

Editorial

'Democracy,' IMF-style

Stanley Fischer, the deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, laid out the latest IMF-led \$22.6 billion "bailout" package for Russia, at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on July 13. If both houses of Russia's Parliament do not agree to the brutal austerity conditionalities demanded by the Fund, he said, "I see on the wire services that they say that the President has the right to do things by decree."

So much for "democracy."

This is the same IMF/World Bank which campaigns against "corruption" and "cronyism" in the developing sector. This is the crew that set up Transparency International, along with Britain's Prince Philip, shouting slogans about "transparency" and "democracy." But, as *EIR* has shown, TI's real intent is to force sovereign nations to submit to supranational domination and looting by the global financier oligarchy.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in an October 1995 policy memorandum written for the 1996 Presidential election campaign, titled "The Blunder in U.S. National Security Policy," dissected the fraudulent call for "democracy," as it was emanating, at that time, from certain circles in the U.S. Department of Defense.

Contrary to the DOD's claim, democracy is *not* becoming stronger around the world. As the international financial and monetary system has been eroded, since the end of the Bretton Woods system in 1971, most nations have been subject to a one-world government's dictatorship, by the IMF and related institutions. "Under the rule of these institutions," LaRouche wrote, "virtually all nations, and their governments, have been subject to increasingly savage austerity measures. By the standards of practice of the insurance actuary, during the past quarter-century, the IMF and associated institutions have caused far more death than the Adolf Hitler regime did. The pattern has been, increasingly, that governments which balk at imposing such murderous policies on their nation's citizens, are overthrown by coups conducted on behalf of the IMF. No nation whose government adopts IMF

or World Bank 'conditionalities,' can be described as 'democratic' in any meaningful sense of the term."

During the past year, we have seen nation after nation fall under the IMF hatchet, from Indonesia to Russia to most of Ibero-America. In the United States, the majority of the Congress says—oh, so democratically—that we can no longer afford infrastructure, quality health care, and education. In Japan, the political elite is committing *seppuku*, savaging one of the world's most powerful industrial economies in order to prop up a hopelessly bankrupt banking system.

Under such conditions, real democracy cannot be sustained for long. As LaRouche wrote, democracy is no longer possible in most of the world today, and will not long continue, even vestigially, inside the United States itself—without early and drastic reversal of policies typified by House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract on America."

The IMF's murderous regime, of course, is carried out under the banner of "free trade." But, as LaRouche pointed out, the concepts of "freedom" and "democracy" which are behind these IMF policies first appeared in Athens, circa 400 B.C., when the Democratic Party of that day "democratically" murdered Socrates, for the "crime" of questioning the wrong-headed axiomatic beliefs of the ruling oligarchy.

So, today, those who attack the policies of the IMF and World bank are labelled "anti-democratic." Those who attack the policy of using "free trade" as an instrument of genocide, are accused of being "authoritarian" or "communist." Yet, if you do not object to such a fascist notion of "democracy," you make yourself, in fact, a Nazi-like accomplice in that willful mass-murder which is the actuarially foreseeable consequence of the "free-trade" policy.

The issue before us today is not "democracy"; after all, Adolf Hitler was elected democratically in 1934. The issue is the defense of the republican nation-state, and the rights of its citizens to economic and cultural development. To that end, let us abolish the IMF, and replace it with an alliance of sovereign nations: a New Bretton Woods system.