

Editorial

Development on the table internationally

There is clearly a fight going on throughout Europe—from the Atlantic to the Urals—on issues related to development, and, in particular, infrastructure development. On the one side, there is the London-Washington axis organized to impose Anglo-American hegemony on the world; on the other, a far more tentative grouping which is considering the implications of LaRouche's proposal for the "Productive Triangle," and Pope John Paul II's critique of the immorality of liberalism.

The recent series of events at which Schiller Institute spokesmen have met with policymakers from the former Soviet domain, most recently events in Ukraine and Slovakia, have directly pitted LaRouche's development-centered economics against the fascist austerity measures being advocated by the Harvard crowd. The example of Poland is sufficient proof for all patriots of the bankruptcy of free trade. It was not to see their countries destroyed by a bankers' dictatorship, that these brave people fought against Soviet tyranny.

We can suppose that this interest in LaRouche's economics has not been lost upon European policymaking circles, nor Soviet circles, who are doubtful of the direction of the Anglo-American grouping. If France and Germany, for example, knuckle under on the question of farm subsidies in the continuing General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, this will have disastrous repercussions for their economies.

On June 21, Umberto Agnelli, the number two man in the Fiat industrial complex, who is also the president of the Round Table of the European Industrialists, addressed a conference of the construction industry held in Rome. He called for the development of a "design of continental networks of infrastructure" which should shape national projects.

These included transportation, telecommunications, energy production, and research and development projects. He proposed the creation of a European agency for infrastructure able to take decisions at the supranational level (like the European Commission) and, because he agrees that this will not be possible immediately, he called for the creation of a European

institute for infrastructure.

His proposal anticipates a combination of government and private capital investment. While, unlike the LaRouche proposal, he does not emphasize extension of this network to Eastern Europe as a priority, he does include these nations. The European commissioners are reportedly studying a similar plan.

There are also signals from the Soviet Union. In a recent interview with the German newspaper *Der Spiegel*, Soviet Vice President Gennady Yanayev stated that when Gorbachov goes to London, it will not be to ask for credits, but that he will be going there with a detailed program for development assistance. Yanayev said of Gorbachov's trip: "He will submit proposals, which will be as beneficial for the West as for us: namely, to invest in infrastructure, in completely defined areas for the transport system, in energy—gas and oil development . . . also in small and medium-sized enterprises for the processing of agricultural production."

Another positive sign is the commitment in Germany to include the development of magnetically levitated (maglev) trains in their new National Infrastructure Development Plan, which will be debated at the end of this year. German Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber proposes a maglev trail from Bonn to Berlin. This will serve to integrate Berlin as the capital of Germany with the administrative functions remaining in Bonn.

These plans are signs of an important realism entering into economic thinking in Europe and the Soviet Union; however, LaRouche's proposal for the "Productive Triangle" was specific on the crucial role to be played by the most industrially dense region of Europe—centered in Germany but extending into France, and Austria.

Time is of the essence. As the result of decades of deliberate misdeployment of world resources out of infrastructural development, and away from development of controlled thermonuclear power and the potentials of space travel, tens of millions are unnecessarily threatened with death from wholly preventable so-called *natural* disasters such as water shortages.