

A Commander Must Think Of the General Welfare

On Nov. 5 in Saltillo, the capital of Coahuila, Lyndon LaRouche gave a press conference during which he was asked about the Utopians' efforts to take down the national military. The questions are paraphrased from LaRouche's English interpreter.

Q: There's currently a big crisis in Mexico, with regard to the Army, and so forth. Would there be any interest on the part of the United States, in being behind such a crisis? Also, we look at certain other countries, where this has occurred—look at Chile, look at Venezuela—and I understand that you have information about the activities of the United States in those countries where there is a strong, established army.

LaRouche: The point is, one of the most important oppositions to the proposed war in Iraq comes from the U.S. Army generals, as expressed by some of the retired generals, especially, like General Zinni, the Marine Corps general. The generals know and understand, especially since Vietnam: The leading generals, retired and active-service generals, today, in the United States, served as junior or field-grade officers in Vietnam . . . and the thing that's on their mind is: How can we prevent a piece of idiocy like Vietnam from happening again?

These are not the greatest strategic thinkers in history. Their initial education and post-war leadership was bad. But, a general officer, who commands troops, especially Army, has to deal with the reality of the population, including their own troops, and infrastructure of the society. Any competent officer, military officer, thinks like an engineer: You win wars, not by killing; you win wars by engineering, the way the United States won World War II, by engineering. We had logistical capabilities beyond anything.

What happened at the end of the war is, these nuclear warfare freaks: world government through nuclear warfare. They're a phenomenon like Hitler's SS. They hate the regular military. The regular military, the Army officer, a commander who deals with troops and the population, must think in terms of the general welfare. He can not be an inhuman beast. So therefore, they respond in that way. Whereas, these guys who want to make the war, are not military people.

So you have, throughout Central and South America, an attempt to destroy the regular military institutions in the Central and South American nations. Who wants to do it, is the war-party! The war-party are not the regular military. The war-party in the United States are draft-dodgers! They think like the Nazi SS. That's the problem.

Q: Would there be an interest in the part of that war-party to, right now, weaken the Mexican military?

LaRouche: Absolutely! It's obviously a target. This crowd in Washington would want to wipe out the last general in Mexico.

States, as an historical phenomenon, has great relations with the world. The objections to the present policies of the United States, are that the world sees this as repudiation of the United States' own mission in history. Prior to 1971, the United States was looked at as a champion of freedom of nations, of sovereignty of nations. Since that time, and since Indochina, there's been a highly visible, increasing, imperialistic tendency in Washington.

So, around the world, I find that most governments and peoples, their attitude toward the United States is, "Why can't you go back to being what you used to be?" Not under Woodrow Wilson, but under President Franklin Roosevelt. And that's the problem. We just have to put the focus on it. The United States policy is wrong, but the United States has to go back to becoming itself. The present policies don't work, so it's going to have to change.

Q: Mr. LaRouche, you have said that a generation, 25 years, is needed, for you to change the course of the United States and the world. Why 25 years?

LaRouche: Because you have to look at capital factors. We

do not have, at present, the levels of income, among nations, to sustain themselves. So therefore, we must borrow from the future, to rebuild in the present. The borrowing should take the form of long-term capital improvements. That is, investment in infrastructure, which requires a quarter-century at least—water systems, power systems, they're all quarter-century investments. To develop new industries, is also a matter of a generation. You start small, but it takes a generation to bring them up to your objectives. So, we must create credit for capital investment, capital improvements. We must try to achieve full productive employment. The greatest cost in any national budget is large unemployment. If people are working productively, the nation can survive. If you have a vast army of unemployed, the nation may not survive.

So, we're going to have an indicative plan, like President Charles de Gaulle of France's indicative plan. I know in Mexico, for example, in the files of government, there are many plans. Every Mexican government used to make plans, new plans! Many of them were very good! The plan to move the water from the south to the north on the Caribbean and Pacific Coast, is good. To shift the population concentration from