both Washington and in state capitals, as the metric for economic emergency policy. (LaRouche’s remarks appeared in *EIR*, Sept. 6, 2002.)

LaRouche emphasized that what is required is a) the expansion of integrated generation and distribution of electrical power; b) large-scale water management; and, c) combined east-west and north-south development of modernized rail grids. He has pointed out that the common characteristic of a section of North America—running north toward the Arctic Ocean from the area of Mexico between the two branches of the Sierra Madre—is a rich area of potential de-

FIGURE 1

The Great American Desert



Source: EIR.

Shown is one of the 25 map illustrations for the forthcoming LaRouche "Great American Desert Development Project."

velopment with a grievous shortage of water. This is shown on the map of North America, which delineates areas of less than 10 inches of average annual rainfall—extreme desert—and the areas averaging less than 20 inches, also drylands. The states involved in the study are Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Durango, Zacatecas, and San Luis Potosí, in Mexico; and Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado, in the United States.

In brief, the new program covers:

- **Power.** Integrated distribution, and increased high-tech generation, including by nuclear facilities, as well as from the

region's coal and natural gas, are called for.

- **Water.** Large-scale diversion and conveyance projects are required, including the continental "North American Water and Power Alliance" (NA-WAPA, planned in the 1960s) to divert water now flowing into the Arctic, southward into the dry western regions; and also various projects in Mexico to channel northward, some of the abundant run-off originating in the Southern Sierra Madre (rivers rising in Chiapas and Oaxaca), and the Western Sierra Madre (rising in Jalisco and Aguascalientes). Desalination of seawater on both the Pacific and Gulf coasts, and also of inland brackish waters, powered by nuclear reactors, can add significant volumes to the water resources base in the border regions.

- **Transportation.** The takedown of rail must be reversed, with refurbished old routes, and new high-speed intercity and continental lines added.

Several key aspects of the new LaRouche program have been on the drawing boards, or even initiated, as of decades ago. But these initiatives were killed during the 1970s "post-industrial" policy shift. Forewarning of this, Texas Rep. Jim Wright (D) wrote a book, *The Coming Water Crisis*, in 1966. Some engineers kept up the battle. Dr. Hal Cooper, who has collaborated on LaRouche's 1997 world "Land-Bridge" rail routes, prepared a 100-page study in March 1994, for *21st Century Science & Technology*, titled, "Future Development Needs for the Energy, Water, Industrial and Transportation Infrastructure in the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico."

Now LaRouche, and the LaRouche Youth Movement, are taking the point to force through this kind of development policy. LaRouche explained to the Saltillo youth meeting last November, "Thus, the infrastructural development needs of the states of the Southwestern U.S.A. and of Northern Mexico, are not only complementary, but are integral features of improved U.S.A.-Mexico cooperation. . . . These also represent relatively large-scale potential for employment to absorb the effects of the collapse of employment in large sectors affecting Mexicans resident in the U.S.A. or employed in Mexico producing product exported to the U.S.A."