

Myanmar that the measures taken following the incident were temporary, and we looked forward to the early lifting of restrictions placed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD members.”

In other words, ASEAN will not play the destabilization game. Nonetheless, this call for progress towards democracy within Myanmar demonstrated ASEAN’s intent to work for a solution, and allowed Secretary Powell to express his approval of the ASEAN approach to the issue.

In a concluding irony, the ministers of the ARF nations “welcomed the offer of Myanmar and China to co-chair the Inter-Sessional Group on Confidence-Building Measures in the next inter-sessional year.”

Reconciliation Is Urgent for the Region

Hassan Wirayuda, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, was reported to have proposed that an ASEAN Ministerial delegation visit Myanmar. Such a delegation, if approved by the Yangon government, might help to bring a resolution to the political crisis, but would undoubtedly also address the issues which are far more pressing to all the ASEAN nations—building regional economic development as the necessary response to the collapsing dollar and to U.S. imperial threats.

Myanmar represents a crucial crossroad for the great infrastructure projects now coming to fruition in Southeast Asia, including the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) project, which is extending rail connections westward to India through Myanmar; the East-West Road connecting Bangkok to India via Myanmar; and the North-South “Asian Railway” from Singapore to Kunming, which also passes through Myanmar on one of the two planned routes.

Some accommodation between the opposition and the military is urgent. Aung San Suu Kyi, whose father, Aung San, led the independence movement in Burma, must play a leading role in any solution. But, in the view of UN Envoy Razali Ismail, she must also be willing to learn, and change. Razali, who commands the greatest respect from all but the extremists in Washington, warned at a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand on June 14, after his visit to Yangon, that “if you hit too hard, the moderates or the pragmatists [in Myanmar] will be at a disadvantage.”

On Suu Kyi, Razali bluntly reported: “How to compromise, how to do things, how to endear herself to the military for a while tactically, she does not know how to do it. That’s the problem with Suu Kyi. She’s brilliant, she’s beautiful, but she’s very difficult, too.”

American Congressional yahoo Mitch McConnell, the author of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, and an elected official who appears unwilling to hear anything that doesn’t fit his preconceptions, responded to Razali: “In the future, it might behoove Razali to temper his enthusiastic comments to more accurately reflect the climate of fear in Burma.”

Mexico

LaRouche’s Friend Wins Debate in Nuevo León

by Zaid Jaloma

The political battle against U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and his chicken-hawk faction in Washington, became one of the central issues of the June 16 televised debate among the seven candidates for governor of Nuevo León state in Mexico. The candidate of the Social Alliance Party (PAS), Benjamín Castro—also a leader of the LaRouche-associated Ibero-American Solidarity Movement—placed the fight between U.S. Presidential candidate LaRouche and Cheney, as a key questions affecting the security of Mexico. “The main problem of Nuevo León and of Mexico is the war party within the U.S. government, headed by Dick Cheney,” said Castro at the beginning of the debate, adding, “We should back the efforts of Democratic candidate Lyndon LaRouche, my personal friend, and of other forces in the United States, to oust Cheney.”

Castro analyzed the other main security problems affecting the state, pointing to the serious problems of the drug trade and those who promote its legalization. Castro insisted that the drug trade should be attacked, with the firm support of the Mexican Army—especially from the standpoint of drug money laundering.

His rivals had barely assimilated his first statements, when Castro elaborated his educational platform, which generated a great deal of commentary. He called for “launching a movement for Classical culture . . . to educate our children in science and advanced technology, in nuclear science, in genetic engineering to defeat epidemics. . . . But we must also beautify their souls with Beethoven, Mozart, and Cervantes. . . . We are going to teach them to have a mission in this life: Building a nation, that is their mission.”

‘He Let Them All Have It’

In this, the only televised debate to include all the candidates in Nuevo León’s July 6 gubernatorial election, as throughout the electoral campaign, Castro has been the only candidate to establish a reality principle. He not only succeeded in blowing apart all the localist fantasies peddled by his rivals, but his candidacy garnered third place, according to the polls following the debate, including one conducted by SABA Consultores.

Perhaps the best expression of Castro’s impact appeared in the popular newspaper *El Regio*, whose June 17 evaluation

of the debate stated, “The one who shone was PAS candidate Benjamín Castro, in denouncing the waves of economic aggression against Mexico by large U.S. companies. . . . He let everyone have it—the Mexican government, the U.S. government—and he covered a lot of ground and made people look favorably on him, since few knew him before the TV debate.”

Castro had not only to battle the adversity of the majority of the media of Monterrey, Nuevo León’s capital, but also to break through the perverse manipulations of the very political party for which he is the official candidate. It has completely cut off his campaign funding, due to pressure from forces in Washington disturbed by the way a friend of LaRouche’s has been able to define the political agenda of the election.

Castro’s influence began to be felt from the very launching of the campaign months ago, through posters and banners displayed throughout most of the metropolitan area of Monterrey, as well as his television advertisements, which have had a strong impact on the population. In his literature and in his speeches, Castro has repeatedly pointed to the threat to Mexico’s Burgos Basin gas reserves by the Cheney-linked Halliburton, Inc. and other members of the “Houston Cartel,” as well as the importance of developing the Great American Desert—which extends from northern Mexico to the U.S. Southeast—by means of great infrastructure projects that the United States and Mexico could jointly construct.

‘You Must Detox From Soccer’

Following his statements on security and education, Castro turned his attention to the issue of employment and the economy. This third intervention substantially altered the speeches by the other candidates. Castro argued that “the next governor of Nuevo León, no matter who he is, will be governing a bankrupt state. . . . It is a systemic crisis, and we have to face up to it, like it or not. . . . Instead of cutbacks, suspending projects, and laying off people, I propose that we promote major instructional projects . . . to link Nuevo León and Mexico to the movement of nations that are battling economic depression, by building the Eurasian Land-Bridge and a New Bretton Woods financial system,” a reference to two key economic proposals by Lyndon LaRouche.

Natividad González Parás, the candidate of the PRI party, echoed the importance of building infrastructure, in one of his interventions, to which Castro replied: “It’s great that you’re picking up on my ideas, but the gas from the Burgos Basin should not be handed over to that group of bankrupt companies who make up the Houston Cartel.”

None of the candidates could dispute with Castro about the ongoing financial disintegration, the importance of infrastructure, the rise of epidemics as a result of the economic crisis, or any of his other economic arguments, not even when the PAS candidate challenged them directly, saying: “You refuse to recognize reality, trapped in your beliefs and illusions. . . . You remind me of the passengers on the *Titanic*.”

Then, Castro focussed the discussion on his audience, the



Nuevo León gubernatorial candidate Benjamín Castro has made Lyndon LaRouche’s fight to oust Cheney’s chicken-hawks, and LaRouche’s economic strategy, central to his campaign—with powerful results.

electorate, because “it is with the electorate that I want to debate. . . . The problem also lies with you. . . . You must give up the hiding place of ‘private life,’ and take charge of public affairs. . . . You must detox yourselves from soccer, that new opium of the people. . . . You must do all of this and join with me in facing what is to come. . . . This time, elect a governor.”

After the debate, the popular Multimedios television program *Cambios*, moderated by architect Héctor Benavides, did a telephone interview with Castro, on the financial difficulties that have confronted his campaign. The next day, Radio Alegría, a station which has always attacked Castro, received a flood of telephone calls about his polemical comments on soccer. The impact of his statement was such that the newspaper *El Regio* began a column entitled, “The new opium of the people.” María Julia Fuente, the moderator of the Multimedios program *Telediario*, broadcast a complete segment of the debate, in which Castro talked about drugs and money laundering. And Gregorio Martínez, moderator of the Televisa program *Las Noticias*, broadcast the final section by Castro, dedicated to the LaRouche Youth Movement, which is rapidly growing and “invading” the streets of Monterrey in a fundraising effort for the Castro campaign.

These are the words still resonating in the ears of the electorate: Castro addressed those youth “who support me, and and who enable me to stand strong in the face of attacks. These are youth to whom globalization would deny a future, condemning them to the fleshpots, to drugs, to unemployment. . . . They have decided to be larger than their destinies, and they have taken up a mission in this life. . . . They have decided that there is no greater work of art than to build a nation . . . that there is no greater pleasure than to serve others, and that the greatest excitement comes from the pleasure of knowledge . . . of dominion over the biosphere . . . of the greening of the Great American Desert.”