

# FDR-PAC holds forum on U.S. Africa policy

by EIR Staff

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. delivered the keynote speech on Jan. 11 to a forum of the FDR-PAC in Washington, D.C., attended by 150 people from 14 nations, including 50 Africans. The title of the conference was "Africa: Looting Ground for Bush, Inc., or Breadbasket for the World?" The other speakers were *EIR* Africa Intelligence Director Linda de Hoyos and Jacques Bacamurwanko, the former ambassador from Burundi to the United States.

LaRouche challenged the audience to put an end to the genocide against Africa, as a moral test for the Western world. Invoking the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose name the FDR-PAC honors, he outlined the political and economic crisis that the world faces today, and the need for resolute action such as Roosevelt took. In March 1933, at the time of Roosevelt's inaugural address, the United States was in the middle of the Great Depression, LaRouche said. "The entire world was in crisis, and *a man*, Franklin Roosevelt, totally unlike his evil cousin Teddy, responded to the fact that he must take the United States to deal with its own internal crisis, to try to do it with the Congress, but if the Congress wouldn't do it, had to do it himself, to get the nation out of this mess.

"And, again, we've come to that point, at a more dangerous time in world history, when this terrible ruined nation, in much worse condition than it was in in Roosevelt's time, must, once again, take the responsibility which has fallen on its shoulders, not by its choice, but by its circumstance, to lead in getting the world out of this mess."

LaRouche called for the United States to take leadership to forge a new Bretton Woods System, "a system of fixed parities, on a gold-reserve basis, with cheap credit; and a general program for development of the world, by returning from post-industrial lunacy into investment in scientific and technological progress, for the improvement of the life expectancy and conditions of life, and improvement of the productivity of labor, in every part of the world today, through new forms of international cooperation among fully sovereign nation-states; elimination of all global economy, of all global politics, of all UNO dictatorship, all pretenses at world government."

He then turned to the situation in Africa. Henry Kissinger complained that Africans are sitting on large amounts of raw

materials; they must be prevented from achieving economic development, or else their consumption of raw materials per capita will increase. In 1974, Kissinger said that U.S. relations with other nations must be based upon a malthusian population policy.

Since 1995, as the financial crisis has intensified, the British oligarchy has accelerated its looting of Africa. This is the policy of George Bush, the honorary senior adviser to Barrick Gold Corp., which is currently looting Zaire.

To solve the problems of Africa, LaRouche said, we must defeat this oligarchical faction. We can then produce an educated population, foster science and technology, the development of public infrastructure—railroads, roads, water management, schools, sanitation services, healthy cities. "That should be our mission to Africa, which must start out of the very simple moral principle, that all human beings are exactly alike in one respect: They all have this special quality that no animal has, the ability to create, to discover the laws of the universe, accurately, and to make innovations in human practice which increase man's power over nature, which improve life expectancy, which improve the quality of life, and which are taking us to conquer the universe."

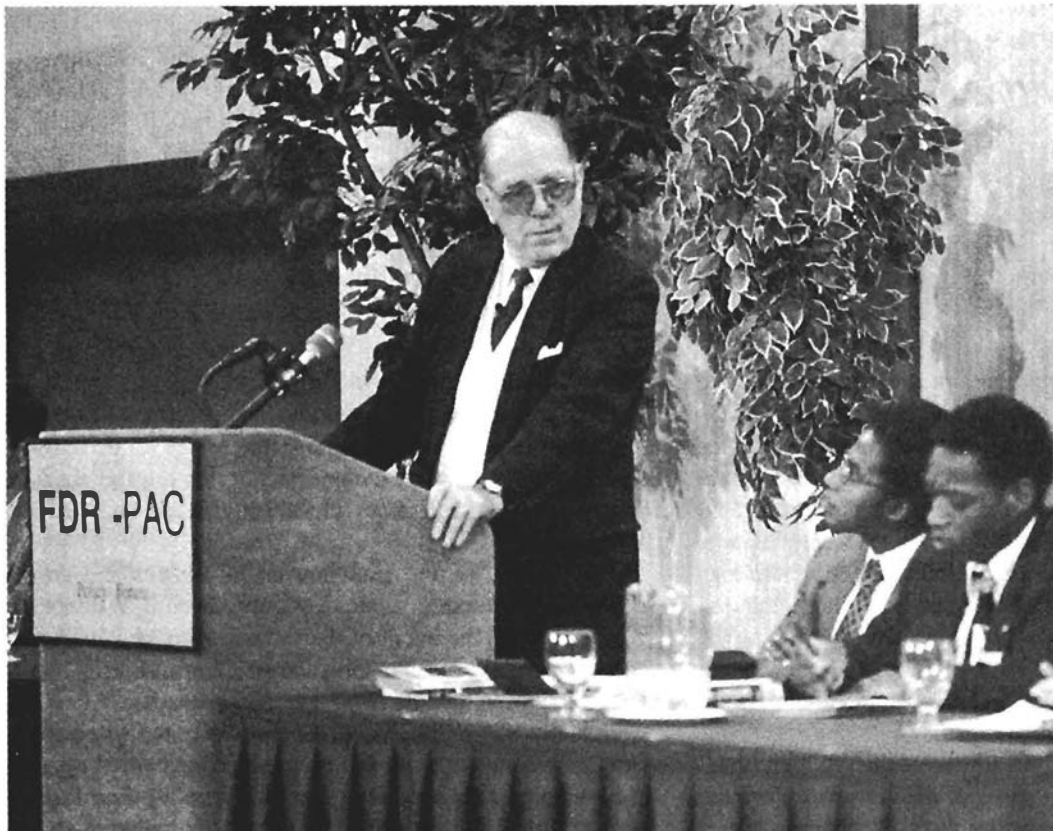
That, LaRouche underlined, is a moral challenge. "Morality is doing something which you know inside makes you good, and makes you a gift of Providence to humanity. And, I think it's only in that sense, that we can do that for Africa, only in that sense is there hope for Africa, people who have that view.

"And, we Americans can get that view, can discover it in ourselves, if we will face the problem of Africa, and understand what there is in our national history, that would tend to block us from recognizing the moral issues so posed. . . . We Americans have not merely got to respond to the facts of the situation: We've got to find in ourselves that chord, that moral chord within us, which gives us the inspiration, and the energy, to meet the challenge before us. Because, if we don't, then the President will not find the morale, or the support, political support, to do what he must do in the months ahead, and the weeks and months ahead. And, if he doesn't do that, this whole planet goes into a Dark Age. That's the issue."

## British genocide in Africa

De Hoyos and Bacamurwanko, in their presentations, outlined the history of imperial looting of Africa, and the great potential that the continent holds for development.

De Hoyos described what has happened in modern-day Zaire, beginning when Portugal rejected the peaceful development policies of the early-16th-century colonizers under Henry the Navigator, and decided to become an empire and develop the slave trade. The Portuguese were followed by the horrors of 19th-century colonization of the area by King Leopold of Belgium. Leopold depopulated the area by seizing slaves for the Belgian plantations. The ensuing genocide was



*Lyndon LaRouche addresses the FDR-PAC, Jan. 11. Seated, left to right: moderator Dennis Speed and Jacques Bacamurwanko, the former ambassador of Burundi to the United States.*

chronicled by the English novelist Joseph Conrad in his book *Heart of Darkness*.

De Hoyos reported that the former African colonies have never been decolonized, even though nominally given their freedom in the early 1960s. The role of colonial administrator was continued by the financial institutions of the British oligarchy, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which made sure no development ever took place by enforcing “free trade,” and decreeing that the former colonies could not run up a balance of payments deficit. Leaders who would have steered them away from the IMF were systematically destroyed.

Bacamurwanko challenged American’s general lack of knowledge about Africa. He said most people think of it as a place of wildlife and gorillas. The reality is that it was the cradle of civilization and has the potential to become a breadbasket to the world. “10,000 American farmers could completely transform the continent,” he said.

The area of which he spoke—eastern Zaire, Rwanda, and Burundi—is among the most resource rich areas of the world. He attributed the renewed wars, in Rwanda and Burundi, and the recent invasion of Zaire, to the requirements of the financial controllers of the continent, for more loot, as the monetary system which they created is now collapsing around them under the weight of speculation and usury. He said the oligarchs are facing financial disintegration, and they want to

shore up their resources and political power by a more intense resource grab in Africa, a “recolonization.” To accomplish this, they must weaken the authority of central governments, and clear the land of its people.

Bacamurwanko showed how the British policy of “democratization” serves the interests of the transnational companies that want to increase their take, without interference from the government. When the IMF and Burundi’s former colonial masters, the French, pushed a “democratization” project in Burundi, a Hutu won the Presidency, with 60% of the vote in the first “democratic elections.” Unfortunately, he was not the choice of the “democratizers,” who had him assassinated shortly afterwards, and a more pliable leader installed. He said that the so-called rebel movement of Laurent Kabila, in Zaire, bolstered by armies from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, was being used as a cover for forced expulsions from the refugee camps in the east, and the massacres which followed. He cited evidence that the United Nations was aiding and abetting the invading armies.

The next FDR-PAC forum, also on Africa, is scheduled for Jan. 25. Since the fall of 1996, the organization has been conducting regular forums on vital issues of U.S. policy, in the Washington, D.C. area. The forums are videotaped and circulated around the country, to shape discussions on the issues which must be taken on by the second Clinton administration.