

Shanxi province, where Zhu was making an inspection tour. Singh said that the focus of their discussions was that “India and China have set as principal objectives to remove poverty and increase the living standard of the people.” This is a critical question.

In China, national concern about the stagnating—or even, in some areas, falling—living standards of China’s 800 million farmers, is growing fast; this was a leading issue at the national congress sessions in Beijing at the beginning of March. From Shanxi, Zhu Rongji reported that agriculture is now a “weak link” in China’s national economy. The slow growth of farmers’ incomes, a problem exacerbated by China’s entry into the World Trade Organization, could, he warned, undermine China’s reform, development, and stability.

In India, the already-huge impoverished section of the population is also growing, even as the middle class grows, creating a crisis similar to that which China faces.

In Shanghai on April 1, Singh gave his only public speech. He described the broader strategic relationship between the

two nations, stating that “recognition that India and China view their own security and their own interests in a broader framework than the immediate neighborhood, must underpin our new relationship.”

In this same time period, former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, who, during his visit to New Delhi in December 1998, had made the historic proposal for creation of a “strategic triangle” of cooperation among Russia, China, and India, was also in Beijing. On April 2, Primakov addressed Beijing’s leading military academy, the China Society for International Strategic Studies, on the strategic situation since Sept. 11, and met with Zhang Wannian, vice-chairman of China’s Central Military Commission. The next day, Primakov met President Jiang Zemin. After the discussions, both sides emphasized that China and Russia would expand their strategic and cooperative partnership, in the interests of world peace and stability. Primakov, although he is no longer in any government post, pledged that he would continue his efforts to enhance the two nations’ strategic and cooperative partnership.

Commemorate The Malvinas War By Freeing Seineldín!

by Gerardo Terán

On March 26, Brazilian Colonel Pedro Schirmer (ret.) delivered a political bombshell to the Casa Rosada, the Argentine Presidential palace. As director of the prestigious Brazilian newspaper *Ombro a Ombro*, and as executive secretary of the Brazilian Committee for the Freedom of Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, Schirmer hand-delivered a letter from his committee addressed to Argentine President Eduardo Duhalde, urging the release of Colonel Seineldín, who has been a political prisoner longer than any other in Argentine history. An undisputed hero of the Malvinas War, Seineldín has been behind bars for 11 years, serving a life sentence imposed by the Argentine courts for having led a military uprising on Dec. 3, 1990.

Colonel Schirmer told the Argentine military officers who formally received the petition on behalf of President Duhalde, that the best way to commemorate the April 2nd 20th anniversary of the Malvinas War would be to free from jail one of its most important heroes, Colonel Seineldín. Argentine radio, TV, and print media gave prominent coverage to the Schirmer mission.

While the epicenter of the political upheaval triggered by

Schirmer’s visit was at the Casa Rosada, the effects of his visit were felt throughout the nation, and beyond. This is because of two intersecting aspects within which the Brazilian committee’s action took place: 1) the persistent and growing collaboration between Seineldín and U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and 2) the deadly political and economic crisis facing Argentina today.

As to the former, the week leading up to April 2, the 20th anniversary of the Argentine retaking of the Malvinas Islands from British control, was marked by two international seminars—one in Buenos Aires on March 26, the other in Rio de Janeiro on April 2—which featured messages from both LaRouche and Seineldín, exploring the strategic significance for today of that anniversary, and of the coincident 20th anniversary of LaRouche’s 1982 policy paper on how to solve the global financial crisis, “Operation Juárez.” Below, we feature those two messages in their entirety, as well as excerpts of the speech delivered at the Rio event by *EIR*’s Brazil correspondent, Lorenzo Carrasco.

With regard to the latter aspect, Argentina finds itself disintegrating before the horrified eyes of its own population



Argentina's Malvinas War hero, imprisoned for the past decade, Col. Muhamed Ali Seineldín.

and paralyzed political class—and the sadistic smile of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the international banks. Official unemployment has reached 25% of the labor force; 43% of the population is living in poverty; the Argentina peso has been devalued by some 75% since January; an inflationary spiral has been unleashed which has surpassed 25% since January; and the most basic family needs—food and medicine—are growing scarce.

In the face of this, the Duhalde government has stumbled into making one concession after another—albeit reluctant ones—to the IMF and the international financial oligarchy. The hiring of Henry Kissinger's firm, Zemi Communications, as "advisers" for these international negotiations, is only the most recent and pathetic of its capitulations. And all because the Duhalde government refuses to consider any option outside the framework of the current world financial system.

Not so Seineldín, who has repeatedly emphasized his support for LaRouche's proposal to establish a new international financial system, a New Bretton Woods, to replace the current bankrupt and criminal system of the IMF. And LaRouche, as is well known, is the statesman who is organizing patriotic forces in nation after nation, so that, together, they will be able to overthrow the international oligarchy's control.

To these two considerations, it is necessary to add the fact that, in the political desert that today is Argentina, Seineldín draws 7% to 10% in the polls in favor of a government under his Presidency. Such figures become even more significant, in light of the fact that sources close to the military figure insist that it is not Seineldín's intention to contend in the upcoming Presidential elections. However, he has emerged as the only leader with the moral integrity and patriotism to direct Argentina along the path of progress and the general welfare. These sources say that Seineldín has become the most interviewed man in the country, and that in the past two years alone, has given more than 1,000 telephone interviews to the press, radio, and television. Recently, more than 8,000 supporters marched in Buenos Aires' Plaza de Mayo to demand his freedom.

Following the refusal of both the Argentine Justice and Defense Ministries to meet with Colonel Schirmer, he delivered his letter to the Presidential headquarters. The mere presence of a Brazilian colonel at the Casa Rosada got a response from the Casa Militar (Duhalde's military cabinet), which sent a representative to officially accept the letter from Schirmer. According to what Schirmer later told *EIR*, the military officer who received him pledged to personally deliver the appeal for Seineldín's release to President Duhalde. The letter was accompanied by the signatures of some 150 high-level reserve officers and prominent civilians of Brazil. Previously, Brazilian military figures as high-level as former President João Baptista Figueredo, had spoken on Seineldín's behalf.

At the very hour that Schirmer was delivering the committee's petition, one of the most popular television news stations in Argentina, *Crónica TV*, was broadcasting the news, including a textual reading of the appeal. The news was also broadcast by major radio stations, such as *Rivadavia* and *América*, as well as by at least two other television news programs. The next day, the newspaper *La Prensa* also published a story on the petition submission.

Ibero-American Integration

Also on March 26, which was the second day of deliberations of the First Ibero-American Congress on the Malvinas and the South Atlantic, organized by Colonel Seineldín's political secretary, Héctor González Viana. Colonel Schirmer received an ovation from the audience when he reported his proposal to President Duhalde, that the best way to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Malvinas War would be to free from jail one of its most important heroes, Colonel Seineldín. Schirmer stated that he and his committee colleagues were certain that a man who loves his country and has sacrificed for it, should be able, under the current grave circumstances afflicting Argentina, to lend his invaluable services and not be kept imprisoned. Schirmer warned that neither Argentina nor Brazil could escape the current crisis on their own.

Also participating in the conference were three representations of the international LaRouche movement: Lorenzo Carrasco, Gerardo Terán, and Diana Olaya de Terán, who addressed matters related to the current international strategic picture. The conference was also the occasion for the release of the first edition of the bulletin *Brazil-Argentina: The Hour of Truth*, published by LaRouche's Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), and by the Movement for the National Identity and Ibero-American Integration (MINeII), which is oriented by Colonel Seineldín. The bulletin reports on the efforts that both Argentine and Brazilian citizens have undertaken during last year and this, through seminars whose purpose is to achieve the integration of Brazil and Argentina, as an axis for Ibero-American integration, around LaRouche's proposal for a New Bretton Woods.