

U.S. caught in international scandal on LaRouche case

by Warren A.J. Hamerman

During the week following George Bush's political collapse in the New Hampshire primary, a series of intersecting extraordinary developments has brought the international human rights scandal in the case of Lyndon LaRouche to the center of the political stage in Washington, D.C.

Both National Public Radio (NPR) and a widely read congressional newspaper prominently reported that the Bush administration was refusing to respond to allegations from the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva that the administration violated LaRouche's human rights. Furthermore, the U.S. government even failed to notify the relevant committees in Congress that such an inquiry had been made. The NPR story quoted LaRouche presidential campaign spokesman Debra H. Freeman that this stonewalling is "part of a consistent pattern by the Bush administration to cover up critical exculpatory evidence in the LaRouche case," and that a delegation of high-level Ibero-American congressional representatives would be in Washington that week to investigate the U.N. charges.

As if to prove the allegations afresh, the Bush administration engaged in a massive effort to try and sabotage meetings for the South American parliamentarians. Under the pressure, meetings were abruptly canceled, rescheduled, and canceled again with comments to the effect that the United States would not allow its justice system to be criticized by nations which run theirs with cattle prods. When the Ibero-American dignitaries went home after one week's stay, not a single one of their peers, not a single congressman or senator, had the courage to even meet with them! In the only two meetings which did occur on Capitol Hill—one with the chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the other with the staff director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which has 200 senators and congressmen in it—the South Americans challenged the outrageous double standards which Washington keeps with respect to human rights.

The reception afforded the congressmen was totally different at the Organization of American States. There, OAS

Secretary General João Baena Soares had a cordial meeting with the visiting delegation for over half an hour, after which he committed himself to look into the LaRouche case and forward all relevant documentation to the OAS Human Rights Commission.

Also, the *Wall Street Journal* on Feb. 21, in an amazing piece of journalism which never once explicitly mentioned that the LaRouche case was raised in Geneva in early February, ran an editorial which warned its readers that the current session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva was out of control. In a feat of journalistic gymnastics, the *Journal* editorial didn't mention the name of Lyndon LaRouche once, or that the Special Rapporteur had raised the issue that LaRouche was being persecuted for his beliefs in the right to economic justice and development for the Third World. What the editorial did say is that the ongoing human rights meeting in Geneva could not be taken seriously, because Third World countries have too much power there and are insisting that agenda items such as the "right to development" and detentions and imprisonments are being raised. The *Journal* scribbled: "But if the U.N. is to be taken seriously, agencies with the high visibility of the Human Rights Commission will have to make a much greater effort to act seriously."

Stonewalling scandal

After the U.N. Special Rapporteur communicated allegations in writing to the U.S. government, asking for its "comments and observations" that it was in violation of the "Declaration Based on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief," the U.S. has completely stonewalled.

Four times the U.S. government failed to respond to the allegations: 1) It failed to answer the written communication from the Special Rapporteur; thus, the written report was printed with no rebuttal from the U.S. government. 2) When the first U.S. delegate spoke under the relevant agenda item,

he made no comment on the case in the Special Rapporteur's written report. 3) Vice President Dan Quayle made no mention of the allegations in his speech. 4) After the delegate for one non-governmental organization challenged the United States during the plenary session on the floor of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva on Feb. 10 for gross double standards on human rights abuses by not answering on the LaRouche case, even then the U.S. government did not exercise its oral "right to reply" to his speech.

Even as the U.S. government refused in Geneva to acknowledge the existence of the Special Rapporteur's allegations, U.S. embassy personnel around the world were busily spreading lies about the LaRouche case. For instance, on Feb. 4, a U.S. embassy official in Bonn, Germany dispatched a signed communication on embassy stationery lying that LaRouche was not imprisoned for his political beliefs but for not paying his taxes, a charge which LaRouche was neither convicted of, nor even indicted for. While refusing to face the human rights allegations openly in Geneva, American embassy personnel in numerous countries around the world are vigorously spreading the same falsehoods as part of a coordinated "black propaganda operation." Fake stories have been planted in the press from eastern Europe to Ibero-America to try to diffuse the impact of the human rights violations in the LaRouche case. Various sources on Capitol Hill report that the U.S. government is surreptitiously spreading the exact same lie throughout official channels in Washington.

Confrontation in Geneva

What happened on the 10th of February in Geneva? The delegate of the International Progress Organization (IPO), a non-governmental organization, was the lead speaker of the afternoon session of the plenary session after the morning session that featured a speech by Vice President of the United States Dan Quayle, in which the vice president boasted of America's triumph in the Gulf war against Iraq and, among other things, stated, "The United States will, of course, always respect the sovereignty of nations. However, you should be forewarned: We shall not hesitate to speak the truth about clear violations of civil rights and civil liberties wherever they may be found, and whoever may be responsible. The days when a government charged with human rights abuses could cite 'sovereignty' or 'non-interference in internal affairs' as a defense, are gone. Today, whether we like it or not, we have all become our brothers' keeper—not merely for our brother's sake, but for our own."

A few hours later, the IPO delegate quoted the Special Rapporteur's allegations to the U.S. government of human rights violations in the LaRouche case and then said in part:

"As of this hour, the U.S. government has remained silent on these grave allegations, a tactic of non-recognition of human rights complaints which it has loudly condemned in other nations.

"Given the special role it has sought as a kind of chairman of its vision of a 'pax universalis,' it is incumbent upon the

U.S. government to be held to the highest standards.

"The United States has come frequently to the United Nations, including this morning the Vice President, to strongly condemn smaller nations for alleged human rights violations. In well-known instances, the United States has even sought sanctions and gone to war against nations of the South in the name of righting these injustices.

"Lest the appearance of double standards operate when the United States is the accused rather than the accuser, we urge the commission to insist upon a full and impartial investigation or *enquête* into these allegations.

"From the standpoint of international law, the protection of human rights cannot be considered anymore as something that exclusively belongs to the state's internal affairs. As was rightly stated by several delegations at the 3046th meeting of the Security Council on Jan. 31 in New York (Security Council document S/23500), a policy of double standards in regard to the application of international legal principles would undermine the validity of those very principles."

The longer the U.S. government remains silent, the more it proves the case that LaRouche is a political prisoner.

Documentation

'A dirty war carried out by intelligence services'

Ibero-American congressmen visiting the United States on the violation of the human rights of Lyndon LaRouche gave the following press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 24. They were introduced by Debra Freeman.

Debra Freeman

I'm Debra Freeman, the national spokesman for Lyndon LaRouche. We are pleased to introduce our distinguished speakers. They are part of the delegation that has come to the United States, invited by the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, to look into the case of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

The visit comes on the heels of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva asking the United States to respond to charges that Mr. LaRouche's human rights have been violated. To date, the United States has refused to respond to the United Nations charges and, furthermore, the administration has failed to even notify the appropriate committees of Congress that these questions were raised.

Our delegation from Ibero-America comes at a time when the Human Rights Committee of the Congress of Mexico and