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## CONFERENCE REPORT

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# LaRouche outlines new U.S. policy for the Indian and Pacific Oceans Basin

by Susan Johnson and Mary McCourt

"When President Reagan's advisers figure out that the policies of Henry Kissinger have not worked, it is my responsibility to propose alternatives, which must also be submitted to Asian governments," stated Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. at an *EIR* conference, "A 50-year Development Program for the Pacific and Indian Oceans Basin," held in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 15. The internationally prominent economist and controversial Democratic Party leader was addressing 500 diplomats, Asia specialists, government and military officials, and political activists.

LaRouche has proposed launching five giant infrastructure projects as a U.S. foreign policy package for Asia: a canal through Thailand's Isthmus of Kra, a Mekong River development project for Southeast Asia; a full-scale development plan for the Ganges-Brahmaputra River systems in the Indian subcontinent; a north-south canal in mainland China; and a second Panama Canal to accommodate expanded Atlantic-Pacific shipments.

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These projects, he said, would be "a flank" in reversing the economic, monetary, and strategic crises facing the West. U.S. foreign policy has been "stupid" for the past 20 years, and we must return to the battle for a community of principle among republics dedicated to becoming the ruling power on earth in order to elevate the productive powers of labor through technological progress. "The way to make foreign policy is to go to nations and suggest concepts to be discussed, create a working consensus, on agricultural development, infrastructure, investment policies, employment and training targets. Then there can be cooperation to reach them and to make technological breakthroughs." This specific concept of the process, LaRouche added, took shape on the trip to Asia

he took this summer with his wife, Club of Life founder and European Labor Party chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

"The method we have used is to select key projects whose feasibility has already been determined, projects which are necessary and will also stimulate the world economy. The concept is that if we go into a development mode, the starting point must be ocean freight for capital goods transport." The Pacific Rim countries and China have different policies, he noted. "China apparently believes that assimilation of Western technology is fine until it threatens their Chinese culture and brings urbanization. The other nations are oriented toward high rates of technology assimilation, in the main through urbanization." When China finds herself surrounded with countries that are developing industrially, he added, Peking may be more open to change.

The way negotiations will work in Asia, he specified, is to assemble a package with equitable benefits for everyone.

### **The enemy: Bertrand Russell**

Pacific Rim economic development has been discussed for 20 years, said LaRouche. Why haven't these projects been undertaken? Not simply because gentlemen from the Stanford Research Institute insist on talking about tourism and casinos whenever meetings are held. It is impossible to pursue Asian development without understanding the obstruction of economic development throughout the world.

In the 1950s, the United States favored the use of American technology to transform poor nations. Reviving Franklin Roosevelt's World War II vision of supplanting colonialism with development, a perspective which had been thrown out as soon as the Truman-Harriman-Acheson administration took over, President Eisenhower launched the "Atoms for Peace" program. President Kennedy favored industrial investment and programs like NASA. But, starting in 1963, Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society"—another name for the "post-industrial society"—made America the opponent not only of

technological progress in the West but also in the underdeveloped countries.

“The problem goes back to Bertrand Russell, compared to whom Hitler was a minor problem,” according to LaRouche. Russell’s aim was to eliminate what he considered inferior races, and starting in the 1950s he sought a “two-empire” arrangement with the U.S.S.R. that would permit him and his collaborators to slash brown-, black-, and yellow-skinned populations. “The world is the victim of a great fraud,” said LaRouche. “The problem is not nation-states, but the fact that nation-states are directed by this group—Malthusian maniacs using supranational institutions and national governments.”

Because of the Russell-Kissinger policy control in both East and West, LaRouche continued, “We are looking into hell, on the edge of thermonuclear war—let no one doubt it. We are in an economic depression no matter how many lies are told by the Fed. Ibero-America is being destroyed—an integral part of the U.S. logistical and economic base, our strategic strength!

“The Russell policy must be dumped, and so must people who refuse to give it up. Someone objects to economic development—pay no attention. ‘It would threaten the IMF.’ ‘Yes? Is that true? Then the IMF has to go.’ Let’s secure policy agreements and have a decent world for a change.’ ”

At issue, he added, is “the pound of flesh principle.” “If debt endangers human life, which do you choose? People can be defined by their answer.”

As for the Soviets, LaRouche said, “They know they are in a deal with Bertrand Russell’s group; they have consciously joined with evil. They are moving beyond calculation, to assertions of Dostoevskian ‘will,’ they may be at a point where they cannot control themselves. They need a good scare. They need to know what they are up against.”

## The power of the individual

“How do we define economic growth?” LaRouche asked. “In terms of the Book of Genesis. This is man’s power per capita over nature; his population density sustained potentially per square kilometer. What we are measuring is the increase in the power of the individual human being.” Hunting and gathering man had a population potential ceiling of 10 million and had a life expectancy under 20 years. “Pre-pubescent children dominated the society, making it highly vulnerable to perturbation. Now population is at 4.5 billion, and the earth could easily sustain tens of billions at standards far above those in the United States—before Jimmy Carter.”

The power of the individual has been increased by three orders of magnitude, he continued. Man, unlike animals, can do this in only one way, through the creative capacity to discern the lawful ordering of the universe and guide one’s behavior to conform with it.

Infrastructural investment corresponds with increased

productivity of labor, LaRouche continued. We need water to improve agriculture, we need transport, and energy. Our primary requirement in the United States is urban infrastructure and water management. “The Russell post-industrialists want to base the economy on computers. But a computer produces nothing. Computers are only useful if they are deployed with manufacturing. We need breakthroughs in technology, easily defined—the same ones we need for the military.”

Thermonuclear fusion will increase energy flux density by a factor of 10 and create a revolution in physics, the *EIR* founder specified. With plasma physics as an energy source, man can begin to use energy intelligently. A plasma device can generate half a million kilowatts per square meter, which, when focused into a tiny beam, can put a hole in the sun.

While we are building and repairing infrastructure, we have to find ways of injecting the *technological frontiers* into the development process of the Third World, LaRouche stressed. We must reduce their agricultural population to 25 percent or less of the total, by boosting productivity; 50 to 60 percent of the population should be in the physical production of goods including agriculture and transport; 5 percent in research and development.

Japan has made a practice of buying up the Western technologies that the West itself does not wish to apply. “The Japanese are good managers, but they don’t put enough into R&D.” LaRouche encapsulated the large effect of a relatively small amount of research and development: *The advanced machine-tool sector takes the lead* (consider the use of lasers for cutting); *the capital goods sector transmits advances to production as a whole*.

When questioned about his insistence on the importance of the role of the sovereign nation-state, LaRouche declared that every other form of government has proven a disaster. Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, the 15th-century scientist who first defined the nation-state, is responsible for the progress of Western civilization ever since, he declared. “The will and force of the U.S. are worth nothing unless they are dedicated to natural law. We are not obliged to impose our will: we are obliged to fight for natural law. If a nation is butchering its own people, or acting as a base for attacks on us, that is not to be tolerated. Nations are not anarchic individuals. If they don’t accept natural law they are not nation-states, any more than a human can call himself a human if he has no brains.”

## Two-thirds of the world’s population

LaRouche’s keynote address was followed by a discussion of the strategic parameters of the Pacific Basin by Uwe Parpart-Henke, research director of the Fusion Energy Foundation and the new Asia editor of *EIR*. Parpart-Henke described point by point the 20 years of foolish American policy in the region, typified by the Kissinger/Brzezinski “China Card.”

From the standpoint of a community of principle among nations, he said, foreign policy is easy. It is only when someone like Henry Kissinger comes along talking about "the balance of power" (in which, he added, the United States usually loses) that we have trouble.

The founding of the five-nation Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the extraordinary economic progress of these nations—Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore, along with Taiwan and South Korea, progress greatly assisted by Japanese economic policy in the area—helped convert a dangerous war zone into a zone of stability and economic growth with higher expectations in the future.

This relative stability is now again seriously threatened, and the root causes lie outside Asia itself. These nations must defend their existence in the center of a force triangle defined by two and a half imperialisms: Moscow's, Peking's (the "half"), and that of the Anglo-European oligarchy, its U.S. followers, and its financial enforcers, the IMF, World Bank, and BIS.

Strategic analysis must take full consideration of the effects of the 1978 Carter administration commitment to the "China Card." Brzezinski's and Cyrus Vance's illusions, in combination with Defense Secretary Harold Brown's incompetence in the military strategic area, had in fact by 1978 set into motion a second major U.S. strategic withdrawal from Asia and the Pacific Ocean after the 1973-75 Vietnam disengagement.

Once the seriousness of the promise to give China a free hand in Asia had been verified, the P.R.C. leadership put into high gear the Pol Pot regime's wanton Malthusian economic and military measures in Cambodia. A dominant position in Indochina and Southeast Asia is an age-old Chinese objective. But in almost every respect the exact opposite of both the Chinese and Carter administration objectives was realized. "We are now facing a Vietnam whose economic and military policies have become even more firmly embedded in the Soviet strategic framework. Comecon membership and the 1979 Vietnam-U.S.S.R. security pact are only the outwardly visible signs of this development."

Existing U.S. bases must be maintained and reinforced, he said. "The United States must take immediate measures to at least relieve the economic pressure of the refugee crisis on Thailand." The most important long-term strategic question, Parpart-Henke continued, is the internal stability of China. This can be promoted only through resumption of those modernization policies associated with Sun Yat-sen's 'New China' efforts of 1911, efforts later drowned in political chaos. The United States unilaterally, and without interference in internal Chinese affairs, can nonetheless make major contributions in this direction.

In the third conference session, Parpart-Henke talked about the development projects proposed by LaRouche in

terms of the demography and economic history of the region. The economies of the Pacific Basin nations are the fastest-growing in the world, he said, while the Western nations are experiencing negative growth rates. Two thirds of the world's population and 45 percent of U.S. trade are now in the Pacific Basin region, he said. The tangible interest of the United States would be magnificently served if increases in such trade are facilitated by the proposed infrastructure projects.

### **Current trade and future potential**

Richard Freeman of *EIR*'s economics staff presented statistics showing that the Pacific Basin is now the center of gravity of world trade. If there is only a 5 percent growth in imports and exports in this region in the next few years, it will overtax the capacity of the existing water route through the Malacca Straits, so the Kra Canal project in Thailand is essential, he said.

Next, using color slides, Carlos Wesley, chief of the *EIR*'s Caribbean desk, showed how the current Panama Canal was almost at its capacity, with traffic growing at 2 percent a year even though the world economy is stagnant. A U.S. commission appointed in 1965 made an exhaustive five-year study of alternative routes for a new canal, including detailed projections for the use of peaceful nuclear explosives to speed the excavation and cut costs.

In the final presentation, Dr. Steven Bardwell, editor-in-chief of *Fusion* magazine and military editor of *EIR*, explained how the intersection of these global development projects with the revolution in laser and plasma technologies would enable Asian nations to skip over the traditional "stages of development."

For example, he said, previous earth-moving for large infrastructure projects has been based on matter shaping other matter. In a plasma economy, however, energy beams can be used to shape matter. The use of small, clean, radioactivity-free nuclear explosives to dig canals cuts the cost by a factor of four and does the job in half the time of conventional earth-moving.

With new nuclear technologies—the far cleaner neutron bomb, and far smaller devices—radiation factors can be reduced by a factor of 100 from the technologies possible 10 years ago. Many studies of where PNEs can be used for canal building, such as the second Panama Canal, were based on PNE technology from the earlier period. With current capabilities, digging a canal with PNEs even in relatively populated areas is quite feasible.

"I would like to be present," he said, "at the time when one of these canals is completed—in half an hour. A first series of craters will be dug by PNE explosions, and a second series of devices buried in the earth between the craters. On a day when we have the right 'explosion weather,' we could stand and watch while device after device goes off, opening up the entire canal—in just half an hour's time."