

# Helga Zepp-LaRouche announces run for German chancellor post

by Our Wiesbaden Bureau

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairman of the new German party "Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität" (BBS), the Solidarity Civil Rights Movement, doesn't want to see the collapse of Italy's political institutions repeated in Germany. But the wave of corruption scandals now sweeping Germany, including the resignation of Social Democratic Party Chairman Björn Engholm, makes the situation look all too similar. For years, Zepp-LaRouche has been warning that the federal government in Bonn would be digging its own grave if it passed up the opportunity which opened up in November 1989, and if it fails to implement the comprehensive Eurasian infrastructure program which her husband Lyndon LaRouche had proposed back then.

That program, which envisaged Europe's reconstruction as emanating from the LaRouche Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Productive Triangle," never even started to be realized. The consequences of that failure are the bloody war in former Yugoslavia and similar threatened developments in the former Soviet Union; mass unemployment, especially in the eastern part of Germany; the collapse of production all over the East; Germany being engulfed by the world depression; and now the unravelling of a German political class, which has utterly failed to meet the challenges facing it.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche has said this many times before. But in March 1993, when the steel crisis re-erupted with the announcement of new factory closings, she made the bold step of announcing her readiness to challenge the Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl as chancellor candidate. So far, the next general elections are scheduled for 1994; but unlike in the United States, the date for elections can be changed by the parliament at any time, and in these turbulent times, anything can be expected.

## A new German party

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's party, the BBS, was founded both as an international movement and as a federal German party on Nov. 22, 1992. More than 500 participants from 25 countries gathered in Germany's Rheingau district for a conference of the international "Peace through Development" coalition. The conference's theme: "A Thirty Years' War, or a New and Just World Economic Order." In the course of two days of discussions about a strategy to halt the worldwide crisis, participants found a workable answer: In

the United States, the civil rights movement and the political movement built by Lyndon LaRouche have taken the historic step of joining together to fight side-by-side for the inalienable rights of all people.

Many well-known figures from the U.S. civil rights movement, such as Rev. James Bevel, Rev. Wade Watts, and Joe Dickson, publisher of the *Birmingham World*, Alabama's biggest and oldest African-American newspaper, made personal appearances at the conference. Dickson commented later that the fact that the American civil rights leaders acted as "midwife" to the birth of the BBS, was of historic importance. Others who expressed personal interest and happiness at this step included the Chinese trade union leader Yue Wu, who had supported the Chinese student movement at Tiananmen Square in 1989 and who is one of the six most wanted men in mainland China; the Franciscan Father Superior Liu from Taiwan; and various representatives from African countries. The BBS's international advisory council also includes many parliamentarians from eastern Europe.

Since its founding, the BBS has established 11 branches in the states of Saxony, Thuringia, Berlin, Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, Hesse, Rheinland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, and Hamburg. Many local groups have also been formed. In paid newspaper advertisements, leaflets, demonstrations, and meetings, the BBS has been intervening to oppose the Serbian genocide in the Balkans, to counter the growing anti-foreigner hysteria, and to push for a solution to the grave economic crisis.

## An international movement, too

Just as the Indian freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi and the American civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as moral authorities in the struggle to end underdevelopment, apartheid, and racial hatred, and to ensure freedom, equal rights, and inalienable rights for *all people*, so today the names of Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairman of the BBS, and her husband Lyndon LaRouche are inextricably bound up with the struggle for a new and just world economic order, which could enable all people on this planet to enjoy a life with dignity.

"The name for peace is development!" is the central idea

in all past and present activities of this international movement:

- In the 1970s, Lyndon LaRouche formulated the concept of an International Development Bank, an idea which found great acceptance among the nations of the Non-Aligned Movement. Shortly afterwards, the movement raised the demand for a comprehensive moratorium on international debt, an action which would smooth the way for a new, viable currency system. In the early 1980s, this call was taken up by leading political figures in the Third World.

- Special concern about the life, health, and development potential of the younger generation was at the forefront of the “War on Drugs” against the international cartels which controlled the cultivation, production, and distribution of mind-altering substances. On the same grounds, LaRouche was the first to warn of the catastrophic consequences of the deadly AIDS epidemic, and made efforts to give it serious medical attention, especially in terms of large-scale, international research programs for the development of a cure.

- The movement’s greatest impact on the course of world events over the past decade came as a result of LaRouche’s concept of a beam weapon defense system for repulsing and destroying nuclear missiles, which for the first time would make defense against such missiles less expensive than the missiles themselves. President Ronald Reagan announced this concept on March 23, 1983, calling it the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), declaring it to be U.S. policy, and proposing at the same time that Moscow collaborate in constructing such a system. LaRouche, who at the request of the U.S. government had been holding private discussions with the Soviet side for almost a year, beginning in early 1982, emphasized not only the obvious military benefits of the SDI, but also especially the immense spin-off effects which would occur in the civilian economy if these “new physical principles” were applied there. The productivity of the entire world economy could be thereby increased by orders of magnitude.

- LaRouche’s SDI proposal was rejected by the Soviet *nomenklatura*, which responded by launching an unparalleled international defamation campaign against LaRouche, and then demanded that LaRouche be “put out of circulation” as quickly as possible, which later resulted in his politically motivated prosecution, conviction, and imprisonment in January 1989. The Soviet rejection of the SDI in 1983 resulted in the collapse six years later of the entire communist-controlled economic sphere in central and eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union itself. Already back in 1982, LaRouche had forecast that the Soviet side would negate the civilian economic aspects of his proposal, and would move to concentrate exclusively on military SDI research.

- The collapse of the Soviet economy offered a historic opportunity for freedom in central and eastern Europe, along with the reunification of Germany, with Berlin as its capital. In the autumn of 1989, LaRouche, from prison, reacted to

these developments by issuing a program for infrastructural and economic development of the entire Eurasian continent. The development push was to emanate from the Paris-Berlin-Vienna “Productive Triangle,” the area where Europe’s greatest productive potential is concentrated, which could function as a “locomotive” to pull the entire world economy out of the depths of depression.

### Ready to become chancellor

For many reasons—a major one being strong and quite destructive Anglo-American and French opposition to any development of eastern Europe under German auspices—the Productive Triangle was not implemented. And no one deplores the resulting mess more than Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche. In the statement she made in March announcing her readiness to take over the Bonn government (since it seems unlikely that these people will ever move to the actual German capital Berlin), she wrote:

“The decision to shut down the steelmaking district of Rheinhausen is the last straw. If there is not a drastic change in the current direction of economic policy, we are headed toward the greatest economic catastrophe in history, not only in Germany, but throughout Europe and the world.

“The decision to junk Rheinhausen, one of the most modern steel works with an ideal location, is not the result of supposed overproduction for the world market, but rather is the expression of the political, economic, and moral bankruptcy of the major parties and institutions in our country. . . .

“Industrial leaders’ decision to transfer production facilities into so-called low-wage countries, betrays the mentality of an accountant who has no sense whatever of actual production. In the short term, you can perhaps shore up profit margins by exploiting Chinese coolie labor at starvation wages; but in reality such a destruction of high-skilled jobs leads to the collapse of the entire economy.

“And if the nations of the East are forced to fulfill the demands of the International Monetary Fund and must service the old communist debt, no one should be surprised when they attempt to sell steel to the West at dumping prices—steel which is cheap because of the starvation wages being paid in the East.

“Looking around the globe, do we have too much industrial and agricultural capacity? On the contrary, we have a pitiful worldwide shortage. . . . For 20 years I have been fighting in Germany and in many other countries for a just world economic order. . . .

“The great moment of 1989, which could have become a *punctum saliens*, a turning point in history, was shamefully missed, because the program I had proposed was rejected. . . . Leading parties and institutions did not grasp the opportunity of 1989, and instead stuck their heads in the sand. . . . That is why I am running for the office of chancellor in the upcoming parliamentary elections planned to be held in 1994.”