

intending to seek a UN resolution handing over authority to that body.

Zapatero added, “The government, inspired by the deepest democratic convictions, does not want, cannot, and will not act against or in disregard for the will of Spaniards. . . . The decision also reflects the aim of contributing to the fight which the international community is carrying out against terrorism on the basis of the strictest respect for international law.” He added that Spain would continue to work for democratization of Iraq, and would “promote whatever actions by the United Nations and the European Union offer a framework of international cooperation that contributes effectively to Iraqis regaining their sovereignty, and being able to organize their elections freely and democratically in order to build their own future in peace, independence, and security.”

Following the announcement, Spaniards streamed into the streets of Madrid, in an impromptu demonstration of support. Meanwhile, other governments began to rethink the wisdom of deploying against Iraqis. Portuguese Interior Minister Figueiredo Lopes told public radio a day earlier, “If the conflict were to deteriorate, and the GNR [National Guard] did not have what it required to carry out its mission, the only solution would be to withdraw.”

At a meeting in Kiev over the same weekend, the defense ministers of Ukraine and Poland decided that their troops in Iraq should be confined to strictly peace-keeping operations and not take part in any offensive military activities. They confirmed that they would continue the pull-out of troops from several cities under the control of the al-Sadr militias—which was ordered at the peak of armed clashes two weeks earlier—within the Polish zone where the two nations have their troops. The Kiev decree was seen as a prelude to accelerated troop withdrawal, as a debate is coming up in the national parliament of Ukraine soon, on the nature of Ukrainian interests in the world.

Honduras and the Dominican Republic followed Spain’s lead, while doubts were being voiced in Thailand regarding deployments. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on April 19, that the 400 Thai medical and engineering troops in Iraq would have to be withdrawn if the situation there were to become so dangerous that they were unable to carry out their mission. “The safety of Thai troops in Iraq is my first priority, followed by their humanitarian mission,” he told reporters. “If we are able to administer medicine or help in rebuilding we will maintain our presence, but we will return if we cannot carry out our duty.” Defense Minister Chettha Thanajaro said on April 20 that Thaksin, who announced earlier this month that Thailand was reconsidering its deployment to Iraq, would make a decision on the issue. The Thai troops are based at Camp Lima in the holy city of Kerbala.

And, in the United States, families of soldiers are organizing to withdraw the troops. The LaRouche Doctrine provides the framework for the only way this can be accomplished.

LaRouche Initiatives for Peace in Southwest Asia

These are only some of the major initiatives taken by statesman Lyndon LaRouche, toward peace through economic development in the Southwest Asian region.

April 1975: Lyndon LaRouche, after travels to Baghdad for meetings with Arab leaders, announced a proposal for Middle East peace based on economic development of the region, as part of his proposal for a new International Development Bank (IDB) reorganization of the world monetary system. The proposal detailed a plan for the industrial and agricultural development of the region stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean and from Syria to Afghanistan.

November 1975: LaRouche and associates organized a seminar in Paris to present his Middle East development plan to the Arab nations. Virtually every ambassador from the Arab states committed to attend the seminar, which was to have been held at the Iraqi ambassador’s residence.

November 1975: LaRouche met in New York with Israeli leader Abba Eban on his proposals.

1977-78: LaRouche held several meetings with World Jewish Congress President Nahum Goldmann on LaRouche’s proposals for the Mideast.

August 1977: LaRouche wrote an article, “A Future For the Middle East,” which was published in the Paris-based Israeli newsletter *Israel & Palestine*. “In general,” he wrote, “without direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO, there can be no Middle East settlement for the foreseeable immediate future. The objective basis for a Mideast settlement is the economic-development package we have indicated. Any other approach will fail, will be quickly degraded into farce—and probable war.”

March 1978: LaRouche wrote a strategic evaluation report, published in *Campaigner* magazine and titled “A Machiavellian Solution For Israel,” which emphasized: “Without a massive economic development program for the Middle East, no political basis for peace exists in that region.”

Spring 1980: LaRouche’s presidential campaign committee circulated a white paper titled “U.S. Middle East Policy.”

June 1980: A LaRouche Presidential white paper, “This Camp David Fiasco Must Be Scrapped,” was issued.

December 1982: LaRouche representatives travelled to Egypt to discuss economic development proposals. Egyptian Agricultural Minister Yossef Wali endorsed *EIR*’s call to

make Egypt into the “Japan of Middle East”; he added, “It is stupid to follow the IMF’s orders like the Bible or Koran.”

December 1983: LaRouche called on Israel to work with PLO leader Yasser Arafat to bring peace to the region. “Mr. Arafat is the established leader of what is in fact a government in exile of the Palestinian Arabs. . . . If we are going to deal successfully with the Palestinian Arab people, it is with Mr. Arafat’s leadership that we must deal.” LaRouche issued a “Proposal to Begin Development of a Long-range Economic Development Policy for the State of Israel,” which was circulated widely there by LaRouche representatives sent there for that purpose.

1984: During 1984, three trips to Israel were taken by representatives of LaRouche, in order to argue for his development proposals.

August 1986: LaRouche extended his full support to the renewed proposal of Israeli leader Shimon Peres for a new Marshall Plan for Mideast-wide development. “What Mr. Peres, and also the authors of a parallel Egyptian proposal, have presented as a ‘New Marshall Plan’ policy, addresses two immediate problems suffered by both Israel and by moderate Arab nations . . . Egypt most notably: the depressive effect of a debt-accumulation that is no longer payable, and the psychological impact of economic decay upon the populations and political stability of both Israel and Arab nations. . . . The problem has been aggravated to the extreme, by the lunatic ‘conditionality’ policies of the International Monetary Fund.”

August 1988: LaRouche’s Presidential campaign issued a pamphlet, *A new Middle East Policy Is Urgent*, which was circulated widely in the Southwest Asia region.

July 1990: LaRouche warned against British and Israeli efforts to trigger a new Mideast war; he issued his broadscale great-projects approach to water and power development for Southwest Asia, the “Oasis Plan” (see page 14), again calling for emergency economic development as the *sine qua non* of progress to peace.

September 1990: In an *EIR* Special Report titled *Bush’s Gulf Crisis: The Beginning of World War III*, LaRouche stressed that “without a policy of development, the Arabs and Israelis have no common basis for political agreement; no common interest.”

April 1991: LaRouche’s Presidential campaign widely circulated a 32-page pamphlet, *Demand Development in the Middle East! Stop Bush’s Genocidal New World Order*.

March 1992: A full-page advertisement by LaRouche’s campaign committee appeared in the March 6 *Washington Times*, titled “LaRouche was Right; Great Projects to Develop the World.” Among the 18 Great Projects referenced is the

Mideast Oasis Plan.

July 1992: LaRouche representatives in Jordan widely distributed LaRouche proposals on regional economic development.

September 1993: Responding to announced Oslo Peace Accords, LaRouche hailed this event as “monumental as the fall of the Berlin Wall.” In a public statement, he emphasized: “The urgent thing here, is that we must move with all speed to immediately get these economic development projects, such as the canal from Gaza to the Dead Sea, going, because if we wait until we discuss this out, enemies of progress and enemies of the human race, such as Henry Kissinger and his friends, will be successful, through people like Ariel Sharon’s buddies, in intervening to drown this agreement in blood and chaos.”

April 1994: LaRouche addressed the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow on his Oasis Plan.

October 2000: LaRouche’s article, “The Bestiality of the Fundies” pinpointed fanatical “Christian Zionists” as the crucial factor pushing a Middle East War.

January 2001: LaRouche addressed a conference in Khartoum, Sudan on “Peace through Development Along the Nile Valley, in the framework of a New, Just World Economic Order.”

June 2001: LaRouche issued a statement on “Why Israel would Now Lose a New Mideast War,” warning against a military escalation.

August 2001: LaRouche released the statement, “President Bush Must Change His Mind Quickly,” urging the President to curb the Israeli Defense Forces’ escalated war in the region.

March 2002: LaRouche issued a statement of support for Israelis resisting Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s “Warsaw Ghetto” policy for the West Bank and Gaza.

May 2002: LaRouche addressed a webcast on the “Middle East Blow-Back Effect.”

June 2002: LaRouche addressed a conference at the Zayed Center for Coordination and Follow-Up, in Abu Dhabi, devoted to the question of “Oil and Gas in World Politics.” In his speech, entitled “The Middle East as a Strategic Crossroad,” LaRouche dealt with the ecological, economic, and strategic aspects of the petroleum-rich Southwest Asian region, from the standpoint of its potential role as an economic crossroads in a world economy revitalized under a new world monetary system.

June 2003: LaRouche travelled to Turkey, where he spoke of reshaping the Southwest Asian region for peace. One of his major speeches was entitled “Eurasia: New Key for Global Development and Peace.” It dealt with the role of this region in the Eurasian Land-Bridge project.