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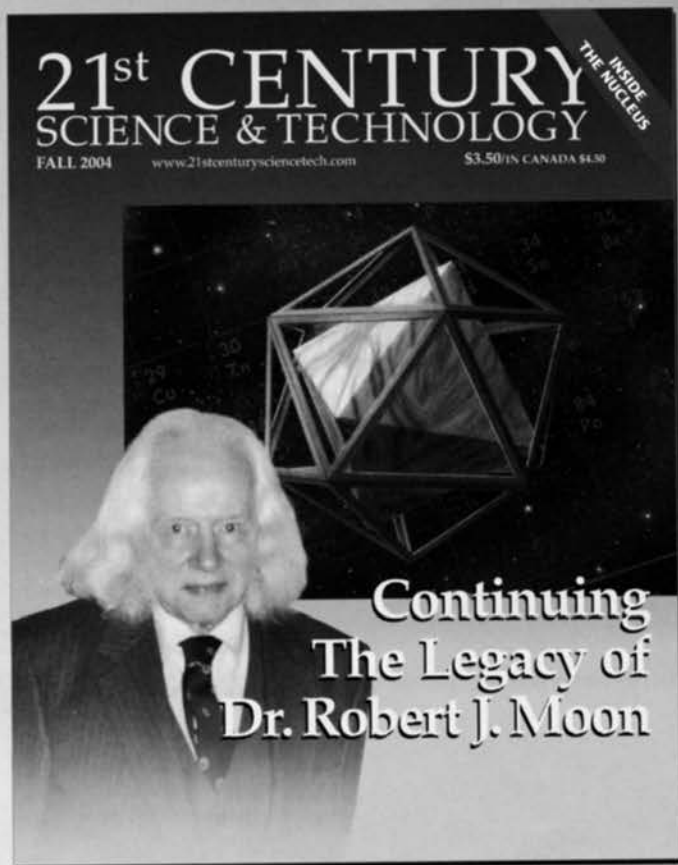
November 26, 2004 Vol. 31 No. 46 www.larouche.com \$10.00

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**On the Death of Arafat:
A Turning-Point in History**



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*EIR (ISSN 0273-6314) is published weekly (50 issues),
by EIR News Service Inc., 217 4th Street, S.E.,
Washington, DC 20003. (202) 543-8002. (703) 777-
9451, or toll-free, 888-EIR-3258.
World Wide Web site: <http://www.larouchepub.com>
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European Headquarters: Executive Intelligence Review
Nachrichtenagentur GmbH, Postfach 2308,
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0963, 55-46-2597, 55-46-0931, 55-46-0933 y 55-46-2400.

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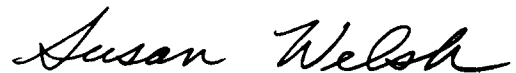
Postmaster: Send all address changes to EIR, P.O. Box
17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.

From the Associate Editor

The coinciding of the death of Yasser Arafat with a new ratcheting-downwards of the global financial-economic crisis, and an ominous new “post-Fallujah” phrase of the Iraq War, places us at a strategic branching-point which requires emergency action by governments. Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. lays out what must be done, in several contributions published in this issue. In an interview with Philippines radio, he emphasizes the breakdown of the world economy, proposing the declaration, by a concert of sovereign governments, of a state of emergency, to put the existing monetary-financial system into bankruptcy receivership. These governments would then extend credit for priority projects in development of the physical economy, with an emphasis on a rapid increase in productive employment.

That, too, is the policy urgently required to solve the Israel-Palestine crisis. Our *Feature* reprints LaRouche’s Nov. 12 statement on Arafat’s death, to introduce a package in which three distinguished participants in Mideast peace efforts over many decades—LaRouche, Israel’s Max Ghilan, and Sen. George McGovern—discuss their respective views of Arafat, the failure of the peace process, and where we go from here. Ghilan reports the fascinating history, in which he was a major player, of how Israelis and Palestinians sought, slowly, to overcome all obstacles and speak to each other about how peace could be achieved. His report is sobering, but not ultimately pessimistic. Like LaRouche, he stresses that economic development, combined with social development on a moral foundation, “has its own way of making things go forward.” This is precisely what has been lacking.

Other articles this week further develop the point that, “It’s the physical economy, stupid”—as LaRouche stressed in the last weeks of the U.S. Presidential campaign. Our *Economics* section analyzes what’s behind the Central American drug-trafficking gangs known as the *maras*, which are terrorizing countries throughout the Western Hemisphere. This is the face of a New Dark Age, the result of globalized free-trade looting by the financier oligarchy—and a deliberate *policy* by those out to destroy the institution of the sovereign nation-state.



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during a visit to
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On the Death of Arafat: A Turning-Point in History

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Editors' note: *American statesman Lyndon LaRouche has long made the point that bringing about justice in relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, is a sine qua non for achieving peace and stability in any part of Southwest Asia, and, in fact, in the rest of the world. Now, the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has brought that question into an even more crucial phase, of either crisis or opportunity.*

In our package below, we bring our readers an in-depth picture of the history of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, from an eminent Israeli, Maxim Ghilan, who was there many steps of the way. We then present two crucial elements of the solution to the impasse: a profile of jailed Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti, and a quick review of LaRouche's Oasis Plan, which would provide the essential economic foundation for a lasting peace.

To begin, however, we reprint LaRouche's Nov. 12 statement on the significance of Arafat's death, which we published as an editorial in the last issue, but serves as the appropriate umbrella concept for this package as a whole.

The death of Chairman Arafat defines a crucial turning-point in current world history. The world at large is challenged, at this ominous moment, to face the implications for the planet as a whole, of failing to take the occasion of his passing as the moment at which the world at large must act, even for the most selfish motives of many among nations, to set into motion, at last, a peace of the kind which would set the departed Chairman's soul at rest. It must be an action for peace which begins where the unpunished murder of

Israel's Prime Minister Rabin unleashed a new wave of horrors, the wrath of the fabled Erinyes, throughout the region, and beyond.

Now, the so-called Middle East as a whole, which were more wisely named Southwest Asia, is at the verge of a great horror now spreading from the sheer, brutish insanity of sending U.S. Marines and others, to waste their lives for no just reason in the inexcusable conflagration in Iraq's Fallujah. Matters in a region of currently escalating asymmetric warfare, which includes both Egypt and Sudan, immediately, and reaches beyond Syria into Turkey and the Caucasus and adjoining places as a whole, have reached the critical moment at which any present escalation of the conflict within any part of that region unleashes an incalculable escalation of murderous chaos throughout all parts of that region, and also far beyond.

All of the tension and related dangers throughout the region center upon the long-tortured nerve-endings of the long Arab-Israeli conflict. Now, since President George W. Bush, Jr.'s launching of the fraudulently motivated recent and continuing warfare in Iraq, the present, added threat against Iran, and the level of tension throughout the entirety of Southwest Asia and beyond, no nation of that region, including the state of Israel, could outlive the growing, spreading holocaust which failure to bring about Israeli-Palestine peace would now promptly unleash. It is past time that the great precedent of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia be now, promptly invoked by all relevant nations, including those of Europe and the U.S.A., to nail a killer like Sharon to the table of constructive movement for peace with the



Let it be written on a monument to Chairman Arafat: "Brave heart, now rest in peace."

Palestinians. It could occur, if the combined nations of the U.S.A. and Europe would take any necessary action to bring about both those negotiations, and their assured prospects of early success.

Let it be recognized, as even many right-wing Jews do know this, that the hard core of the right-wing Protestant Zionists of the U.S.A. are the worst sort of anti-Semites. These include anti-Semites who intend, without blushing, to bring about the foreseeable slaughter of Jews who do not convert to their peculiar Gnostic variety of "Christianity." No longer must that lunatic fringe of the U.S. right wing be permitted to impose its perverts' intention as reflected policies of the U.S. government.

At this moment of Chairman Arafat's passing, the hope for peace, and guilt for failure to bring about peace, rests entirely upon the shoulders of the incumbent U.S. President George W. Bush, Jr. The credit, or blame now lies with him, above all other persons. For once, at last, he must face up to the true responsibilities of his office.

Nothing—absolutely nothing!—must stand in the way of bringing the process of peace to a kind of agreement modelled upon the Peace of Westphalia.

Let it be written on a monument to Chairman Arafat: "Brave heart, now rest in peace." Let it be remembered from the signing of the Westphalia treaty, that there is no cure for deep hatred, but a brave act of love.

Dialogue With Maxim Ghilan

Arafat's Legacy and The Quest for Peace

Maxim Ghilan, a long-time fighter for peace, is the editor of the newsletter Israel & Palestine Strategic Update, as well as the founder of the International Jewish Peace Union, the first Jewish organization to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as a partner in dialogue. He gave this briefing to EIR staff in Leesburg, Virginia, on Nov. 12, 2004. He was introduced by Michele Steinberg. Some of the questions have been abridged.

Steinberg: I'm happy to present an old friend of the LaRouche movement, a freedom fighter for liberty of all people. If you read the interview that Maxim gave to *EIR* last Spring¹, you know that he is a strategic analyst, and that is a very, very important function, especially among peace advocates in Israel.

Maxim moved to Palestine in 1944 from Spain. His father was abducted, by the Franco fascists, and never seen again, and his mother moved the family to Palestine. And his has been a rewarding, but not an easy life, something that we understand and admire. And he's here in the United States—he's been here many, many times; and he's fought for the last three years against the neo-cons in Israel, and here, against the religious extremists of all types. We're happy to have him here at *EIR*.

It's a very tough time. As he said earlier this week in Washington, the loss of President Arafat, of Chairman Arafat, is not only the loss of a great statesman, but, in this case, the loss of a very personal friend. And he's going to be speaking very strongly, throughout the United States and the world, that this death will be honored in a way that leads to peace and justice. I'll let him tell you about that. . . .

The Self-Definition of the Palestinians

Ghilan: Let's make it from the beginning, a dialogue. What is the main concern you would like me to speak about first? Anybody has an idea? President Yasser Arafat?

Okay. We are—I'm almost tempted to say "as usual"—in a moment of great crisis in the Middle East, in fact, a world crisis.

Yasser Arafat, my friend, was really, up to his death, and

1. "Israel's General Staff: 'A Bunch of Dr. Strangeloves,'" *EIR*, June 4, 2004; "To Be Ethical and Still Succeed," June 18, 2004.



Maxim Ghilan: "I'm not a dreamer. I'm a political plumber. I try to unblock ice! That's not a very idealistic job, because you dirty your hands, and also because you deal on both sides with killers."

is, even after his death, the linchpin of the political situation in the Middle East. Apart from the occupation of Iraq, there is no single element or individual that had, and has, so much importance as Yasser Arafat. He is as important as Franklin Delano Roosevelt was during World War II, for instance, for the world, a defining and determining personality that has prevented the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and also the West-Islamic or West-Arab conflict, from degenerating into chaos, and from becoming a wild, barbaric struggle or battle.

Arafat was a great politician, a great statesman, a man who was, above all, the incarnation of the Palestinian will to national independence, true independence. He opposed, in this role, all the Western and Eastern powers that exist or existed, including the now-collapsed Soviet Union, using, wherever he could, his relations with everybody, but always defining things in terms of the need of the Palestinians to grow together, from individual, persecuted refugees, or oppressed people, into, first, a nation-state without a formal framework; and then, into a nation with a conscience of its own, with an attitude toward this of its own.

Arafat founded Fatah on Jan. 1, 1960. Fatah was the na-

tional liberation movement, the main party—it still is—of the PLO, the Palestine Liberation Organization; and he took over the PLO from a stooge of the then-Arab governments, which tried, and succeeded, in controlling the Palestinians from 1947-48, when the big war of Israeli independence occurred, which the Palestinians call "the catastrophe," *Naqba*, until 1960.

From 1948 to 1960, the Palestinians were a confused mass of people, who had no specific definition as a national movement. Arafat changed that by taking over the Palestine Liberation Organization, giving it a goal of national struggle, for independence from the Israelis, but also from the Arab countries.

He did three important things: He pulled together a coalition of all the political movements of the Palestinians, most of which were also armed-struggle movements—from the Marxist-Leninists of the Front for the Liberation of Palestine, then led by Georges Habash; to movements aligned with Arab states: Iraq, Jordan, and Syria, among others—into one big coalition called the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He started a struggle for the creation of a Palestinian state, which at first was defined as all of historical Palestine/Israel: the land between the Arab desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

Now, this dream was accompanied by the idea, that this state should be a democratic, secular state, where all the three monotheistic religions can live together in peace. Arafat and his movement at that stage, in the early '60s, did not define the Israelis or the Jews as a nation or as a people, but as a religious group which had taken over from others.

Later on, in the late 1980s, this goal was changed to the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, along the Green Line, which is the pre-1967 borders of Israel, to make it an independent Palestinian state.

Also in the late '60s, under the pressure of the armed struggle between the parties, which was always to the advantage of the Israelis, Arafat decisively influenced his movement's leadership, and that of the wider PLO—not only Fatah—to adopt a new attitude, which was that they would accept to talk to Jews who are "progressive," meaning Israelis who are not opposed to the Palestinians as such. At that time, you must remember, Golda Meir said, "There are no Palestinians, only Arabs." So the fact of self-definition was psychologically and politically as important as anything else in this struggle.

The Beginning of Israeli-Palestinian Contacts

There had been contacts between Palestinians and Israelis before, especially between the Israeli Communist Party and the Palestinian Communist Party, through a number of channels. But never before had the PLO been willing to recognize the existence of freedom fighters, or real democrats, in Israel, who were either Zionists or non-Zionists, but not Communists nor aligned with an Arab movement.

This changed in the early '70s. I had the privilege of being one of the first two non-Communist Israelis who were received by a PLO representative, Said Hammami in London. I am not, and never have been a Marxist-Leninist.

The other Israeli was the late Shalom Cohen, Secretary General of the Israeli, Oriental Jewish “Black Panthers”—which is a completely different movement from the U.S. group, but which took them as their example, because the Oriental Jews were rather downtrodden by Israeli society at that stage. And, Shalom Cohen was also the co-publisher of Uri Avnery’s *Ha’olam Hazeh* (“This World”) weekly.

We were received by Said Hammami, the PLO representative in London, who was asked by Arafat to get in touch with us. As a consequence, after a relatively short time, Said Hammami was assassinated. And so it went on, with any number of Palestinian activists or leaders, who worked with me, or who worked with a number of parallel Israeli peace camp activists or organizations.

There were four channels of contact: One was the Communist Parties, talking to each other, with the support of Moscow.

There was an effort, orchestrated by a dissident Communist leader, Egyptian Jewish leader in fact, Henri Curiel, who found himself opposed very strongly by the Soviet secret services. The Soviets accused him of being a CIA agent—and the CIA accused Henri Curiel of being a Cuban agent. The fact was, that he was an independent man trying to build bridges, supported by only one other Communist Party at that time, that of Palmiro Togliatti in Italy. Togliatti was the founder of most Communist Parties in the Middle East. He founded the PKP, the Palestinian Communist Party during British Mandate times, which was a Jewish-Arab party. He helped found two Communist groups in Egypt, one led by Henri Curiel, and the other by Arturo Schwarz, who was also Jewish. They were tiny, and they came, not out of the population, but out of the bourgeoisie. Both were born of Italian parents. You know Italy had a very strong influence on Egypt and Tripoli, in what is now Libya, before World War II.

Arturo Schwarz, to give you an anecdote, was found guilty by the British, of being an Italian spy—he was in fact, an anti-Fascist. He was sentenced to hang until death. They put him on the gallows, but Arturo Schwarz weighed more than 120 kilos, so the rope broke! It’s a true story. And the British have this tradition, from feudal times, that if the rope breaks, you don’t hang the man a second time. So, he lived.

Henri Curiel’s group was persecuted, thrown in prison. Most of its members were Egyptian Jews, with some British servicemen participating. One of the members, a man who is still alive in France, called Raymond Grinspan, took it all upon himself, and was sentenced to seven years in jail, worked hard labor for seven years with 15 kilos of chains on his feet.

The others, one way or the other, were expelled from Egypt, and arrived in Paris, and founded an international left-



Arafat addresses the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 13, 1974. As PLO chairman, he defined for the Palestinians a goal of national struggle for independence from the Israelis, but also from the Arab countries.

wing movement to aid peoples of the Third World, called “Solidarity.” They were very active in South Africa against the apartheid regime. And among other things, they smuggled Breyten Breytenbach into South Africa, but he was arrested. They were also active in Guatemala and a few other Latin American countries.

In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Henri Curiel worked to create bridges between the Egyptian left-wing party and the Israeli peace camp, which then was far stronger than it is now.

At that time, among the members of Gamal Abdel Nasser’s fellow three officers, was a left-winger, Khalid Muhi ad Din, as well as, of course, Anwar Sadat—who was very right-wing; in fact, he was pro-fascist, pro-Mussolini and pro-Hitler before that. Sadat was also a very strong believer in Islam.

You know, the people of the Arab area worked mostly against the Allies in World War II, for the simple reason that “the enemy of my enemy is my friend.” The anti-British Jewish underground did not do that, since the main enemy were the Nazis, who were destroying them. But even there, in the early 1940s, there was an effort to found an alliance between the Stern Group and the Nazis against the British, who found out and used it as propaganda against the Jewish



Henri Curiel, the Egyptian Jewish leader and dissident Communist, was one of the first to work to build bridges between Arabs and Israelis.

underground. So, there was always, on both sides, this duality of “our interests,” and “let’s play with the enemy of our enemy.”

Anyway, Henri Curiel had contacts with one of the colonels who made the revolt with Nasser, who was a left-winger, in fact a member of the evolving leftwing party of Egypt: Khalid Muhi ad Din. And he proposed, through the good offices of the Italians, the first Jewish-Arab Middle East conference in Bologna (which was a Communist municipality), which ultimately was held in 1972.

In the preparations for this conference, Curiel went to Muhi ad Din; Muhi ad Din went to Gamal Abdel Nasser, before he died, and told him, “I want to go to that conference.” He had helped organize this, but he didn’t tell that to Nasser. So, Nasser looked at him, and said, “Okay. You can go, and participate. But you are not to talk to an Israeli, even through the intermediary of one third person.” He said, “I promise.”

In these preparations, I was asked among others to go to Italy, to Rome, and meet with the Egyptians, to help prepare the conference. So I went with Henri Curiel’s—I must underscore that I was not in Curiel’s movement; my activities were separate, but I cooperated with them, because they were doing the right thing at the time. I went with Joyce Blau, who was the second in command of Curiel’s group and his secretary, and we sat in the lobby of a hotel.

So, I sat here; next to me sat Joyce Blau; next to her, one of the younger leaders of the Egyptian Communist Party who had just gotten out of 12 years in jail; and then, Khalid Muhi ad Din, the Minister. And he spoke to his man, who then

spoke to Joyce, and she told me what he said—so he kept his promise: no third person! It gives you an idea of the atmosphere at the time!

Then, in 1972, we had that Bologna meeting, and that was the beginning of opening contacts, parallel to those between the Communist parties, because Curiel was very well aware that the Moscow-controlled Communist parties did not represent forces which could go deeply into either the Palestinian or Israeli societies.

So, Curiel—who considered himself a Communist—created alternative, parallel channels to those set up by the Communists, in fact, through three different channels. One was my office in Paris; I published a publication, a monthly, called *Israel & Palestine Political Report*, which now comes out as a newsletter called *Israel & Palestine Strategic Update*. And I had, of course, a number of contacts and activities around this—that was the pretext.

The Struggle for a Sane Israel and Palestine

There was a parallel link, with the Oriental Black Panthers and other movements, which considered themselves to be Arab Jews, downtrodden in Israeli society. But, that didn’t go very far, because the movement of the Israeli Black Panthers was undermined through drugs and through double agents of the secret services. It was a genuine, grassroots popular movement, very violent, very ignorant of politics, manipulated and maneuvered from the beginning to the end. Some of the people ended as criminals; others ended as members of the Knesset of the Labor Party. . . .

And then, you had the non-Communist, Zionist peace camp people, who were led, at that time, by two personalities: One, you certainly have heard of, that is Uri Avnery, editor of the weekly called *Ha’olem Hazeh*, where I had the privilege also to be, at two opportunities, a senior collaborator. The other was the late Maj. Gen. Matityahu Peled—Mati Peled.



Uri Avnery, an Israeli editor and peace activist, was formerly a commando fighter.

He was *the* military governor of the Israeli occupation of Gaza in the early '50s. And, at one stage, he saw what occupation was doing, left the Army, gave the Army Academy all his books on the Middle East, studied Arabic, and became a peace fighter.

You must understand, that throughout the struggle for a sane Israel beside a sane Palestine, the people who were most effective, who were also the idealists, were people who had fought against the Arabs, and changed their minds, seeing the real situation. I myself was, at a very, very young age, a member of the Stern group. And I changed my mind, seeing Arabs being tortured, when I was in jail under Ben-Gurion—for nationalist reasons.

Mati Peled was a member of the General Staff, at the same rank as [Yitzhak] Rabin was then, and changed his mind. Uri Avnery was a commando fighter, and got his belly ripped open, in the struggle of '48, in jeep battles.

Now, you have the “refuseniks” in Israel; you have the pilots who are refusing to serve in the occupied territories—those are all people who are by no means “natural doves.” They are people who have fought, or were fighting, and they decided that the way this is being conducted leads to an abomination, and not to a free Israeli state.

I publish a Hebrew review, for instance, which is called *Mitan* (“Charge”). And my associate, who is also my Jewish associate in the Koah Yozen, the Jewish-Arab association I've created in Israel, is a former officer of the border guards, who was in command of a unit of Bedouins and of Druze fighters, pro-Israeli fighters—and he changed his mind, because he saw what was happening.

The left as such in Israel—the real left, as well as the Zionist left—is ineffective, because it keeps to itself. So, our best hope are people who are from the Zionist establishment, but who realize, for moral or intellectual reasons, that this is not the way to go. And the only way things will change, is if we educate more of these people to be on our side—especially younger people, of course, which I do.

Building Bridges

That's how it started: Uri Avnery and Mati Peled created something called the Israel Council for Israel-Palestine Peace, and also got in touch with the Palestinian leadership, through Dr. Issam Sartawi, who came to Paris precisely to do work with me, but also with Shalom Cohen and Uri Avnery. The late Dr. Sartawi, who was my friend, was a Palestinian heart surgeon, who had left his studies in Boston, to go and fight in the Karameh battle.

Karameh was the defining point of the Palestinian struggle: It was the first time the Palestinians fought back, in a battle in Jordan, on the Jordan-Israeli border, against Israeli tanks. They didn't win, but they inflicted casualties, and that became the sign that—whereas all the Arabs had failed in the '48 war—they were willing and able to fight.



Dr. Issam Sartawi, a Palestinian surgeon, became Ghilan's partner in negotiations with numerous Israeli political forces.

So, Issam Sartawi came to Paris, and in the course of events, became my partner in negotiations with a number of Israelis of both the Zionist peace camp, but also of a variety of other movements.

One of the dramatic events was in 1982, before the war in Lebanon for instance, when Moshe Dayan sent an Army officer to me, an emissary, to tell me of the plans of Ariel Sharon, so that I would publicize them in the paper. In particular, these plans included a Sharon plot to blow up the al-Aqsa Mosque. Dayan didn't want that to occur, because Dayan had another strategic view of things, and he probably saw me as a good channel.

Anyway, I published it, and I defined and described exactly what Ariel Sharon's plans were in the Middle East. He was the Minister of Defense, right after Menachem Begin. And another of his plans was to take over the oil in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, believe it or not—which, when it was made public, he had the military capability to do it! Of course, when the United States realized what he was intent on doing, they didn't exactly like it. You know, you don't take the playthings away from a big child, if you are a small child! So, that was squashed.

But, we did a lot of work. In the course of events, I met the whole Palestinian leadership, in a variety of places. In '77, I went, under the bombs of the civil war, to Beirut, to meet Abu Jihad, the Palestinian military commander, and tried to dissuade him from sending his Fatah fighters to kill civilians in Israel. This was just after an Israeli bus had been attacked by young Fatah members, who had crossed the border, and it was a slaughter—everybody died, including the Palestinians. In my first meeting with Abu Jihad—and it was his first meet-



Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas), one of Ghilan's interlocutors over many decades, became chairman of the PLO after Arafat's death.

ing with an Israeli—he said, “I welcome that you join our struggle!” I said, “Excuse me, sir. But, I’m not here to adhere to your movement. I’m here as an Israeli Jew, to try and establish bridges, because I believe that the way our country is doing things is wrong. But, I’m not here as a Palestinian. I’m here as an Israeli.” And he took it very well.

There were contacts in Vienna, in Geneva, in Paris, and a number of places—in Greece at one stage. And finally, after the Palestinians were thrown out of Lebanon, many times in Tunis, and at the two Palestine National Councils which were held in the late 1980s, in Algeria.

And during those meetings and others, I met the whole Palestinian leadership—Abu Iyad, Abu Jihad, Khalid al-Hasan, Abu al-Hol, and Abu Mazen, with whom I remained in permanent contact for many years, directly and through his people.

Most of these Palestinians who discussed peace with Israelis, are dead. Some of them were killed by the Israelis. Others were killed by a Palestinian agent of nobody-knows-exactly-who: what’s called “Abu Nidal,” the arch-terrorist at that time. Some remained alive, such as Abu Ala [Ahmed Qurei] and Abu Mazen [Mahmoud Abbas], whose stature was somewhat less than that of people like Abu Iyad. Abu Iyad was the equal, intellectually and in military terms, of Arafat himself. But he was killed by an agent of Abu Nidal, who was then executed by the Palestinians, at sea. No Arab country was willing to have the assassin killed on their soil, because they were afraid of Abu Nidal.

Then Issam Sartawi, my friend and co-worker for eight years, was assassinated at a meeting of the Middle East Committee of the Socialist International, where he represented the

Palestinians, in Albufeira in Portugal. I was supposed to be at that meeting. I was in Spain at that time, and Issam told me to come and meet with him at the lobby of that hotel. I had, for some minor reason, to go back to Paris—and that’s why I missed the moment when he was killed, in which probably I would have been killed, too.

That was only one of several times, when I was threatened with death.

Issam was killed. I went to his funeral in Amman. It was very much like a Mafia funeral, in so far as, at the funeral meal, sitting around the room were all the factions of the PLO, *including the Abu Nidal people!* They were there to pay their respects to the man they had assassinated! And I went up to Abu Jihad—later on, he was killed by Syrians—and told him, “Are the negotiations with the Israeli peace camp going to continue or not?” And, he said, “Yes. We have named a new representative to the Socialist International, as a symbol. He is a Palestinian Jew, Ilan Halevy,” a former Israeli Jew—a good acquaintance of mine.

So, these things went on. And we succeeded in bringing the negotiations with the Palestinian leadership, *against* the wishes of part of it—against the wishes of Abu Jihad, for instance, and certainly Abu al-Hol, at the beginning—closer and closer to the center of the Israeli scene. After those contacts, which I organized, there were contacts between the Mapam party, which is today called Meretz/Yahad. And at one point, some people in the Likud, from the grassroots, asked me to contact the Palestinians, but at the last minute, they got cold feet.

Efforts With Weizman, Goldman

At an early opportunity, it was the late '70s, I think—at a time that Menachem Begin was Prime Minister and Ezer Weizman, who then became President of Israel, was the Minister of Defense. Weizman asked a member of his opposition, Yossi Sarid, who is one of the leaders of Meretz, today, to go and try to establish contact with the Palestinians to see if something could be done.

Sarid was afraid to do it himself; but, with the aid of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria, whom I also met several times, contact was arranged. Kreisky sent a plane for Sartawi to go to Paris (he was in Vienna), and to meet with a journalist named Ran Edelist, who represented Sarid, towards a possible meeting between Ezer Weizman and Yasser Arafat later on. Under a Likud government, right? Back in the '70s. Edelist—also an intelligence person, as usual—met at my offices in Paris with Issam Sartawi. But then, news of this broke out in Israel, and the authorities demanded that Edelist return to Israel, otherwise they would expel him and his wife from the kibbutz where they lived. So he had to go back, and nothing came out of that effort.

And there were several other things like that. My point is to show that these negotiations, under Arafat’s impulsion, go back a long, long, long, long way.



Arafat once sought a meeting with Nahum Goldmann, the president of the World Zionist Organization, but it was blocked by then-Prime Minister Rabin.

Arafat's Legacy

I tell you all of this, because you have been hearing and reading about the military career and the political career of Yasser Arafat. I wanted you to get a feeling of who he was: He was a man who wanted, above all, the liberty of his people. But, he also was a man who was very realistic and wanted peace with Israel, because they had changed over from the idea of one democratic state, to a two-state solution, in the '70s. And then, in the '80s in Geneva, Arafat declared he was from then on against military struggle and he did not want the Palestinians to re-occupy all of the land, but only the territories taken away by Israel in 1967, which means Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

So, that was Arafat, as a man. As an individual, he was very ugly, and very likable. I remember once when I was at a conference for the First International Council in Algiers, and they were very much afraid for me, because inside the compound at the Villa des Pins, were the people of Abu Nidal who wanted to go back into the PLO. And if they had known an Israeli Jew was there, it would not have been a *simpatico* thing.

Arafat kept watch like a hawk, on some of his best people, like his directors of Cabinet, Dr. Sami Mussalam and Dr. Ramzi Hourri. Ramzi Hourri, you have seen recently on TV, is the man who always accompanied Arafat, and most recently, during Arafat's illness, you would have seen him on TV—the tall man, dark, curly hair, walking behind the sheikh who visited Arafat. That's Ramzi, a very good friend; a cousin of my best Palestinian friend, who's dead now, who was the second in command to Issam Sartawi, who was the man I worked with on the Palestinian side.

I remember Arafat, after waiting for 11 hours to meet him, with one thing after the other—I went there as a journalist, and I didn't want to be observed any place where Abu Nidal people were. So, he saw me, and took me by the hand, and pulled me through. But, then he talked to somebody, and the gorillas jumped with karate positions and didn't let me through. So, I had to go all the way to the place where he was giving an interview to Algerian TV, and wait for another four hours. And at the end, he took me into his sleeping quarters, took off the *keffiyah*, lay on his bed—he had a very bad back problem all his life; nobody told anybody about it, but he had a brace quite often under the *keffiyah*. And, we talked, and it was about the possibility of what can be done for peace.

And to my sins, I convinced him, at that meeting, among other places, that there were people genuinely interested in peace with the Palestinians on the Israeli side—which is *not* the case, and never was the case. They wanted a tame dominion, a bantustan, which Israel and the United States could control. And most of the people of the Likud want the same thing, except those who want gradually to expel the Palestinians from all of historical Israel-Palestine.

So, he was a great man. He was a man of peace, who knew

Then, there was an effort for the late Nahum Goldmann to meet Yasser Arafat. Arafat initiated it. Goldmann agreed, but he was then President of the World Zionist Organization (among other things), and he said he could not do it without the permission of then-Prime Minister Rabin. (That was the first term that Rabin served as Prime Minister.) There was a conference of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem. Said Hammami asked me to do something about it. I said I couldn't go to Israel—I was a political exile by then; they told me they would arrest me if I went back, because I had talked to the PLO.

So, I sent instead, my associate at *Israel & Palestine*, a man called Louis Marton, a Hungarian refugee, who fought in the students' movement against the invasion of Budapest by the Soviets, and then was very close to Nahum Goldmann. In fact, he founded *Israel & Palestine*, and found me, and we published it together, later on. So, Marton went to Jerusalem in my name, and talked to Goldmann, and Goldmann said, "I'm going to ask Yitzhak Rabin." He went to Yitzhak Rabin, and Yitzhak Rabin (who didn't like Goldmann) told him, "If you do that, I'll disown you." So, Marton went back; I went back to London, and told Sartawi, "I'm sorry, it doesn't work." And four days, after that, Fatah, after a truce of several months, attacked a hotel on the beach at Tel Aviv, and killed any number of civilians. It was a sign, you know: "You don't want peace, you can get war."

So, that was the atmosphere in which these things happened. In the end, a dialogue was started by the leaders of the Israeli government, [Shimon] Peres and Rabin. And you all know the results, which were a catastrophe in my eyes, the Oslo Agreements, which brought about a further crisis.

how to wage war. He was a diplomat. A very astute politician, who balanced among his own factions, and the movements which were not his, so as to continue the Palestinian struggle for independence.

But, he also had his faults, and I don't want to make a saint of the man. He was unable to conceive that somebody could share with him the unique position he held in the Palestinian camp, and never let a younger generation grow up under him. All the men who worked with him were people of his age, or slightly younger. But, the generation after that—including some *extremely* gifted characters, such as the one who is now a professor at Columbia University, Dr. Rashid Khalidi, and others—were not allowed to rise to a position where they could become the next generation of leaders.

Crisis in the Palestinian Leadership

And that is what has created, now, the present crisis in the Palestinian leadership. Because, what that means is, that you have Arafat. You have the older, and *weakest*, remnants of his PLO leadership: namely Abu Ala and Abu Mazen—and Farouk Khadoumi, who is a not a serious figure, and is isolated in Tunis, because he didn't want to go back to Palestine when Arafat went in 1993. He's nominally still Minister of Foreign Affairs, but not really (the real one is Dr. Nabil Shaath). Then, you have some gifted people, but also weak, like Nabil Shaath, for instance; or people who were followers, not primary leaders, like Abd Razek, who is one of the government people; and Saeb Erkat, the main spokesman and negotiator for the Palestinians.

And under that, you have a one-generation gap, and you have younger people from the interior. Because when Arafat came back, in '93, to the land of Palestine, there was of course, a local leadership. The bourgeoisie, but also people in the camps, who led on a popular level, mostly, but not exclusively, allied with the Popular Front, who then evolved and became part of the leadership of the Hamas and Jihad Islami.

That means, that the leadership under him which is effective, *the* person, most likely to inherit his place, is a man of one of the big families, called Marwan Barghouti, who is in jail for five life sentences; because Israel realized that he is as dangerous as hell, because of his strong leadership. He's a fighter. He fought with arms in his hands, which is one thing. He's from one of the big families; he's Fatah; and he was trusted by Arafat.

So now, the only solution that one can think of to get out of this crisis—if Israel and the United States *want* to get out of this crisis, which is not at all evident—is to let Barghouti out of jail; make him into the Palestinian Mandela, and have a Palestinian state under his direction created beside Israel.

But, they won't do it, because they don't want a Palestinian state beside Israel. They want chaos. At best, they want a Palestinian bantustan.

So, I will I stop here, and see what questions you have.

Oslo Accords: 'A Catastrophe'

Q: You mention that you saw the Oslo Accords as a catastrophe. I want to ask you to explain, to develop that a little.

Ghilan: Well, it's very simple: You don't make peace between two very cruelly fighting entities, in five years. You either make it immediately, in five weeks or five months, or you don't make it at all. Because, if you give these people five years—on both sides—the ability to try to pull the blanket to their side of the bed, you end without a blanket, right? Which is precisely what happened.

Rabin and Peres lied by saying that they were not going to continue with the settlements, and increased them, so that at the time of the Oslo Agreement in '93, you had 60,000 settlers; today, you have 230,000. They didn't come from nowhere—they weren't born there.

On the Palestinian side, Arafat promised to have 6,000 policemen, armed policemen, and brought in arms and had 60-70,000 people, which degenerated into a number of opposing and competing militias, occasionally even killing each other.

But the worst of all, was that it encouraged the fanatic Islamic—and not so fanatic Islamic—fringe, of the Palestinian people, to say, "No," to wage a war of terror, even from '93, from the beginning of the Oslo Agreement; which was taken as a pretext by the extreme right and the right in Israel, to refuse the Oslo process. They were talking about Yitzhak Rabin as a Nazi, and carrying pictures of him in an SS uniform; and to call the people who made Oslo, the "Oslo criminals."

So, this degenerated until the day, in November 1995, when one of the most extreme fringe people assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, which brought about elections. And Peres was defeated, among other reasons, because he tried to absolve himself in Israeli eyes by attacking Lebanon, and displacing 412,000 people in southern Lebanon, which caused the Arab parties in the Knesset in Israel not to vote for him, to abstain. So, he lost by a small margin to Benjamin Netanyahu, and the present disaster started.

So, I was against it, because it was not going to work! You can't have five years of negotiations. You cannot tell a people which has one-third or one-half of its families in refugee camps throughout the world, or outside of Palestine, that they will never, ever, be allowed to come back. You know, each of these people outside of Palestine, or outside of Israel, has family members in the camps in Gaza, or near Jerusalem, or even in Jaffa in Israel. So, you are talking to a whole people, telling them, "You know, your cousin whom you were going to marry, cannot come back." It's on a human level! It's not even on a political level.

So, that was basically why I was against Oslo. There were very precious few peace camp people, who shared my view. And of course, then, came what came.



President Clinton with Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat, after the signing of the Oslo Accords in Washington in 1993. Ghilan opposed the Accords, viewing the five-year timetable as much too long. "If you give these people five years—on both sides—the ability to try to pull the blanket to their side of the bed, you end without a blanket."

Opportunities for Peace?

Q: I saw these headlines on the newspapers this morning, and I would like to have your comment. The first one was, "Recalling a Fighter Who Made Mistakes." And the second, "After Arafat, New Opportunities for Peace."

Ghilan: The opportunities are not for peace, but for chaos. You don't replace a strong unifying leader, with—of all things—a bicephalous head of government, two weak personalities, who are not able to influence their own people, let alone such powers with clout as Israel and the United States. The opportunities are not for peace: The opportunities, at best—and it's not a very good best—are for Israeli domination of the Palestinians for the next 50 years. Which is not going to happen, because, with this Intifada under way, the popular rebellion of the Palestinians will go on, one way or the other. With pauses, going in periods—going down, going up. And the final result of that, is the growth of the extreme religious Islamic organizations, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Particularly in view of what's happening in Iraq. Because these people don't live far away, right?

So, opportunities in the eyes of America's press and media, are the opportunities for America to put its hand even more strongly on the Palestinians—which they believe will work! And I don't believe will work. Because, never in the history of mankind, has an imperial power been able to continue, repressing forever: Napoleon couldn't; Julius Caesar

couldn't. It hasn't happened! The Nazis couldn't, the French in Indochina and North Africa couldn't: *It does not happen*. It happens for a little while, and then, bloodshed and all the rest.

As for, what was it, a "strong fighter who made mistakes"? Well, he certainly was a fighter. He certainly made mistakes. But, I would say that any of the other leaders we have gone through in the 20th and 21st Century—including such a great man such as [Franklin] Roosevelt; men like Churchill, too—made mistakes. Show me one who didn't make mistakes.

The question is—you know, Harry Truman once was asked by Allen Dulles, or by somebody of his office, why he supported Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, I believe. He said, "Listen, sir. This man is a bastard!" Truman smiled and said, "Sure he's a bastard, but he's *our* bastard."

So, what the newspapers are saying—I'm sorry to be so blunt, but I don't think, with this distinguished audience, I should pull any punches. Sure he made mistakes. But, he made the mistakes which are *inconvenient to the United States*, not those which were convenient to the United States, otherwise he would have been praised as a very great leader!

The Problem Starts With the United States

Q: So, by process of elimination, you think the only chance for peace is if the United States were to get Israel to behave, by "main force" you might say? And to impose the process of economic development?



A Palestinian refugee family. To those who oppose the so-called “right of return” of Palestinian refugees, Ghilan states, “You are talking to a whole people, telling them, ‘You know, your cousin whom you were going to marry, cannot come back.’ It’s on a human level!”

Ghilan: I don’t understand what the question is. I agree with you, but what’s the question?

Q: By process of elimination, then, do you think that the solution must come from the United States?

Ghilan: The solution to the Palestinian problem is one thing. The *problem itself* is the United States. That’s where it starts.

If this country, which has become, at least nominally the one great power of the world—not for long, because China is getting to be a bigger power, and so are others. But, just now, it is the strongest force in the world. Now, my opinion is, that an empire, a wise empire, has the obligation to be a king-maker, and not a king-breaker: to take people it wants to control, and put—as Rome did for a while—leadership, or the same leadership they had, which then paid tribute to the central empire. That’s the intelligent way to make it. The only empire that did it after Rome, in an intelligent way, was the Ottoman Empire. All the others want to impose their will, “We are the biggest. We are the strongest. We are the three-

ton gorilla, we sit anywhere we want.” Right?

That is, of course, self-destructive, not to speak of being destructive of other people. Because you create a backlash, and not just a backlash of one go, but a *permanent* backlash: You create a cultural desire to continue fighting forever against the occupation or oppressive power. So, that’s precisely what an empire should not do.

Now, of course, I don’t have to explain to you people, of all people, what the Bush regime is. So, in other words, sir, if I understand you rightly, you say that you’re sure that economic development should be encouraged by this country so that the Palestinians and the Israelis could work together. Sure, that’s true. But, will the U.S. do it? That’s the question—I mean, let’s look at the essentials: The essentials are, this country and its ally Great Britain, have been now, for 20 years or so, trying to impose their will on the Middle East without success. In fact, I think that the greatest help to the creation of a social liberation movement, disguised as a religious fanatic movement—and I mean the Islamic Jihad people, and bin Laden, and so on—the biggest encouragement to these people has been the Bush regime. Maybe not by intention, but certainly by actual fact. Maybe, yes, by intention, I don’t know. But, I don’t want to go into that, in fact. You know, the fact is, they have created bin Laden. And bin Laden has helped Bush to get elected, with his statement just before the election. And it’s, as usual, innate association of the extremes.

The Israeli Political Fight

Q: I want to know what your view is on how it might be possible to get Marwan Barghouti out of jail?

Ghilan: If Bush orders so. Only way. Or, if Sharon succeeds in overcoming his innate hate of the Palestinian leadership and lets him out in order to strengthen his own efforts to remain in power—which is a possibility, but by no means a probability.

Q: As a followup to that, could you give an assessment of the internal political situation in Israel?

Ghilan: Well, the situation is as follows: Israel is, and always was, divided into three camps, politically speaking: a majority of right-wing people, both extreme right-wing and conservative, which, at this stage of history is about 40-45%; a minority of peace-wishing people, not very different from the others, but with a less extreme view, of say, 25-28%; in the middle, you have this camp of people who are undecided, and who have a propensity to go with the strongest personality that leads the Israelis. At the beginning, when Sharon was elected, he was elected by an over 60% majority, but only of 40% of the voters—all the rest just didn’t vote. So, he really was voted in, not really by a majority. But, nevertheless, democratically, he was elected Prime Minister in a legal manner.

The present situation is, that due to the continued war against the Palestinians, but also due to the extremely bad



Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres (right) with U.S. Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld in Washington, Oct. 22, 2001. Peres “is one of Ariel Sharon’s best friends! Always was. He’s a personal friend, when they are together. And he wants Labor to rejoin the coalition.”

economic situation, which hits the people at lower levels, and even at middle-class levels, there is an encrusting of the situation in Israel, and the extreme right is against Sharon. Sharon himself has this attempt to evacuate the settlers of Gaza, leave the military around it, like an armed prison camp; and to occupy, forever, another part of the West Bank, including the city of Ariel, which is 14 kilometers inside the West Bank, away from the Green Line, from the border between Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The Labor Party wants this plan. Shimon Peres is one of Ariel Sharon’s best friends! Always was. He’s a personal friend, when they are together. And he wants Labor to rejoin the coalition. But they have difficulties in doing that, because the Likud’s neo-conservative economic plan is so disliked, so hated by the popular masses, that if Labor did that again, for the umpteenth time, many of its voters would leave it.

Israel’s Disastrous Economic Policy

So, you have a problem: Labor has to say, “Yes, we’ll join Sharon, but only if Sharon changes economic plans”—which he cannot do, because he has promised the United States not to do it. Because Israel is, today—and you must realize that, it is a very important point for your activities in the United

States: What is happening economically in Israel is a pilot project of what they want to do in Britain and the United States. *Precisely* what they want to do. Study the Israeli economy in the last three years, and you’ll understand what they want to do in the economy here.

Q: Can you say more about that?

Ghilan: Well, they have eliminated whatever welfare measures there were, for instance, for single parents. They take away the support for single parents, who often have several children, when they earn more than 2,500 shekels. Now 2,500 shekels, you must calculate yourself—4.5 shekels are \$1. You can pay your rent with that, right? Or, barely. Up to now, they would get a pittance, 2,000 shekels for the children; now they’ve taken that away. So, what it means is, people are on the dole. And that, too, stops after six months.

They’ve thrown out of geriatric institutions, people with Alzheimer’s. But as if that were not enough, they’ve taken away social payments for women to deal with Alzheimer’s patients at home.

So, this is real, rapid euthanasia. Nothing else.

They have cut the salaries more and more. They have given, just like here, income-tax reductions to the upper classes, and very high taxes to the lower classes. And so on and so forth. The differences are, 1 to 100 sometimes.

A family of five in a “development town,” which means a slum, earns about 3,500 shekels a month, five people, living, typically, in a two-room flat. A director of a bank branch in a big city, earns 35,000 shekels a month. Directors of big banks, big corporations, and so on, get benefits of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of shekels and dollars, permanently.

The settlers get their home subsidized. You can get a villa in the occupied territories, in the West Bank or in Gaza (mostly in the West Bank), with mortgages for 20 to 25 years, which you don’t even have to start paying at once. If you want to have a mortgage to buy a flat in a “development town,” you have to put down at least one-third of the money, then you pay interest on the rest of your loan for 20 years, at 14-18% a year—to give you an idea.

Now, one-third of all children in Israel—and I’m talking of Jewish children as well as Arab children, not in the territories, but in the State of Israel—go occasionally hungry, *don’t eat* in a day. Fifty percent to 60% of all Israeli children are below the poverty line.



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the Pentagon in 2001. Sharon's economic and social policies, Ghilan states, are a "pilot project" for what Sharon's circles internationally want to do in Britain and the United States.

That's what they are doing. They are sacrificing what used to be a solidarity policy for Jews—against Arabs, of course—to a policy, of "let the devil take the hindmost."

There are other things, but I think that will give you a picture.

Q: What's going on, politically, with this displaced section of the population? Who do they ally with?

Ghilan: The Likud. With the right.

Q: But, the Likud is the one that implemented their poverty.

Ghilan: Exactly. But, they have been brainwashed in separating totally what is called the "security problem," which is the Israeli-Palestinian war, and the economy. They don't understand that the money which goes to the settlements and the Army—which gets an *immense* amount of money—could go for social services. They don't relate them! They have succeeded—and there, too, it's a pilot project, compared to this country—in dissociating, in the minds of the people, two related problems. Just as they have succeeded, here, in speaking about "family values" and "moral problems," and saying it has nothing to do with the war in Iraq, or in Palestine, or it has

nothing to do with the human rights of people here, including the ethnic minorities. People believe it!

I organized a meeting in Jaffa town, which is a slum-town of Tel Aviv; in Jaffa, you have typically 80,000 Jews, 30,000 Arabs, and about 25,000 illegal foreign workers from Thailand, the Philippines, China, Nigeria, Moldova, you name it. (You must understand, you have half a million foreign workers in Israel, who do all the dirty work, and 350,000 of them are illegal; they just stay there. That's another aspect.) So, in Jaffa you have this problem, and of course, the Jewish and Arab citizens started fighting, already. So, I told them, "What are you fighting around? You should be at the Ministry of Economy, demonstrating against [Finance Minister] Netanyahu! What's the point? And the Russian Jews and the Oriental Jews, the Moroccans, fight each other, instead of marching on the Ministry of Economy. You fight among Jews and Arabs: You have mostly the same simple problems. You've got drugs, and lack of employment, and prostitution, and poverty, and sewers overflowing. Get together and do something!" But, it doesn't happen.

Israel is a society divided in many sectors, and this is okay with the Israeli leadership.

Dreams and Reality

Q: It's clear to me you had a dream, and you've lived your life for that dream. I had the same dream in the early 1970s, when I met the LaRouche movement. And we stood on the street corners of New York, and demanded economic development for the whole region, and that that was the only solution. Today I'm reminded—because I was going to ask also about the Oslo Accords—of Lyndon LaRouche's immediate press message, and I believe it might have been from jail, was, "The shovels must start digging, within days." That was his response to that initiative.

Well, we don't want our dream to die. And I want to know what your idea is, for the flank today, to secure that potential for that region.

Ghilan: Let me clarify one thing: I'm not a dreamer. I'm a political plumber. I try to unblock ice! That's not a very idealistic job, because you dirty your hands, and also because you deal on both sides with killers.

One of Dayan's aides, who brought me that bit of information on Sharon in the early '80s, asked me, "How can you sit with Abu Jihad? He's a killer." So, I said, "Listen—you've never killed anybody?"

That is my job! To deal with killers! And try to make them into men of peace. That *is precisely* part of my job.

And, the second point, Madam: We cannot change reality [just] because we dream something, because we have an idea. We can change something because we believe, if other people do the wrong thing, we have to do the right thing, whatever the cost. And I don't have to tell you people, among others, about that: whatever the cost. And, you have to do things the

right way: If it doesn't change present reality, it will for sure, influence future reality. So, what you do, is not lost. It's not in vain. What I do, is not in vain.

After Oslo, I wrote an article, asking Abu Mazen, and Abu Amar [Yasser Arafat], asking them to forgive me for having deluded them that these were the right people on the other side. But today, again, I've changed my mind, because I believe that what I did for all these 23 and a half years, when I was a political refugee, helped shape the minds of quite a few people, *even if* they say one thing and mean another, like the Israelis and their leadership. But, their lies are going to become the truth, because of the situation evolving.

And without people saying and doing the right thing, for years and years, and seeing themselves slapped in the face, this would maybe not have happened. Things don't happen by themselves; they happen because people say and do the right thing.

So, I think you should take heart in the fact that you would say the right thing, as early as that.

The Israeli 'Peace Camp'

Q: Would you say more about the Israeli left being important? And, on the economic front, or their ideas of peace, which of course are related? And, specifically, the [Amram] Mitzna campaign?

Ghilan: Yes, well, that was a sorry thing—.

You see, you have two peace camps, or, if you want, two lefts. One is the Zionist left, which is overwhelmingly bigger than the non-Zionist left, to which I belong. The Zionist left, is people who would like things to be nice in the best of worlds. They would like a Palestinian state; even now, finally, they have become convinced that there should be a Palestinian state. Only—it should be a nice Palestinian state, which accepts Israel, Israel's economic and political domination, and the U.S. to impose what it wants on the Palestinians to be created; where you don't have to fight anybody, and so on. And Israel will live with that state, and be very happy, and you know, and they will say, "Yes, sir," "Yes, Saheeb," or whatever—and that will be that!

They don't *realize* that's what they're saying. But, when you ask them, "Would you let the Palestinians have open borders? Or an economy free of Israeli banks?" (which is not the case, now). They say, "No, of course not. Because that will threaten us." I say, "Look, the only thing that's not going to threaten you, is some kind of economic union under the auspices of a foreign power, that will allow people to have an *interest* in not killing you, *not* be a restraint from doing so. They'll kill you anyway, and you will kill them anyway, you know. It will go on, for as long as people can. And then, in the end, there will be a double-edged Jewish-Arab Shoah [Holocaust]." Which is what I expect to happen if we don't change the situation fast.

So, that's the Zionist peace camp. It does the right thing, quite often, always too late.

Then, you have the non-Zionist peace camp—and I mean everybody: from the Chomskyites, to the anarchists, to the Communists, to liberals with Libertarian views—I mean, I cannot even start to describe how many factions of tiny groups there are!

A year and a half ago, I had the beginning of the beginning of an initiative, to get all these camps pulled together, and try to create, towards the next elections—you have to have six months before the election, to create something—a united movement to get into the 120-men and -women Knesset, *one* delegate, who speaks otherwise. One. It happened once in Israeli history: That was Uri Avnery. But it was under different conditions.

I did not succeed in finding *two* of the 20- or 30-odd groups—to agree on the right person to stand at the head of such a movement. I gave it up as a bad job.

I have come to the conclusion that the non-Zionist peace camp, which has the right solutions of course—which wants a Palestinian state, beside Israel, and a real, free Palestinian state—will not succeed except in two cases: One, after two huge piles of hundreds, and maybe thousands, of corpses are heaped on both sides of the struggle. It's already happening far more than before, but, there are still not enough dead for these people to wake up, for the *people* to wake up, massively. Second, if there is a foreign intervention, which makes a separation—an armed truce separation—between Israelis and Palestinians.

Now, some people tell me, "So why do you want a two-state solution, and not finally one?" A Palestinian asked me this question, here in Washington, a few days ago. "Why not a unitarian, democratic secular state?" I said, "There's been too much blood shed—too much blood; too much hate. It won't happen! What we need is *20 years of respite*. Two states which exist, until something else happens." And this something else, is something which is happening in the world: You cannot deal any more with national problems and national conflicts, in terms of a one-to-one basis. There *are* other forces outside, I'm sorry to say! You can't just think about Jews, and Arabs, and Palestinians! There are other forces which put their spoon into this soup.

So, what are the other forces? The United States, in this case, the European Union, and the Arab world.

Economic and Social Development Are Required

It is quite obvious, that what is needed, and what is evolving, very, very slowly, is, parallel to the European Community, a Levant Common Market. And that confederation should be not only of Jews and Arabs, but also of Persians. . . . And that's what we have to wait for, and to strive for. To keep peace between the two until something bigger appears—

if it appears.

Now, of course, I have a proviso to that, which is, that both the Europeans, but to a much greater degree, the Americans, don't want such a confederation, because what they want is to continue dominating the area. The Europeans, who are closer to the area, would like to take over from the U.S., just as the U.S. took over from Great Britain and France in the Middle East.

But, it's going to happen! Because, once you start a process of economic development, it has its own way of making things go forward further and further. It's exponential. Economic and social development, if you accompany it by something that is not madness, but has some set of morals—and I don't want to dictate *what* set of morals; it can be religious, it can be social, it can be political, it can be psycho-cultural. But, if you have some set of morals, and you start economic and social development, it has a way of creating its own logic and its own development.

For instance, France and Germany were the greatest enemies, but once they got together, Europe afterward got off the ground. It's still a very bad European Community, with no social base for anybody, but it's better than it was in times of the wars.

So, we need time. We need time to salvage what can be still salvaged in the Middle East, and Israel, and Palestine. And we don't have time. And the biggest sin of the Bush Administration is that it doesn't allow for the future. It thinks things must be done now, in very negative terms. But, even if they were positive, you can't do things only by putting a lid on the conflict. It doesn't happen.

So, back to the lady who asked me about the opportunities for peace: Baloney! If you don't have a long-range plan to develop politically and economically, with foreign intervention, those two countries, and to integrate them into a wider system of economics—it's not going to happen! . . .

Nazi Penetration

Q: I was interested to hear that you went to Israel from Spain.

Ghilan: I was a child.

Q: The question I have is, that after World War II, there was a so-called "rat line" which was run by, among others, Allen Dulles, which went not only to South America, but also went into the Middle East, Syria—

Ghilan: And to America!

Q: Yes, and here, too.

Ghilan: There are quite a few sons and daughters of Nazis here.

Q: And from Spain, there was the Otto Skorzeny operation into Egypt. To what extent have you had an experience of running into this Nazi operation in the Middle East? To what extent has that been a factor in terms of the historical fight to establish peace there?

Clearly, in terms of Egypt, even during the period of Nasser, you had Skorzeny; you had people like Hjalmar Schacht, who were quite active in this area.

Ghilan: Well, Skorzeny later was coopted by the Israeli Mossad, as you know. And so, there's an Israeli agent.

You see, the Nazis are the baddies, the hoodlums of yesterday. After they were vanquished and they decayed, their remnants still had an influence, ideologically, in many parts of the world. Physically, in Latin America: Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina, being three—Chile, being four good examples. But, they also were considered, because they were baddies, ideal agents for all kinds of people to use them. And they were used! Everybody used the Nazis. The British, the Americans, which took up—intact—the whole intelligence apparatus of Nazi Germany, the Gehlen apparatus, and turned it over into a pro-American and anti-Russian operation.

But, they were the same people, as the people who had been working against America, right? The Israelis exploited the fact, that they had a handle on some of the Nazis, and knew things, and used them against Egypt; Egypt used them against Israel, under Nasser and before that.

These people became, from a major power, a minor instrument. And, of course, it happened also in the Middle East, because the Middle East has been internally fighting forever, right?

But, I would not put too much importance on the cultural, and emotional, and intellectual impact of the Nazis in the Middle East. In South America, yes. I think they were the base of some of the worst dictatorships, and probably helped plan Operation Condor, in which they started killing off people in all the Latin American countries, and so on. But, in the Middle East, it was a very minor point. . . .

The Vanunu Case

Q: I'm really curious as to what the real reason for the re-arrest of Dr. [Mordechai] Vanunu is. He spent 18 years in solitary confinement. He's been living in the church since he got out of jail. What secrets could he be planning to spill on Israel's nuclear capability?

Ghilan: None. He has no secrets any more. I mean, the whole of Israeli and world nuclear evolution has been so big, so many things have happened, that he knows nothing that could harm Israel, except the fact that Israel has a flourishing nuclear armament industry and facilities—which everybody, *but* Israel, says.

But, there is also a question here, of *pure personal hate*. There is a man, who is at the head of the Service Malmed, which is the "service for internal security of Israeli government services or organizations or ministries." And he has been persecuting Vanunu for years, I'm told, and has put him under the worst conditions, hoping to make him crazy in jail, which has not happened, because Vanunu is a very strong



Dr. Mordechai Vanunu was jailed for 18 years for “spilling the beans” on Israel’s nuclear weapons capability.

man. And, he has not let them put the limitations on him, the quite arbitrary and anti-democratic limitations, they want to.

You must understand: Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in jail. In Israel you usually serve two-thirds of your sentence at worst. Not in this case: He sat *18 years* exactly to the day. They said they put conditions on his liberty. In fact, they had *no right* to put any conditions, *because he had served his sentence!* So, he said, “No, I’m not going to accept those conditions. I’m going to talk to the press.” And he did. But, that gave to his personal enemies in the secret services, the opportunity of continuing his persecution.

Now, you must remember one little fact: Vanunu is not only hated by the Likud. The man who ordered Vanunu to be kidnapped and brought back to Israel, was Shimon Peres. So, you have a consensus of fools and baddies against this single figure, this single man, Vanunu.

I don’t agree with him totally, because I don’t think that a small country has less right to have nuclear armaments than a big country. I only think that some people should not be allowed to do so, because they are irresponsible: such as Sharon, or Fidel Castro, for instance. But, I don’t think that Cheney should have the right to control nuclear armaments, either, because he’s also irresponsible! So, the problem is not one of big countries against small countries.

And Vanunu has just not shut up, and with some friends, has become an international figure challenging the right of people to have nuclear armaments—of states. He wants nobody to have nuclear armaments, but that is unrealistic, to my sorrow.

But, still, his being arrested: I think they are just doing what he expects them to do, and he’s going to become a central figure again in the struggle against Israeli nuclear armament. Because, when [International Atomic Energy Association Di-

rector Mohamed] ElBaradei went to Israel, he didn’t say a single word about what was happening. This talk about Iran, that *maybe* can produce bombs, but everybody knows that Israel *has* armaments! So, what’s the logic, if you want to be logical? There is none.

Anyway, Vanunu is going to become again, a focal point. And if the Israeli Prime Minister has any sense left, he will let him out, and give him his wish, which is to leave Israel. He has converted to Christianity; he doesn’t want to be part of Israel any more; he says so openly. He doesn’t want even to speak Hebrew (which I am sorry about, because it’s a beautiful language); and he wants to get out and go on with his life. These idiots, these hating idiots, want to keep him in the country and go on punishing him. By so doing, they will punish themselves.

Americans Are Abysmally Misinformed

Q: I have three questions. One, was about the circumstances of you having been expelled from Israel.

And my second, which is somewhat tied to that, to the extent that you can say something about—without compromising anything—the discussions you’ve had since you’ve been here. The reason I raise this, is because, even among the best allies that we tend to have, politically, for example in the U.S. Congress, even the better people in the United States politically, are completely insane on this question of Israel, Zionism, and so forth. I’m not even talking about Bush! I’m talking about the Democratic Party, the people who otherwise collaborate with us, one opposed to the Iraq War, opposed to the insanity of George Bush: When it comes to this question—I have always found it the most difficult thing, and I’m sure you have the same history, of a family persecuted by the Nazis, to not be able to—

Ghilan: Oh, I have an interest in Auschwitz. My grandfather was there. They found his teeth and his beard. Which the Nazis wrote down in their ledger.

Q: And you’re obviously here in the United States at a point which is not an easy point, given what went on last Tuesday. But, even had Kerry won, the problem would still be here. So, I am just curious, in terms of the meetings that you’ve been having, the effect of those.

Ghilan: Okay, I’ll answer the second question first, because it’s the more important, of course. I can’t, obviously, and I don’t wish to, talk about what meetings I had, and have, and will have. . . .

My feeling is that, this country is not crazy about the problem, but it is *abysmally misinformed*, and under-informed. I think your media create slogans, create a way of seeing things, which then are taken up, and people say, “Wait minute, why has that happened?” The answer is, “It’s *not* happening!” [laughter]

I know it’s funny, but it’s also very, very sad: Because, I don’t want to see such a huge and interesting civilization as

the United States, become a band of idiots. Which is what this media system here is doing! Everywhere I went, in Connecticut, here, and New York, you have about two TV stations which talk some kind of sense, sometimes, for about 30 seconds. And the rest of the time, you get the same slogans. And once you are almost able to understand what this sound-bite, which happened to be close to truth meant, then come in the soups, and cars, and the rest of the advertising, and you get completely swept away in one of these beautiful cars, which don't exist any more, at a speed which is not allowed any more, and you say, "Well, maybe I'll buy this!" So, that's part of the problem.

The problem is *not* understanding, but to be allowed to know the facts, so you can have your own mind about it. And this is very difficult.

Okay, to the second question, I wasn't expelled from Israel. I went out of my own will. I thought I was going to be staying only one or two years abroad, in France. And after we started working on contacts between Israelis and Palestinians, I was warned, first by the Embassy, and then the secret services phoned my lawyer, for years, that if I continued, if I went back, I would be arrested and be put in jail for 15 years. I was caught in the emergency security regulations—which the British really drafted, and then were re-adopted by the Israeli government in '48, at the beginning of the state.

So, I chose to shrug it off, because I was not going to stop doing things because they tell me what to do. I remember, there was a guy, who came to me, who was then press attaché of the Israeli Embassy in Paris, Avi Primor, and became an ambassador in Beijing; and was in fact, the chief of station of the Mossad for all of Europe. He was an acquaintance; I knew him as a journalist in Israel. And he told me, "Maxim, why don't you work with us, and show us your newspaper before it's published and so on?" I told him, "Avi, I'm not in Israel! Here there's no censorship. I'm in France." And I disregarded him. And then, I heard from a friend in the Israeli Embassy that I was sending them the paper. And one day I said, I was fed up with sending it for free, so I sent them a bill, asking them to pay for it. And the man responsible for the propaganda department goes to his friend, who happened to be a very good of mine, a writer (and he told me this story). He said, "Look! There are these criminals, writing to us in Hebrew!" So, my friend looks at him and says, "What's the matter with you? Maxim has forgotten his Hebrew because he's publishing his paper?"

The moment you are not doing, psychologically, you are not in, you are out of your mind, but to a degree of fantasy. Same thing happens here. American Jewry, or rather its institutions, have been so brainwashed by the Israeli connection, that they really believe that Israel is the safest place in the world for Jews—which one may discuss, to put it mildly! They really believe, that if the Palestinians get a state, anti-Semitism will rise in this country and the Ku Klux

Klan will run across the streets with hatchets in their hands. They believe these things! And you *cannot* convince them [otherwise]. And the few good people, like Rabbi Hertzberg, or Henry Siegman, and others, who are saying something slightly different, or are opposed, are considered to be not "real" American Jewish leaders.

That reminds me of a story of the Nazi time: There was Göring, who was a great opportunist; he was the least ideological of all the Nazi leaders, and he stole a lot of artworks, particularly from Jewish families. Van Goghs, Picassos, whatever. Which was considered by the Nazis, of course, to be degenerate art, and Goebbels, for one, wanted to burn all of these pictures. So Göring, out of cupidity and his love for art, just stole these things. And the way he did it, was he found himself some Jewish brokers, and told them, "If you help me get these pictures, or artworks, I will allow you, after that, to leave Germany with your family. And those who give up their artworks will be allowed to leave to Switzerland."

So, Goebbels got his secret police, the SS, and the SS discovered this, and he rushed into Göring's office and said, "What are you doing! You are working with the Jews! To get the degenerate artworks." Göring smiled, and said, "I will decide who is a Jew!"

I don't think I have to elaborate.

Lebanon and Israel

Q: What do you think the Israelis intend for Lebanon right now?

Ghilan: I think the Israelis and the Bush Administration intend—we had a conversation together today with an American friend of Jeff Steinberg, who concurred with me in the same spirit. The man was very, very, very well-informed.

I think what the Americans and the Israelis are doing, first of all, is trying to destroy Syria, Bashar Assad's Syria, find an opportunity to depose him and name some Somoza-type of general in his stead.

More important, I think what the American administration—not Americans, not you—is trying to do, together with the Israelis, is change the nature of Lebanon. They have taken away [Rafiq] Hariri, who was the President. They will, in the words of this friend of ours, "whitewash him," and bring him back in a couple of years. And under him, they will bring to the Presidency of Lebanon, the putschist Gen. [Michel] Aoun, who is in exile in France, and who is, of course, one of the leaders of the Maronite militias. And who is the contrary of what is happening now, which is a unifying of all sectors of Lebanon, even if it is under the dictatorship of Syrian military troops, which are no better than Israeli military troops. But the fact is, that under this dictatorship, and Saudi economic control and investment in Lebanon, there has been a respite in that country. And this is now going to be broken.

And this, to my sorrow, France is helping, too. Why?

Q: Aoun is a protégé of whom?



Militiamen in Beirut, during the Lebanese civil war, December 1975. Today, Ghilan believes that the Bush Administration and the Israelis want to use Lebanon—and notably exiled Gen. Michel Aoun—as a hand-grenade against Syria.

Ghilan: Of the French. And the Americans don't want to have anything to do with him. But, now, they've changed their mind. Because, first of all, they want to drag in France, into the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan (where they already are, to some extent). Second, they need to defuse the European opposition to the American war against terror hysteria. But, third, and most important, they want to use French influence in Lebanon, which has always been present—the whole country was a colony of France at one stage, and now is still very strong among the Christians, but also among the Sunnis; not among the Shi'ites, who are the poorest of the country and the majority.

So, now they have found a common ground. It is a temporary alliance of two gangsters. Because, what you have, is the French are thinking they will recoup some of their influence in the Middle East, and they don't need Syria for that, because Syria for them is a waste of time. But, Lebanon, yes. And maybe that will open there the way—if Iraq is pacified—to participation in re-exploiting the oil, because the French have

lost heavily with the fall of Saddam Hussein. They were, with Germany, they were one of the major exploiters of Iraqi nationalized oil.

So, what is happening there, is collusion, with the idea that, in the end, they will put in Aoun, which is what the Americans give to the French, together with participation in the oil exploitation, if it ever happens, in Iraq. And, on the other hand, the French are, you know, quieting down, in what is and was, very strong French opposition to Bush's campaign, or crusade for democracy. . . .

[Bringing in Aoun] was impossible as long as France and the U.S. were at loggerheads over Lebanon. But, once this is not the case, then time will tell. Hariri will come back and Aoun will be brought in, and there will be another bloodbath.

Iran, Africa, and a Global Resource Grab

Q: In your interview with *EIR*, you said that Israel should not have nuclear weapons, because the IDF commanders were Dr. Strangeloves—

Ghilan: Some of them.

Q: Yeah. Enough of them, I guess.

Ghilan: A majority, yes. Not all. I mean, there's 40% who are sane people on the General Staff.

Q: But, now you've had, for whatever reason, these statements by ElBaradei and so forth, and the re-election of Bush. What about Iran?

Ghilan: Well, Iran is two wars away. The next war is going to be Syria-Lebanon. Well, the "next" war is ongoing: It's Iraq—and Afghanistan. Which I believe will spread the struggle against Islamic fundamentalism, will spread in the very near future to Africa. I think Africa is the next place. It's already started in Darfur, in Sudan. They've already used the ethnic differences between Arabs and blacks to create more hate and more dissension. Qaddafi has gone into the act, by attacking, verbally and politically, Egypt and Sudan from the west. The Garang people from the south. And whoever attacked in Taba and in Nuweiba, the hotels from the south. Egypt is targetted, and Sudan is targetted, and that's part of the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan, without any doubt.

But that's only the beginning. Because, under the North African coastline, there's a very rich lode of oil. And of course, the Bush Administration's strategic doctrine is to control *all* the oil reserves in the world, directly through armed presence. We have this lode going all the way from Sudan, Tripoli, Tunis, Algeria, but just below them; and then down into Niger and Nigeria. And Nigeria has already started.

Another phenomenon in Africa, is that you have a cultural confrontation, a religious-cultural confrontation, between the invasion which has been going on now for two centuries, of fundamentalist evangelical missionaries, and Muslim missionaries. The Muslims in Africa are identifying more and more with bin Laden. You know, in Africa, as

well as in such places as Singapore, they sell T-shirts with bin Laden on them! He's a very popular hero of the Third World. I'm sorry to say, but it's true.

And, there is going to be a bid, to secure the oil for the West. And I think that Qaddafi has understood that and has pre-empted it by going over to the West before they do it. Which is what he has done. He also has second thoughts, because he thinks that he can become the main influence on the African continent. He is at the base of this idea of an African Parliament. And the United States is going to find one day, that there is an Africa, which they have created, which is against them. But, that's a different subject altogether.

The war against terror, or the war of Third World peoples for some kind of political and economic liberation, which is disguised as a religious crusade, Islamic crusade, is going to spread to Africa very, very soon. It's not happening yet, because there are more urgent problems. And one of the more urgent problems is, as the lady said, Lebanon and Syria.

So, we are going to have an attempt to solve the Afghani and Iraqi problem, or crisis, including problems going into Central Asia and Chechnya and so on, which is part of the game. Then, if that succeeds, there's going to be a war against Syria and a reshuffling of Lebanon. If it doesn't succeed, we may have, first, a spread of violence in Africa.

In any case, Iran—an actual attack against Iran will occur, according to my analysis, in two to four years from now, not before. And it may not occur at all, because they are failing in Iraq! If they're failing in Iraq, they're certainly not going to wage war at once in Iraq and Iran—not because they wouldn't *desire* to do so, but because there are not enough troops for that! And after several nations' troops, several expeditionary mercenary troops, having been killed in Iraq, then people are not sending enough soldiers. So, either you bring back the draft—

Q: They might try it.

Ghilan: They might do it, sure! Sure, you're right. But, if they don't do it, where are they to get another 750,000 soldiers? Not "soldiers"—combat soldiers; marines, commanders. People who are able to wage a war under guerrilla conditions. City warfare.

Their solutions are stupid! They take Fallujah and they destroy it. Okay, you don't conquer a country by destroying its cities. If you wage anti-insurrection warfare, you have to pull them out! And they're not doing that, because they *can't* do it, they *don't know how* to do it, they don't want to do it. They push forward Iraqi troops, who don't want to go, so they don't come back. So the Marines have to get in, and there's another 1,000 disabled American people in veterans hospitals. I'm not talking about the dead; I'm talking about the people who survive.

So, they will have, either to bring back the draft, or contain their greed, and wait till one conflict is ended to start another. Not a very encouraging perspective, I must say.

LaRouche and Baker Call For Freeing Barghouti

by Dean Andromidas

After witnessing the deafening sounds of chanting, cheering, and gunfire on Nov. 12 as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians expressed an outpouring of emotion when the casket of Yasser Arafat was borne slowly through the surging sea of humanity to its temporary resting place on the West Bank, one must ask: Who can replace Arafat? Who can at once enjoy the popular support of the masses of Palestinians, while having the capability of leading his people to nationhood?

It is widely accepted that the only Palestinian capable of mobilizing the popular support necessary for anyone who could hope to replace the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, is Marwan Barghouti, leader of the West Bank Fatah. Far more important is that Barghouti is considered the only Palestinian leader who has the trust of the Palestinian population to safeguard their rights in the political negotiations which will now have to take place if war is to be averted.

But Barghouti is currently serving five life sentences in an Israeli prison on trumped up murder and terrorism charges.

Addressing a public event in Argentina via the Internet on Nov. 11, Lyndon LaRouche referred directly to the need to release Barghouti: "There is a man in an Israeli prison, who if [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon wanted to, and if the United States would pressure Sharon to do it, could be pulled out of prison as a negotiating partner with Sharon, for bringing about, or negotiating, some kind of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. If they did agree to acceptable terms, that would in a sense bring the crisis in the entire Southwest Asia, into some kind of order. . . . We are obviously going to work for that."

On the same day, former Secretary of State under George Bush senior, James Baker III, in an appearance on the Larry King Show, declared, "There is now in Israel—in an Israeli prison, a man named Marwan Barghouti, who is one of the young guard of Palestinians, and if the Palestinians are going to make this work against the really hard-line elements, the Islamists and some of the people of Hamas, they're going to have to have a coalition of the young guard and the old guard. And it would be really a very positive step in the right direction if Israel would release Marwan Barghouti, so that he could participate in bringing about this transition."

Barghouti's freedom is inseparable from a mobilization of the concert of nations, led by the United States and supported by Europe, as LaRouche has written, to "nail a killer

like Sharon to the table of constructive movement for peace with the Palestinians.”

Baker’s call for Barghouti’s release confirms LaRouche’s assessment that the alarm about the Bush Administration’s insane Southwest Asia policies reaches not only into the Democratic Party and the military security establishment, but deep into Republican Party circles as well.

Elections for the Presidency of the Palestinian National Authority are to be held on Jan. 9. The leading potential candidates include Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), former Palestinian Prime Minister and now chairman of the PLO, and Ahmed Qureia (Abu Ala), current Palestinian Prime Minister. Although Barghouti has yet to announce his intention to run, he is expected to make a decision within two weeks. The latest poll conducted by Bir Zeit University gave Barghouti a 51% popularity rating; Ismail Haniyah, the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, came in second with 28%, while Abu Mazen received only 1.6% and Abu Ala 1%. If “democracy” is to be exercised, Barghouti has to run.

Who Is Marwan Barghouti?

At 45, Marwan Barghouti shares many of the attributes of Arafat when the latter founded Fatah in 1965, at the age of 36. He is young and is known as a fighter, with a broad base of support at the grassroots level. This contrasts sharply with Abu Mazen and Abu Ala, who not only are in their late 60s, but, more important, have little popular support within the Palestinian territories.

Barghouti was born in the West Bank village of Kobar, near Ramallah, on June 6, 1959, only to witness and suffer eight years later, exactly to the day, the ravages of the “Six-Day War” of 1967.

Like Arafat, Barghouti comes from an important Palestinian family. The extended Barghouti family or clan, based in the Ramallah region in the West Bank, is very well known for its broad political activism. There are Barghoutis who hold leading positions in the full spectrum of Palestinian politics, from the leaders of the Palestinian Communist Party, through the mainstream Fatah, and the leadership of Hamas.

At the age of 15, Barghouti joined Fatah, and in 1978, he was thrown into an Israeli prison, where he spent four and a half years as punishment for his resistance activities. Upon his release in 1983, he enrolled in Bir Zeit University, famous for both its academic qualifications and as a center of Palestinian political resistance activities. In 1985, Barghouti was arrested again and held for six months without charges, under administrative detention. Two years later, in 1987, he was “transferred” out of his homeland by the Israeli military for “inciting” rebellion. From Amman, Jordan, he played an important political role in organizing the Intifada, and eventually he became the intermediary between the Palestinian Liberation Organization outside, and the Fatah inside the Occupied Territories.

After the signing of the Oslo Accords, Barghouti returned



Marwan Barghouti, who is serving five life sentences in an Israeli prison, is the only Palestinian who could hope to replace Arafat’s leadership role.

to the West Bank in 1994, and he was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council in 1996. A strong supporter of the peace process, he was involved in numerous dialogue groups, conferences, and other activities with his Israeli counterparts. In the 1990s, from his position as head of its West Bank branch, he endeavored to transform the Fatah from a resistance organization into a political party. This was in preparation for what should have been the formation of a Palestinian state, and the development of a civil society that could deal with corruption and carry out economic development of an independent state.

In 1998, after the massive expansion of Israeli settlements under the government of then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-Infrastructure Minister Sharon, Barghouti led massive demonstrations throughout the West Bank against the ongoing occupation, as the peace process began to deteriorate further and further.

The failure of Camp David negotiations in 2000, and the blowing up of the entire peace process by Sharon’s infamous march onto the Al Haram Al Sharif/Temple Mount, provoked riots that led to the eruption of the Intifada. Barghouti became the very public face of the Intifada, and on Aug. 15, 2001, he became the target of an Israeli assassination attempt.

In an opinion column in the *Washington Post* on Jan. 15, 2002, Barghouti wrote: “The only way for the Israelis to have security is, quite simply, to end the 35-year-old Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. Israelis must abandon the myth that it is possible to have peace and occupation at the same

time, that peaceful coexistence is possible between slave and master. The lack of Israeli security is born of the lack of Palestinian freedom. Israel will have security only after the end of the occupation, not before.”

Barghouti was not only being seen more and more in front of the television cameras of CNN, but, more important, before thousands of demonstrating Palestinians, bolstering their resistance to the brutal occupation policies which Sharon hoped would crush their will to resist. Barghouti was becoming a powerful political leader, who, while being a strong militant, nonetheless was committed to establishing peace with Israel based on a two-state solution. For this he became a far bigger threat to Sharon than any suicide bomber.

On April 15, 2002, an elite Israeli special forces unit surrounded Barghouti's house in Ramallah and arrested him. Since that date, only his lawyer has been allowed to see him. Even his wife and four children have been denied access to him. Sharon wanted to throw him into an Israeli court and stage an international show trial. Barghouti was indicted for alleged complicity in no less than 37 attacks. The evidence was so slim that even the biased court threw out all but 5 of the charges. So biased was the court, in fact, that on the first day of the trial, one of the judges presiding over the trial, in open court, called Barghouti a murderous terrorist! Barghouti refused counsel on grounds that he did not recognize the authority of the court, because the entire proceeding was in violation of the Geneva Conventions, international law, and signed agreements between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

Support for Freeing Barghouti

Those who claim that Barghouti must be released to avert a Palestinian civil war, fall victim to Israeli and neo-con propaganda. Sabri Jiryis, the director of the PLO's Institute of Palestinian Studies, and a former advisor to Arafat, dismissed fears of a Palestinian Civil War in an interview with the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on Nov. 17: “You have nothing to worry about, and you having nothing to be happy about. The Palestinian regime has a very strong foundation. It was established over the course of decades, and it has rules of its own. You will never be privileged to see a Palestinian civil war. Forget it. You will never see conflicts that you can exploit to harm Palestinian interests.”

The point is, that Barghouti has to be released if a peace agreement is to be signed, not because he will go out and kill Hamas rejectionists, as Sharon would wish, but because he is capable of winning the trust of the Palestinian people.

Zachariah Zubeidi, the head of the militant Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in Jenin, on the West Bank, best expressed the problem in an interview with the London *Financial Times*, Nov. 16: “With Abu Amar [Arafat] I could be confident that I could handle resistance to the Israeli occupation knowing that he was taking care of the political work. Now I am uneasy.” He said he would accept Abu Mazen if he were freely

elected, “But if he subsequently goes back on our unalterable demands—a state on pre-1967 lines, its capital in Jerusalem, the right of return of refugees, and the release of prisoners—we will not recognize him.” Zubeidi added that he would have trust in Barghouti if he won the Presidential elections, and he would gladly lay down his arms if a just peace agreement were signed.

The 27-year-old Zubeidi, who is high on Sharon's hit list, denounced what was claimed to have been an attack on Abu Mazen at the Arafat mourning tent in the Gaza Strip, only the day before, where two bodyguards were killed.

In Israel itself, the death of Arafat sparked a debate on the possibility of Barghouti's release, and on Nov. 13, Israeli Interior Minister Avraham Poraz said that it would be possible to release Barghouti “under certain circumstances,” including a prisoner exchange, even if he has “blood on his hands.” This had been done in the past, including by Sharon himself, who earlier this year released two Lebanese who had killed Israelis, in a deal with the Lebanese militant organization Hezbollah, in return for freeing a captured Israeli military officer. Poraz, who is a member of the Shinui party, added that Israel could not prevent Barghouti from running in the elections from his prison cell.

Sharon and the other right-wing ministers in his government were very annoyed by Poraz's suggestion; nonetheless, Israeli Knesset (parliament) member Ran Cohen of the pro-peace Yehad-Meretz party said that if Barghouti is elected in the Palestinian elections, Israel would have to negotiate with him and thus would no longer be able to keep him in prison.

There are others in Israel who see the logic in releasing Barghouti, including certain military circles. But James Baker III's call for Barghouti's release has been virtually blacked out of the Israeli press. When briefed on the Baker statement, Dr. Ron Pundak, director of the Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv and one of the negotiators of the Oslo Accords, welcomed it as a very important indication that political circles in the United States are trying to get a change in U.S. policy, and hopefully get a real peace process going. Pundak recalled that he had also recently made the same suggestion as Baker, only to be viciously attacked by the Israeli right wing.

Similarly, Sa'd Nimr, director of the Campaign to Free Barghouti, when briefed on the statements by Lyndon LaRouche and James Baker III calling for the release of Barghouti, told *EIR*, “It is very encouraging to hear that American political figures have come out in support of Marwan Barghouti's release.”

Nimr went on to say that it was key for the United States to take action to give Prime Minister Sharon a “ladder in order to climb down the tree” he has put himself in, by labelling Barghouti a terrorist and putting him in prison.

Only the United States in concert with Europe can give Sharon a ladder, or strait-jacket, and to secure Barghouti's release. Moreover, even if he is released, only when offered a just peace could Barghouti hope to succeed.

‘Arafat’s Death Can Open the Way to Peace’

by Nina Ogden

In a discussion with *EIR* about the death of Yassir Arafat, former Senator George McGovern recommended that President George W. Bush should immediately appoint two former sitting Presidents, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter, to convene new Camp David talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders. “A solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, at this time of Arafat’s death, is the key to solving the problem of terrorism, and the immoral war against Iraq,” McGovern said.

Sen. McGovern first met Yassir Arafat when McGovern was on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his 18 years in the Senate, and still prizes the wooden carving of The Last Supper given to him by Yassir Arafat during one of their many meetings. Sen. McGovern subsequently was president of the Middle East Policy Council from 1991 until 1997, before being appointed Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization by President Clinton. The Council is now headed by former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Chas W. Freeman.

In his discussion with *EIR*, McGovern referred to a pointed criticism he had made, in his recently published book, *The Essential America*, of “an influential group of advisors in the current Administration who do not want an even-handed American role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.” (The book was the subject of a wide-ranging interview published in *EIR*, Oct. 22, 2004.) McGovern wrote: “This group of neo-conservatives includes Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, advisers Richard Perle, Douglas Feith, Ken Adelman, and others. Among the views of the neo-cons, none is more deeply held than their belief that the United States should always support the government of Israel no matter what policy that government pursues. To the neo-cons, it is acceptable to criticize the American government, but to criticize Israeli policy is seen as anti-Semitism. This, of course, is the reason why almost no American politician who covets elective office will ever take issue with Israeli policy.”

“The irony of the neo-conservatives’ policy designed to help Israel, is that their strategy may be the greatest threat to Israel, in that it feeds an increasingly dangerous Arab-Israeli conflict. . . . The provocative militarism of the Sharon



“The irony of the neo-conservatives’ policy designed to help Israel,” says Senator McGovern, “is that their strategy may be the greatest threat to Israel, in that it feeds an increasingly dangerous Arab-Israeli conflict. . . . The provocative militarism of the Sharon Administration is a suicidal policy for Israel. No true friend of Israel should support such a self-defeating policy.”

administration is a suicidal policy for Israel. No true friend of Israel should support such a self-defeating policy.”

Sen. McGovern expressed great interest in the application of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. “The only way peace can come to the Middle East,” he said, “is for Israel to adhere to the UN agreement of so many years ago. I have always been a friend of Israel, and a supporter of its cultural, political, and spiritual traditions, but we must see that there are two ‘rights’ in this conflict. Israel has a right to live as a free and independent nation within secure borders, and the Palestinians have the right to an independent, secure state situated on the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, the territory taken from the Palestinians in the 1967 Six-Day War. This has been my position for over 25 years. Of course, we must have a development policy, especially based on water, as central to peace in the Middle-East.”

McGovern thinks that a number of the “mature successors to Arafat would make good negotiating partners with former sitting Presidents Bush and Carter,” and also expressed interest in the prospects of the younger Marwan Barghouti, if Sharon would free him from his Israeli prison. He proposed the former Speaker of the Israeli Knesset, Avraham Burg, as an able negotiating partner for Israel. He quoted from Burg’s 2004 article in the Israeli journal, *Yediot Aharonot*, “We cannot keep a Palestinian majority under an Israeli boot and at the same time think ourselves the only democracy in the Middle East. . . . We must remove all the settlements and draw an internationally recognized border between the Israeli national home and the Palestinian national home. . . . Israel’s friends abroad—Jewish and non-Jewish alike, presidents and prime ministers, rabbis and lay people—should choose as well. They must reach out and help Israel to navigate the road map toward our nation’s destiny as a light unto the nations and a society of peace, justice, and equality.”

The Promise of Oslo, and Today, Lies in Economic Development

by EIR Staff

From 1976 forward, economist Lyndon LaRouche had argued that the only possible route to a lasting, or developing, peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis, would be through the adoption of an economic development plan that would demonstrate to both populations that the conditions of peace and cooperation were to the benefit of themselves and their posterity. Over time, LaRouche's proposal came to be known as the "Oasis Plan," especially because it revolved around the development of new water resources for the now water-starved region. This plan was the subject of intensive organizing activity with Israelis, Palestinians, and representatives of other nations as well.

The potential for its realization appeared most likely at the time of the announcement of the Oslo Accords, which were made public at the beginning of September 1993. For not only did those accords lay out provisions for political accommodation, but they included economic annexes (III and IV), which defined areas of cooperation in the fields of water, electricity, energy, and transportation, among others. The second annex also proposed cooperation on regional development programs.

Not surprisingly, these areas were precisely the ones which LaRouche had specified for years, and he threw himself, and his supporters, into an emergency mobilization to realize the opportunity. LaRouche, who was in prison at that time, responded to the news of Oslo by insisting that crucial projects had to begin—ground had to be broken for them—by the end of September, in order to create and preserve the momentum behind the Accords. In an interview Sept. 8, 1993, LaRouche said:

"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 thing out, enemies of progress and enemies of the human race, such as Kissinger and his friends, will be successful, through people like Sharon's buddies, in intervening to drown this agreement in blood and chaos.*"

Israeli-Palestinian Agreement

There were leading factions on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides who agreed with LaRouche. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who crafted the agreement on the Israeli side along with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, had been cam-

paigned since 1985 for a Marshall Plan for the Middle East, on the order of magnitude of \$50 billion. In September 1993, he called for implementing the economic agreements, in order to "convert the bitter triangle of Jordanians, Palestinians, and the Israelis into a triangle of political triumph and economic prosperity. . . . Let us build a Middle East of hope, where today's food is produced and tomorrow's prosperity is guaranteed, a region with a common market, a Near East with a long-range agenda."

Peres's words were effectively seconded by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, known by his *nom de guerre* Abu Mazen, who had been the chief negotiator for the accord on the Palestinian side: "Economic development is the principal challenge facing the Palestinian people after years of struggle, during which our national infrastructure and institutions were overburdened and drained. We are looking to the world for its support and encouragement in our struggle for growth and development which begins today."

Astute observers will note that this Abu Mazen is the very same individual who is at the head of the Palestinian Authority today, having participated, with Yasser Arafat, in the peace process for more than a decade. Such a continuity contrasts sharply with developments on the Israeli side, where Oslo architect Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli extremist in 1995.

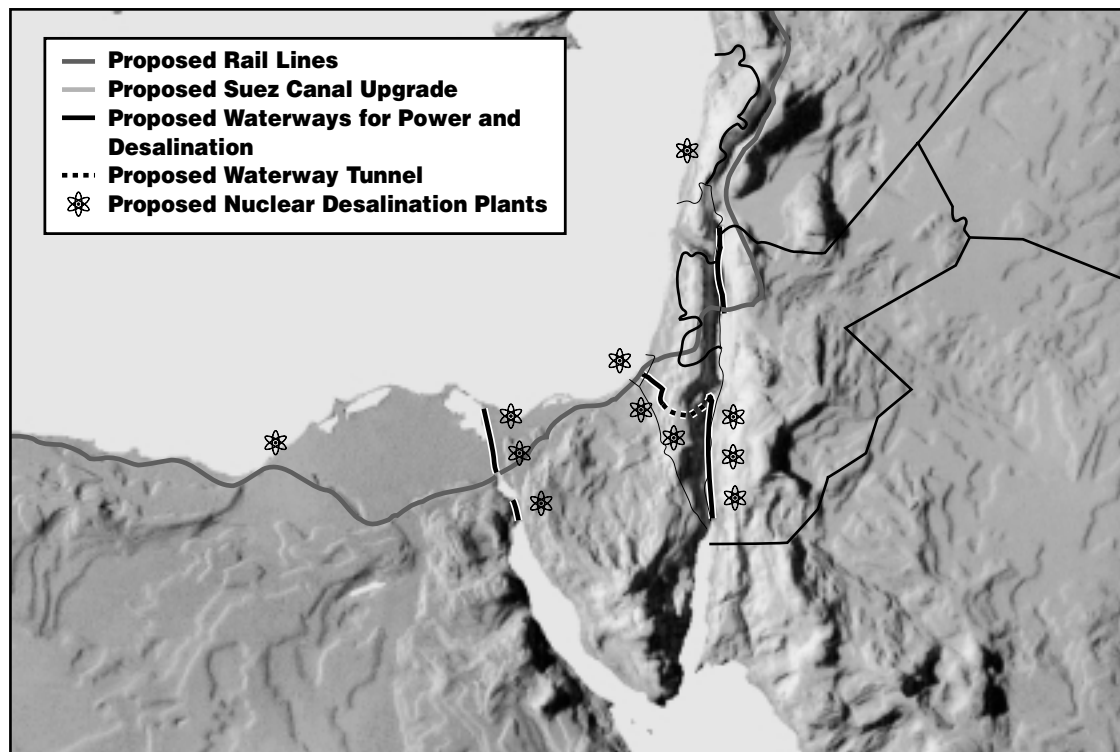
In fact, the definitive blow that was delivered against the rapid economic development plan envisioned in the Oslo Accords, came neither from the Israelis nor the Palestinians. It came from the international community, which not only refused to step forward with the necessary resources and credit, but also threw its support behind the plans of the World Bank. The World Bank, which held a conference on Sept. 20, 1993, refused outright to fund the heavy infrastructure projects, especially in the field of water and energy, which were absolutely required for progress to be made. As a result of the failure to implement an economic development plan, economic conditions have worsened in the region, "proving," particularly to the Palestinians, that peace does not pay.

The Oasis Plan

As LaRouche has argued consistently, there is no possibility of the peoples of the Israel-Palestine-Jordan-Syria area living in peace, unless there is development of *new* water resources. The Jordan River Valley, on which all these nations

FIGURE 1

LaRouche's 'Oasis Plan' for Development of Middle East Crossroads



depend, has a water flow that can support less than *half* of the people living the region, and it is getting more inadequate all the time.

Thus, the core of LaRouche's plan consists of water development and management programs, buttressed by projects for transportation, energy production, and industrial and agricultural growth. The supply of water must be drastically increased, through the creation of what LaRouche called new "man-made River Jordans." This, he argued, depends absolutely upon the use of nuclear energy, for both energy and desalination.

An overview of these projects is shown on the relief map included here, which comprises the broader region. You will notice two canals, one linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, and another linking the Red Sea to the Dead Sea. These links require large-scale desalination through the use of fourth-generation meltdown-proof high-temperature nuclear reactors, which would simultaneously provide abundant electrical energy for the people of the region. The general locations for such nuclear-powered desalination facilities are marked on the map.

Such waterways would be vital for improvement of transport as well, and along the canals and reservoirs, LaRouche proposed building "nuplexes," complexes of nuclear power and industrial-agricultural production. Complementing them would be the construction of railroad lines, necessary for the

movement of people and freight.

LaRouche's Oasis Plan also included a "soft infrastructure" component, involving the provision of housing, health care, education, and all manner of social infrastructure. But such improvements in living standard would be absolutely impossible to sustain, without the agro-industrial base fed by *new* and adequate water resources. In turn, the provision of those resources absolutely depends upon the use of nuclear power.

Such plans for the region were not unique to LaRouche. Back in the 1950s, the men who successfully established the Tennessee Valley Authority in the United States, had worked up a plan for the Jordan Valley Authority, which they presented to the nations of the region and the UN. The political combination required to fund such projects, was never realized at that time, and in the later "post-industrial" period, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and international bankers exercised their veto.

Today, with the whole of the Southwest Asian region on the very edge of a new explosion—between the Israel-Palestine region and Iraq—there is a new urgency for putting the Oasis Plan on the table. A commitment from *outside* the region, to fund and otherwise support such projects is a *sine qua non* for reversing the pessimism of both the Palestinian and Israeli people, and building the basis for stability, which could grow into lasting peace and prosperity.

ON 'THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH'

Morals and Immortality: The U.S. Crisis Now

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

November 17, 2004

There is a deliciously ironical aspect to *EIR*'s receipt of the accompanying report by our Italian correspondent, Liliana Gorini. Since it was her ancestor who, quite literally, buried Giuseppe Mazzini, there is a certain exquisitely ironical appropriateness in her informing our English-speaking audience of the Vatican's release, by the Holy See's Press Office, of the 500-page "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church." It is to be hoped that this excellent work might inform, and thus improve the future behavior of many presently still misguided U.S. citizens who voted against Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry on the pretext of "moral" issues.

As Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino reports, the composition just released was begun by Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyen van Thuan, a late dear friend of mine.* It is now published as the completion of work in which he was engaged at the time of his death, matters which, in part, I discussed with him on several visits during the years before his death. It were appropriate, on this occasion, that I confine myself here to a matter of morals which must be raised on account of the great flood of disgustingly self-righteous sheer hypocrisy shown by a large number of self-styled "moral" citizens in, specifically, the recent, Nov. 2 election in the state of Ohio.

Among the most notorious of the sundry pseudo-Christian

* See a review of Cardinal Thuan's book, by William F. Wertz, in *EIR*, Feb. 16, 2001.

cults which are echoed within the U.S. citizenry today, those which have proliferated so since times in ancient Imperial Rome, are those strains of Gnosticism which award reign in the real world to Satan, except on the rare occasions God the Creator might rudely intervene. For ancient and modern dupes of that and kindred varieties of pagan cult-traditions, morality is essentially a code of conduct adopted for the shrewdly politically cautious inhabitants of a domain ruled by Satan, a domain in which Jeanne d'Arc's or Rev. Martin Luther King's courageous confrontation with death, are popularly viewed as "mistakes" by our typical, cowardly, moralizing opportunists of today.

Typical of such lack of a true sense of immortality, is the behavior of the pastor who fancies himself a rooster servicing the hens of his flock, but points the finger of rage in thunderous pronouncements against what he alleges to know to be the sinful fornication among his parishioners. Or compare the behavior of those Ohio citizens who, like the hypocrites they were, did not blink with shame when they voted for a continuation of economic and related health-care policies which are the cause of vast increases in the deaths among our citizens and others. How could such preachers of such so-called morality lead anyone to immortality, when we know by their deeds, that they do not actually believe in it themselves?

In short, the essence of Christian morality in such matters is typified most efficiently by the Apostle Paul's famous *I Corinthians* 13, where the principle known to Plato's Socrates as *agapē* (e.g., love, charity) is contrasted sharply with



Cardinal François Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan with Pope John Paul II. The Holy See's "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church" was begun by the Cardinal before his recent death. This work, LaRouche writes, "attests to my sense of my own immortality, as seen in his eyes, and as I saw his, in return, as he blessed me," a few hours before his demise.

the behavior of those among our citizens who had just recently cast their vote for the perpetration of crimes against humanity, and implicitly God himself. The immortal soul, who knows that he or she is immortal, trusts immortality, as Jeanne d'Arc and the Rev. Martin Luther King did, and therefore does the deeds which even the future alone may harvest, because he or she is certain of that future. In contrast, these hypocrites, who often esteem themselves as sincere and patriotic as the cock-of-the-walk in the pulpit, care nothing for that anti-Locke Preamble of our Federal Constitution which places sovereignty, the general welfare, and posterity above all other law which might be tolerated by our republic.

The radically consistent offshoots of pro-Satanic Gnosticism, such as the preaching of traitor Aaron Burr's grandfather, the thundering Jonathan Edwards, are the model of reference to be considered when weighing the morality of those hypocritical American moralists who condone the teachings of Locke (human slavery as property), Mandeville (that the general good comes of private corruption, such as Enron), François Quesnay (for whose religion those persons employed on the estate were merely human cattle), and the plagiarist and hater of the U.S.A., Adam Smith, who copied the Gnostic dogmas of Locke, Mandeville, Quesnay, Smith,

and, worst of them all, Jeremy Bentham, as that immoral dogma of "free trade" which has wrecked and ruined the U.S. economy and many other parts of the world over a period of more than three recent decades.

Actually, these poor believers in such Gnostic trash as "free trade" are not actually Christians. They do not believe that human beings have actual souls. They do not believe that they are accountable for those consequences of their having lived in a way which must have shamed their forebears, and will disgust their descendants. They take pride in the assumption that they are not "their brother's keepers," but, like the cow not yet herded to the slaughterhouse, they fancy themselves, foolishly, as men and women passionately, and also shrewdly aware of their immediate, sensual self-interest.

So, in these times, we have many Americans who are studiously indifferent to the kind of future they are bestowing upon even their own young-adult children. Their behavior attests, that they desire nothing as much as to dwell, themselves, in a fantasy-realm of ideological "comfort zones," in which they may overlook the consequences they will leave behind at the time of their deaths. Thus, we have the gambling mania spread among demoralized Americas of various generations today. They have no sense of personal immortality; therefore, why should they expect any? Therefore, how could they be Christians? Why should we be surprised, therefore, when we see how they behave, at the polls, or otherwise: as disgusting hypocrites?

I think back to the 1920s of my childhood. I think of hopefully of the waning of the religious fervors of the "Elmer Gantrys" then, disgusting hypocrites not unlike those which the Falwells and even worse peddle today. I recall, that with the economic realities of the 1929-1933, there was a crushing of the prevalent religious devotion to the rhetoric of Coolidge and Hoover by the simple fact of a rude confrontation with reality. I do not think theology improved much during the 1930s U.S.A., but at least the religious insanity simmered down considerably under the cold realities of the Great Depression and the warmth of the Roosevelt-led recovery of our nation. Unfortunately, there was no President Franklin Roosevelt in Germany, and we saw what turns such Gnostic varieties of religious fervor took under Hitler there.

We are not presently reliving past history, but we are facing the onrushing challenges which should warn us against the repeating the kinds of mistakes which have repeatedly led nations such as our own to periods of ruin in the experience of past generations.

In summary: there is a fundamental difference between the Christian, for example, who knows what the concept of immortality means for guiding one's own behavior and that of the nation, and those like the so-called "moralists" of Ohio and elsewhere, whose idea of morality is "going along to get along" within the mortal boundaries of what they accept in their practice as a Gnostic's Satan-run domain.

Cardinal van Thuan gave me his blessing personally a few hours before his demise. His latest work, delivered as Signora Gorini reports here, attests to my sense of my own immortality, as seen in his eyes, and as I saw his, in return, as he blessed me then. We who sense the reality of immortality, have a courage to act for good, a kind of courage which is lacking in those who have yet to come up to this standard of morality. How many among my readers could say much the same of themselves? Is that not a key to the real moral crisis of the U.S.A. today? The parts of the work released by Cardinal Martino of which I know, express that intention for those who will receive the message; on that account, it is, in addition to its principal virtue, also an ecumenical work, which merits the study by all, of whatever nominal profession or confession. However, to really understand it, you must find a sense of true immortality in yourself.

Physical Economy, Peace: Vatican's Moral Issues

by Liliana Gorini

On Oct. 25, one week before the U.S. elections, Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, gave a press conference at the Holy See Press Office at the Vatican to present the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, a 500-page book published by the Libreria Editrice Vaticana, which had been commissioned by Pope John Paul II. As Cardinal Martino explained, "This document has been prepared—at the request of the Holy Father, to whom it is dedicated—by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, which is fully responsible for its content. It is now made available to all—Catholics, other Christians, people of good will—who seek sure signs of truth in order to better promote the social good of persons and societies. This work began five years ago under the presidency of my venerated predecessor, Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. An unavoidable delay in the work was caused by the sickness and death of Cardinal Van Thuan and by the subsequent change in presidency of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace." In the introduction to the book, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See, emphasizes, "The Holy Father, while wishing that the present document helps humanity in the continuous research of the Common Good, invokes the benediction of God on those who will stop to reflect on the teachings of such a publication."

What strikes one immediately upon reading the docu-

ment, is the strong contrast between the "moral issues" raised by the Pope and his Pontifical Council, and the so-called "moral issues," or rather single issues, such as gay marriages or abortion, raised by George Bush and his senior advisor and chief political strategist, Karl Rove, during the Presidential elections, in order to attract the vote of Catholics and other Christians.

The document, commissioned by Pope John Paul II, dedicates one of its main chapters to "promoting peace," stating clearly that any "pre-emptive war action, launched without any evidence that an aggression is upcoming, cannot but raise serious questions from the moral and juridical standpoint." It emphasizes that "economic development is the new name for peace," going back to two encyclical letters which are fundamental for the social doctrine of the Church, *Populorum Progressio* (On the Development of the Peoples), issued by Pope Paul VI in 1967, and *Centesimus Annus*, issued by Pope John Paul II in 1991. The other "moral issue" raised by the Vatican document, and raised during the Presidential elections by former Democratic pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and by John Kerry, himself a Catholic, is that of "morality in economics" and the urgent need of a new economic and financial system, in order to punish financial speculation and to allow the development of the physical economy and of social welfare.

Pope John Paul II himself stated, in a speech to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in April 1997: "An economy based only on financial gain deprives itself from its own roots and from its original aim, which should be that of serving the real economy and should be, ultimately, the development of people and human communities. The economic picture becomes all the more dramatic if one considers the asymmetry characterizing the international financial system: innovative processes and the deregulation of financial markets tend in fact to develop only in some parts of the globe. This raises serious ethical questions, because the countries which are excluded from such processes, even if they are excluded from any benefit from such financial products, are not safe from the negative consequences of financial instability on their real economic systems, particularly if they are fragile and late in developing."

From this standpoint, the Vatican document urgently calls on "international economic and financial institutions to identify the most appropriate institutional solutions" necessary to change the present financial system and solve the question of "foreign debt" of poor countries, another "moral issue" raised by Pope John Paul II on a number of occasions, including the Jubilee Year 2000.

These moral issues were blatantly ignored by George Bush, Karl Rove, and their supporters in many U.S. churches, including a number of Catholic priests in Ohio who were ready to "excommunicate" Kerry for his position on abortion, but had no compassion for the millions of Africans starving

or dying of AIDS as a result of an immoral financial system and its International Monetary Fund conditionalities, no compassion whatsoever for the 50 million Americans without health care, or for elderly people deprived of the flu vaccine. One wonders whether Bush, who claims God voted for him, or some of the Catholic priests who invited their parish to vote for him, ever read any of the encyclical letters mentioned in the Vatican document as the basis for the Social Doctrine of the Church, starting with *Rerum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII (1892), *Quadragesimo Anno*, issued by Pope Pius XI 40 years after *Rerum Novarum*, in the midst of the economic depression of 1929, up to *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) by Pope John XXIII, and to the already mentioned encyclical letters *Populorum Progressio* by Pope Paul VI and *Centesimus Annus* and *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* by the present Pope. One wonders actually if they ever read the Gospel, and, as LaRouche said in a number of radio interviews after the election, “what God are they actually praying to, if any.”

As a former Italian Premier of the Catholic party in Italy told *EIR* ten days before the election, “The position of the Pope on this war is very clear, it is that of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, that war is wrong under any circumstance and you do not remedy a wrongdoing with a worse one. It is not surprising that when President Bush was received by the Pope in Rome, his National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, refused to come with him.”

One of the key aspects of the social doctrine of the Church is its invitation to intervene in defense of the Common Good, of peace, and of social strata hit by the economic crisis. A few years ago, Pope John Paul II summoned the heads of the three main Italian trade unions to the Vatican, to invite them to “fight for a new, more just economic order.” Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, he has repeated every Sunday, in St. Peter’s Square, his call to all heads of state to put an end to violence, and to launch an urgent initiative for peace in Iraq, and peace between Israel and Palestine.

The Pope and the Vatican have been also constantly intervening on the urgent moral issue of a new economic and financial system, At a conference on “moral orientation in credit and finance” organized in Milan on Nov. 24, 2003, by the Association for Development of the Study of Banking and the Market, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, Archbishop of Milan, answered my question on whether Italy could play a role in pushing for a new financial and economic system, a New Bretton Woods, saying, “Not only Italy could do it, but it should do it.” One can only hope that true Christians and “people of good will,” as Cardinal Martino said in his press conference, reading the summary of the Social Doctrine of the Church, will learn what the true moral issues are facing the world, and the present U.S. Administration, and act accordingly, finally accepting the idea that this financial system and this war are truly immoral.

Documentation

Social Doctrine Of the Church

Below are excerpts from the newly released Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The Economic Life

From Chapter Seven:

II. Morality and Economics

330. The social doctrine of the Church insists on the moral connotation of economics. . . .

332. The moral dimension of economics considers as inseparable aims, not as opposed and alternative aims, economic efficiency and the promotion of a development of humanity inspired by solidarity. Morality does not conflict with economics, nor is it neutral: If it is inspired by justice and solidarity, it constitutes a factor of social efficiency of economics itself . . . in order to fight, in the spirit of justice and charity, wherever they exist, those “structures of sin” (John Paul II: *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*), which generate and maintain poverty, underdevelopment and degradation. Such structures are built and consolidated on many concrete acts of human egoism.

IV: Economic institutions at the service of Man

349. The idea that one can assign to the market the supply of all categories of goods cannot be shared, since it is based on a reduced vision of the person and of society. In front of a concrete risk of “idolatry” of the market, the social doctrine of the Church emphasizes the limit, which can easily be seen in its inability to satisfy important human needs, for which goods are needed “which, by their nature, are not, nor can they be just commodities” (John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*).

V: *Res Novae* in economics

a) Globalization: opportunities and risks

364. The social doctrine emphasized more than once the imbalances of an international trade system which, as a result of protectionist policies, discriminates products coming from poor countries and hinders the growth of industrial activities and the transfer of technology to such countries. The continued deterioration in terms of exchange of raw materials and the worsening gap between rich and poor countries induced the Teaching of the Church to keep in mind the importance of ethical criteria which should orient economic relations: to promote the Common Good and the universal distribution of wealth. . . . Otherwise, “the poor remain all the time poor, while the rich become richer” (Pope Paul VI: *Populorum Progressio*).

b) The international financial system

368. The development of financial markets, whose transactions in volume go way beyond real ones, risks to follow a self-feeding logic, without any connection with the real economic base.

369. An economy based only on financial gain deprives itself from its own roots and from its original aim, which should be that of serving the real economy and should be, ultimately, the development of people and human communities. The economic picture becomes all the more dramatic if one considers the asymmetry characterizing the international financial system: innovative processes and the deregulation of financial markets tend to develop only in some parts of the globe. This raises serious ethical questions, because the countries which are excluded from such processes, even if they are excluded from any benefit from such financial products, are not safe from the negative consequences of financial instability on their real economic systems, particularly if they are fragile and late in developing (Pope John Paul II, speech at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, April 25th 1997).

371. The more the world economic and financial system reaches elevated levels of organizing and functional complexity, the more it faces the priority task of regulating such processes, aiming them at achieving the Common Good of

the human family. Concretely this implies the urgency that, in addition to nation states, also the international community assumes this delicate function, adopting suitable political and juridical instruments. It is therefore indispensable that the international economic and financial institutions identify the most appropriate institutional solutions and work out the best action strategies in order to achieve a change, since otherwise, if things were left to themselves, this would provoke dramatic results hitting in particular the weakest and most defenseless layers of the world population.

c) Foreign debt

450. The right to development must be kept in mind in dealing with the debt crisis of many poor countries. This crisis has many and complex causes, both international—flexible exchange rates, financial speculation, economic neo-colonialism—and inside the indebted countries themselves—corruption, bad management of public money, and distorted use of loans. The biggest suffering, provoked by structural questions but also by personal behaviors, hits the population of indebted and poor countries, who have no responsibility for these conditions. The international community cannot overlook such a situation: even if it states the principle that debts must be honored, it must find a way not to compromise “the fundamental right of peoples to a decent standard of living and progress” (Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*).

Promoting Peace

From Chapter Eleven

III. The Failure of Peace: War

497. The Teaching of the Church condemns “the incredible nature of war” and demands that it be considered with a totally new approach: in fact “it is almost impossible to think that in the atomic era war can be used as an instrument of justice” (Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*). War is a “calamity” and it never represents the right way to solve problems arising among Nations. “It never was and it never will be,” because it generates more and more complex conflicts. When it explodes, war becomes a “useless massacre” and an “adventure with no return” which compromises the present and jeopardizes the future of humanity.

498. The search for alternative solutions to war in order to solve international conflicts assumes today a character of dramatic urgency, because of “the terrifying power of means of destruction.” It is therefore essential to look for the causes starting a war, first of all those connected to situations of injustice, poverty, and exploitation, which have to be removed in the first place. “This is why development is the new name for peace. As there is a collective responsibility to avoid war, there is also a collective responsibility to promote development” (Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*).

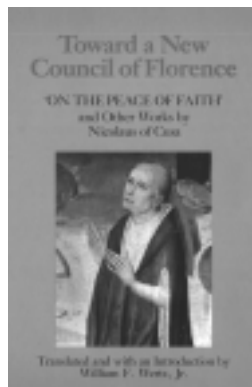
501. . . . As to pre-emptive war, launched without any evidence that an aggression is upcoming, it cannot but raise serious questions from the moral and juridical standpoint.

Toward a New Council of Florence

‘On the Peace of Faith’ and Other Works by Nicolaus of Cusa

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A Resolution in the Iran Nuclear Mess?

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

The European Union's (EU) agreement with Iran over its nuclear program was, in the words of one European diplomat, a "win-win" situation, in which both sides got what they wanted and there were no losers. Although the United States has not yet accepted the agreement, European and Iranian sources are hopeful that the Bush Administration will be boxed in, and forced to do so. The Nov. 18 charge by outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell that Iran is building missiles to carry nuclear warheads, which was immediately contradicted by some U.S. intelligence sources, reflects the fact that the fight inside the Administration is still unresolved, to say the least.

The agreement came after months of hard-nosed negotiating between the "EU-3"—that is, Great Britain, France, and Germany—and the Islamic Republic. Iran demanded that its right to nuclear technology, indeed, to the entire nuclear fuel cycle, as guaranteed in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which it has signed, be respected, and that the Europeans help in providing the technology required for a civilian nuclear energy program. The Europeans, under pressure from the neo-con crowd in Washington, asserted the need for Iran to renounce its uranium enrichment program, which, some say, could lead to the production of weapons-grade uranium.

The final agreement was made public on Nov. 15, after intensive talks in Paris the preceding week. Iran was granted its right to maintain its uranium enrichment capabilities, but agreed to suspend any related activity on a voluntary basis, while maintaining the option of restarting it at any time. It was understood that the suspension would last for three months, during which time further negotiations on a final agreement would be held.

This was accepted by the EU, in hopes that a final, long-term deal could be worked out to the satisfaction of both sides. After the Iran-EU agreement had been announced, the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, issued his report on Iran, in which he stated that nothing in the Islamic Republic's dossier on its nuclear program indicated that any weapons program were under way. On Nov. 25, when the Board of the IAEA meets in Vienna, it is hoped that the Iran dossier will be officially closed, and that those neo-con political figures in Washington, chief among

them Undersecretary of State for Arms Control John Bolton, who have been lobbying for the dossier to be sent to the UN Security Council for deliberation leading to sanctions, will be silenced.

The Fine Print

The final agreement struck on Nov. 15, emerged from discussion of several competing drafts from both sides, which went on for months. According to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Iran and the EU reaffirm the commitments of the Tehran Declaration they signed on Oct. 21, 2003, and decided to move forward building on that agreement. High Representatives of the EU, led by France, Britain, and Germany, recognize Iran's rights under the NPT exercised in conformity with its obligations under the treaty without discrimination, part of the agreement signed in Tehran.

Iran, the report continued, reaffirms that in accordance with Article II of the NPT, it does not and will not seek to acquire nuclear weapons. It commits itself to full cooperation and transparency with the IAEA. Iran will continue to implement the Additional Protocol voluntarily, pending ratification. Most significantly: "To build further confidence, Iran has decided, on a voluntary basis, to continue and extend its suspension to include all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and specifically: the manufacture and import of gas centrifuges and their components, the assembly, installation, testing, or operation of gas centrifuges, work to undertake any plutonium separation, or to construct or operate any plutonium separation installation, and all tests or production at any uranium conversion installations. The IAEA will be notified of this suspension, and invited to verify and monitor it. The suspension will be implemented in time for the IAEA to confirm before the November Board that it has been put into effect. The suspension will be sustained while negotiations proceed on a mutually acceptable agreement on long-term arrangements," it said.

"The E3/EU recognize that this suspension is a voluntary confidence-building measure and not a legal obligation," IRNA commented. Sustaining the suspension while negotiations on a long-term agreement are under way will be essential for the continuation of the overall process, the IRNA report continued.

Furthermore, in the context of this suspension, the E3/EU and Iran have agreed to begin negotiations, with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable agreement on long-term arrangements. The agreement will provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes. It will equally provide firm guarantees on nuclear, technological, and economic cooperation and firm commitments on security issues. A steering committee will meet to launch these negotiations in the first half of December 2004 and will set up working groups on political and security issues. The steering committee shall meet again within three months to receive progress reports from the working groups and to move

ahead with projects and/or measures that can be implemented in advance of an overall agreement.

The agreement says that once suspension has been verified, the negotiations with the EU on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement will resume. The E3/EU will actively support the opening of Iranian accession negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). "Irrespective of progress on the nuclear use, the E3/EU and Iran confirm their determination to combat terrorism, including the activities of al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups such as Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MeK). They also confirm their continued support for the political process aimed at establishing a constitutionally elected government in Iraq," the agreement read.

A Win-Win Situation

All parties to the agreement immediately hailed it as a breakthrough. Iranian National Security Council head Hassan Rowhani, who had led the negotiations, welcomed the deal, and explained that suspension of uranium enrichment per se had never been the "red line" for Tehran; rather, the red line has been *complete* suspension of the uranium enrichment process; that is, giving up forever any claim to the technology. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has not withdrawn from any of its principles; we did not accept suspension based on the [IAEA] resolution; we accepted temporary and voluntary suspension based on a political deal with Europe," he said.

The specification may seem like nitty-gritty to an outside observer, but it strikes the substance of the matter: Iran refused to give up its right, guaranteed in the NPT, to uranium enrichment technology, and thus refused any "obligation" to do so. Most important, Iran thus safeguards its sovereignty over such decisions. The issue of Iran's sovereign right to nuclear technology is the hottest issue in the country, one which unites all political factions in its defense, just as the issue of sovereignty over the nation's natural resources had rallied the nation around Prime Minister Mossadegh, in the early 1950s (see "'Mossadegh Reflex' in Iranian Nuclear Policy," *EIR*, Sept. 24, 2004). Any Iranian government which were to relinquish sovereignty over nuclear energy, would not last long.

In his remarks, Rowhani explicitly mentioned forces inside the country who were calling for abandoning talks with the IAEA. Shortly before the breakthrough, the Majlis (Parliament) had virtually unanimously passed a bill calling on the government to maintain the uranium enrichment program.

Further statements were issued by leading Iranian figures, in order to erase any doubts inside the country, that this issue of sovereignty had been compromised. Hossein Mousavian, foreign policy committee secretary at Iran's Supreme National Security Council and one of Iran's negotiators with the EU, announced days later: "We will give the nuclear experts of both sides three months. . . . Within three to four months

at the most, we should reach a stage where we have an overall conclusion. If they come to no conclusion or say the only visible guarantee would be to halt enrichment altogether, Iran will not accept this," he added.

President Mohammad Khatami reiterated the point: "If the other side does not respect its commitments, we will not have any obligations either," he warned, adding that Iran had struck a "positive accord that respects the national interests."

"Before we spoke of a maximum period of six months, but now we do not want to fix a timeframe," Khatami said of his country's pledge to suspend enrichment activities as of Nov. 22—just three days before the IAEA meeting. Khatami said it was now up to the IAEA board and the EU to respond in kind to Iran's agreement to cooperate as a first step in proving to Iran that the diplomacy was worthwhile.

The responses coming from Europe echoed those from Tehran, in hailing the agreement as a great diplomatic success, and welcoming Iran's suspension decision.

As expected, Washington's response was less than enthusiastic, but not an outright rejection. U.S. Secretary of State Powell said there had been "a little bit of progress, hopefully." State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the U.S. position remains that Iran's program should be reviewed by the Security Council, which could impose economic and diplomatic sanctions. White House spokesman Scott McClellan stated: "We are staying in touch with our European friends, the British, and the French and the Germans. . . . We like to have the full details before we go out and make comments about it."

Terrorist Front Group Deployed

No sooner had the ink dried on the agreement, than charges were launched, according to which Iran was harboring a secret enrichment facility. The accusations came from the National Council for Resistance in Iran (NCRI), a front group for the terrorist Mujaheddin al-Qalq (MKO/MEK). One Farid Soleiman, a senior official of the group, stated on Nov. 17, prior to a Vienna press conference, "The site is involved in uranium enrichment, they are developing a number of techniques." Another NCRI spokesman in Paris, Dhahin Gobadi, said, "Iran has been carrying out nuclear work" at a facility known as the Modern Defensive Readiness and Tehcnology Center. The group charged furthermore that Iran had received weapons-grade uranium and a nuclear bomb design from the father of the Pakistani bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan. The group also said that Iran was developing missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The charges would not have meant much, had not U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell lent credibility to the group's statements on Nov. 18. The Iranian government immediately denied the allegations. "It is a well-timed lie as well. The group wants to make another fuss ahead of the IAEA board meeting on Nov. 25," Iran negotiator Mousavian told Reuters. "They want to poison the board's atmosphere."

Britain's Neo-Con Blair Is Between Bush and a Hard Place

by Mary Burdman

British Prime Minister Tony Blair showed what political pressure he is under, during his foreign policy speech at the Lord Mayor of London's dinner at Mansion House in the City of London Nov. 15. This is the second most important political speech of the year, after the Queen's Speech (actually written by the government), delivered as a "state of the union" about a month after the October opening of Parliament.

Blair, just back from his visit to President George Bush in Washington Nov. 11-12, made a fervent plea for his brand of evangelical "progressive democracy" as the way to conquer all. Blair was the first foreign leader to visit Washington after the U.S. Presidential elections; he departed amidst general demand that he get some concessions from the Bush Administration on the Israel-Palestine deadlock, and returned with nothing of substance.

In his speech, Blair trumpeted Britain's "unique" role between the United States and Europe, but tried to give equal weight to the importance of both sides of the Atlantic. The tension came through at the end, when Blair referred to this "unique" role as "a damn high wire, which is how it often feels; our job is to keep our sights firmly on both sides of the Atlantic. . . . In doing so, we are not subverting our country either into an American poodle or a European municipality." Blair has constantly been denounced as George Bush's "poodle" for his commitment to the war on Iraq—including by a British journalist at the joint press conference with Bush Nov. 12.

In reality, Blair is not just a fawner on neo-conservative Washington: He was himself an architect of the warhawk policy in Southwest Asia. In the 1990s, Blair had put heavy pressure on then-President Bill Clinton to go beyond bombing, and into war against Iraq. When the Bush-Cheney Administration came in, Blair was deeply involved with leading neo-cons in Washington to set up a situation in which he could sell the highly unpopular war inside Britain. Last month, leading U.S. neo-cons, including the heinous Richard Perle, hailed Blair one of their own.

In his Mansion House speech, Blair had to admit that, because of the Iraq war, the U.S.-European relationship "is under question as never before. So now is the time to defend it." Britain's role is to help push everything in the "democracy" direction, because, he claimed, "American policy is evolving": "Europe and America should be working together

to bring the democratic human and political rights we take for granted, to the world denied them." He made these statements as U.S. forces were destroying the city of Fallujah.

The 'Progressive' Neo-Con

Blair and the neo-cons rushed into each other's embrace. In his first interview after the U.S. elections, with *The Times* Nov. 5, Blair proclaimed that neo-cons are really not very different from "progressives" like himself. "When the Americans say we want to extend . . . democracy and human rights throughout the Middle East in the Greater Middle East Initiative, people say, well, that is part of the neo-conservative agenda. Actually, if you put it in different language, it is a progressive agenda," he told *The Times*.

In obnoxious language later repeated to European leaders in Brussels, Blair endorsed the dubious outcome of the U.S. elections. "Some people are in a sort of denial," he claimed. "The election has happened, America has spoken, the rest of the world should listen." He called the negative coverage of the election "quite unbelievable": "The suggestion almost that how can America go and vote for President Bush?"

The Bush-Cheney regime's reaction to Sept. 11—that is, launching war against Iraq—was a "reflective and considered view," Blair said, which he fully endorsed. It should be debated, "rather than condemning people who take that view as either liars, warmongers, or idiots." The proclaimed election result is an opportunity, Blair said, to renew an "immensely strong" relationship with Bush-Cheney's America.

In mid-October, none other than Richard Perle of the American Enterprise Institute said on BBC's "Panorama" program: "I think Tony Blair's moral sense is very much reflected in the thinking of many neo-conservatives. I suppose he'd be horrified to hear that, especially since the term neo-conservative is so abused. But his sense that it was right to liberate Iraq, is the sense of neo-conservatives and was not the view of most foreign offices, including probably his own."

William Kristol, neo-con chairman of the Project for a New American Century and publisher of the *Weekly Standard*, said to "Panorama": "Tony Blair does have a fundamental understanding of this: That for justice and liberty to prevail in the world, force sometimes has to be used. It's very nice to sit around and say we're in Europe, and we believe in the rule of law, we believe in the United Nations, but Saddam Hussein



Tony Blair and George Bush at their press conference in Washington on Nov. 12. Blair and the neo-con warmongers' mutual embrace gives a more realistic indication of what Blair's "progressive democracy" has in store for Israel and Palestine.

is there, and he's a dictator and he has weapons of mass destruction.

"And are you going to do something about it or not, and in so far as Tony Blair's answer was 'yes' . . . even if the rest of the UN security council doesn't agree with us, I think Tony Blair is a kind of neo-conservative, despite himself." Another neo-con, Hudson Institute Fellow Irwin Stelzer, also embraced Blair as a fellow neo-con, in an interview on BBC's Radio 4, Oct. 18.

'Opportunity' for Austerity

Blair has been hyping the fascist economics behind his "progressive" policies since the British political season began in September. On Oct. 10, he proclaimed his concept of an "Opportunity Society" in a big speech to the London Institute for Public Policy Research. Blair had already begun preaching about "the opportunity society" in his Sept. 28 "I'm not sorry about the Iraq war" speech at the Labour Party annual conference.

Waxing more evangelical by the minute, Blair told the Institute of his "grand visions and great causes": a demand that a "true opportunity society" replace the "traditional welfare state." This means to "alter fundamentally the contract between citizen and state at the heart of that 20th Century settlement; to move from a welfare state that relieves poverty and provides basic services to one which offers high-quality services and the opportunity for all to fulfill their potential to the full."

In other words: ever-more austerity. Britain allegedly has a high employment rate; in reality, most jobs are dependent

upon the huge, and very vulnerable, financial sector, while industry is shutting down. Millions of hidden unemployed rely on health-incapacity benefits so that they can continue to eat. There is a £57 billion "black hole" in British pension funds, and personal debt is over £1 trillion: 120% of disposable income.

Blair proposed to make all this worse. He wants to ruin the already weak National Health System by "entrench[ing] choice"; get people "trapped on Incapacity Benefit" to return to work, and use the money to help bail out the failing pension funds. Finally, Blair wants a "lifelong learning" policy, which will be "central to our pensions policy" because it will "enable more older people in their 50s and 60s to acquire the skills and opportunities to remain in work"—because their pensions are not going to be there when they retire!

A Very Hard Place

Despite his embrace of the neo-cons, Blair must know he is in a hard place. He has always tried to play the politically "softer" option, attempting to maneuver the UN Security Council to support the war, and to get Vice President Dick Cheney to present a more measured face to the world—although the end-goal was, and is, always the same.

Blair's hold on power results from the lack of effective opposition at home, and the across-the-board compromising of European leaders with the perceived American election results. Britain is now set to hold national elections on May 5, 2005—although that date can be changed. By then, anything could happen.

"The U.S. Presidential elections were a 'no win' for Tony

Blair, whoever won," one knowledgeable observer of British politics told *EIR* Nov. 9. "If John Kerry had won, there would have been an effort to get rid of all those involved in the Iraq war, and there would have been a lot of pressure on Blair. But Bush won, and Blair will now have to carry the albatross of Bush and Iraq around his neck into the coming British elections. Blair's continued propitiation of Bush, who is widely despised in Britain, will demoralize the Labour Party workers who have to get out the vote in the election, and there could be many Labour seats lost."

Before the election, when Downing Street was trying to hedge its bets on the real possibility of a Kerry victory, Blair's former "spin doctor" and New Labour guru Alastair Campbell told BBC Radio 4 on Nov. 2: "The reality is—there is no point in denying this—that Tony has taken a big political hit as a result of what is perceived to be a strong relationship with President Bush."

Blair went to Washington with demands that he come back with "concrete demonstration of the benefits of his close ties to George Bush," the political observer said. Most urgent would be a fresh peace initiative between Israel and Palestine. But, as a well-placed British Mideast expert said after Blair's return, "Blair got nothing in Washington."

Blair himself had declared Israel-Palestine *the* issue, when he called George Bush with congratulations even before the results were final. "I have long argued that the need to revitalize the Middle East peace process is the single most pressing political challenge in our world today," Blair later described his message to Bush. Before he flew off for his "face-to-face time" (the two have regular video sessions) with Bush, he told the British Parliament, "I will do everything I can to make sure that this peace process becomes reinvigorated."

Immediately, the New Labour apparatus made it clear that little of substance would happen. Alastair Campbell went on television Nov. 8, to say that "it would be unrealistic to expect concrete results from a summit such as this." Blair was hoping for a "signal of intent" from Bush, a Downing Street spokesman stated Nov. 8, after admitting that efforts for Israeli-Palestinian peace have "lost momentum. . . . The priority is to restore that momentum—it is important to get a signal of intent."

Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell, herself recently embarrassed by widespread opposition to Blair's plans to revive the British economy by allowing U.S. "super casinos" to move into the country, admitted that the re-election of Bush caused much disappointment in the Labour Party, but said Blair should put his "very strong alliance" with the President to "its best possible use."

The day before Blair left, Downing Street was downplaying what could be accomplished. "There will be depth behind the signals of intent we can expect in Washington. But I am not sure how much will surface at this stage," was the highly explicit statement of one No. 10 official. "I will be surprised

if we get a piece of paper we can wave," said another. On the plane over, the BBC reported, aides were downplaying that there would be any real gains for Blair.

There certainly was intense "face-to-face" time: Blair and Bush met alone for dinner on Nov. 11. However, at their Nov. 12 joint press conference, Bush said absolutely nothing new. He set no timetable for establishing the two states of Israel and Palestine, and made no commitments to a new peace conference or a new U.S. special envoy. As to enforcement, Bush was clear where the pressure would be applied: the Palestinians "may decide to elect a real strong personality, but we'll hold their feet to the fire to make sure that democracy prevails." (See "Eye on Washington" column in this issue.)

The only refreshing note at the press conference, was when Bush was asked by a British journalist whether he regarded Blair as his "poodle," and Blair had to tell Bush: "Don't answer 'yes' to that question."

On a more sombre note for Blair, was Bush's warning of escalating violence in Iraq before the (scheduled) January elections: "As those elections draw near, the desperation of the killers will grow and the violence could escalate." Asked for his reaction later, Blair told British journalists that it had "passed me by."

British War Opposition Growing

Opposition to the Iraq war in Britain is now higher than ever. An opinion poll published in *The Times* Nov. 9, showed that just 31% of people—down from 33% last month—consider the war right, while 57% considered the war wrong, up from 53% in October. On Nov. 16, *The Independent* reported that British military leaders want the Black Watch regiment withdrawn from central Iraq at latest by the beginning of December. (Just before the U.S. Presidential elections, the famous Black Watch was sent to the Fallujah area from the relatively quieter south, to support U.S. operations. Reaction was intense in Britain. See *EIR*, Nov. 19.)

Chief of Britain's Defense Staff, Gen. Sir Mike Walker, has already told U.S. military in Iraq that keeping the British forces in central Iraq "would be a political decision and militarily irresponsible," according to "senior defence sources" cited by *The Independent*. The plan is to withdraw the Black Watch as soon as the Fallujah operation is over, or when the battle group's 30-day deployment ends on Dec. 3—"whichever is sooner." Britain will not support further U.S. Fallujah-type offensives.

Blair has promised in Parliament that the Black Watch would be home by Christmas, which the military said "surprised" them, and put constraints on British operations in Basra. The Black Watch is deployed just south of Fallujah, to plug a hole in the U.S. deployment. A senior British military source said: "There was a need to fill the vacuum, and this will continue to be the case. Other forces will be needed in the future, but it won't be us."

LAROUCHE ON PHILIPPINES RADIO

The U.S. Election Has Settled Nothing

The following interview with former U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche was conducted by Butch Valdes on Angel Radio, Manila, the Philippines, on Nov. 16, 2004.

Valdez: A rare privilege for Filipino radio and Filipino nationwide audiences. Ladies and Gentlemen, the most accurate long-range economic forecaster alive today. Scientist, philosopher, statesman, physical economist, and world leader, and the principal organizer of a worldwide LaRouche Youth

What LaRouche Would Say To President Bush

Lyndon LaRouche was interviewed on Nov. 16 by the Internet radio network Louisiana "Live," which is then picked up by many broadcast stations throughout Louisiana. His host was Don Grady. Here is an excerpt.

Grady: Mr. LaRouche, right before the break, I said, if you had one minute with George Bush, what advice would you give him?

LaRouche: I would tell him, first of all, let's get rid of Cheney. He's probably guilty, but he's also got a health problem; let's get him out of there, just for your safety. And, in the meantime, what I suggest either, is that you take it easy: Give me Condoleezza Rice's job, let me guide you through the next four years, and you'll get the best deal you possibly could get—and the American people, too!

Movement [LYM], we welcome Mr. Lyndon H. LaRouche of the United States. How are you this morning, Mr. LaRouche?
LaRouche: Well, I'm feeling fairly good under very chaotic conditions here in the United States. Nothing is very definite yet here since the so-called election. Everything is confused in the world and therefore it is very interesting for me.

Valdez: Well, we will jump right into the relevant topics tonight, sir—the crisis in our economy as well as the world, a crisis in government, crisis in leadership, crisis of escalating wars, crisis from terrorists, skyrocketing prices for fuel, food, medicine, what's happening, Mr. LaRouche? What is this all leading to?

LaRouche: We are in the process of a general breakdown of the present world monetary-financial system, and, of course, this is tied to the economy, world economy, as well as national economies, which are slaves, presently, of the present world monetary-financial system. There will be no solution for these crises until a new system—or if, a new suitable system, is put into effect.

The only thing that would work now—and some economists, for example, in Germany and elsewhere, are talking in this direction: What I propose is the declaration of an emergency, with the existing monetary-financial system of the world put into bankruptcy receivership for re-organization by governments, by each sovereign government, and by these governments, or a lot of them, in concert. That means that the international banking system will be essentially taken over by governments for financial re-organization in order to prevent a collapse.

Payments on certain accounts in the banking system and the financial system, will be suspended. Some, such as financial derivatives, would have to be canceled. Governments would then have to do as Franklin Roosevelt did begin-



Butch Valdez (right) conducted this interview with Lyndon LaRouche from the Philippines, discussing the implications of the U.S. elections for the rest of the world. Here, the two met in Virginia earlier.

ning March 1933, to take measures to put the physical economy of nations back into functioning, and to re-design the monetary-financial system and the banking system to be able to continue that recovery. So, therefore, it is up to governments.

The problem now is we do not yet have governments which are willing to even consider that. Governments around the world are afraid of the international financier cartels. These cartels control Europe, for example, the governments of Europe, which are totally intimidated by, and controlled by these financial sharks, eating people from behind the scenes, as the case of Argentina is an example of this kind of shark operation, coming through, in that case, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] itself.

Now what is needed, therefore, is we have to go to a system of government credit. That is, governments have to reorganize their credit system to create monetary aggregate for specified kinds of usage. The main thing we are looking for is the increase in employment immediately in the public sector and stabilization of essential industries in the private sector, including agriculture, of course.

Those measures would enable us to start rebuilding the world economy in an orderly way. But that would mean that the dominant force in the world today, the power of these bankers behind the scenes—not really banks so much, as financier oligarchs who control banks—they would have to give up their power, and surrender their power *back* to the authority of sovereign governments.

That doesn't mean they would be wiped out; it would

mean they would be put through bankruptcy re-organization, including their financial interests, by governments. That is the only solution. Up until that point there is going to be chaos. When governments don't function, when economies don't function, then the physical conditions of life don't function, and the political conflicts, such as terrorism and so forth, as in the Middle East situation right now, they are not solvable.

For example, suppose the best. I have proposed, and James Baker III, who is a key member of the Bush 41 group, has proposed, that Bhargouti, who is now in prison, a Palestinian who is the most popular Palestinian leader after the death of Arafat, should be taken out of prison and should be acknowledged as a potential negotiating partner for the Israelis, under the protection and sponsorship of the United States and other countries.

That is to say, "You two guys now negotiate a peace," but this would mean that we, to make it succeed, would have to deal with a lot economic problems in that part of the world. We have Palestinians in camps who have been there for most of, or all of their lifetimes. We have an impossible economic situation in that whole area. Therefore, without giving people the means of life, the economic means of life, no political agreement will be durable, and, therefore, this is one of those cases where we have a terrible problem, which cannot be solved under present conditions without a political agreement to cooperate, but also without reorganization of the monetary-financial system in the same direction as Franklin Delano Roosevelt typifies, back in the 1930s. That's where we are.

So now the world is in chaos because of a head-on conflict between rapacious financier interests, of the same kind of financier interests who were behind Hitler and company back in the 1930s, and the interest of people and nations, and that's why we have chaos.

Valdez: Coming from us here, although we are a country of 80 million people, we are a poor nation with no international influence to change the world financial system. How should we move to make such necessary changes together with you, or is repudiation the only way out?

LaRouche: No, what we have to do is this. It's obvious. The Philippines is a very special country, because it is a country which, despite the fact of pre-1898 origins and pre-Spanish origins, it has emerged as a country with a culture of its own, but a culture that is very close to European culture, that is, in the generic sense.

It's in the middle of Asia. It is a large country of the secondary rank of countries in Asia, like those of Southeast Asia or Japan or Korea. The Philippines is comparable to that. The Philippines also has a potential, largely from its development since 1898, the development associated for example with the MacArthur period; it has the capability which very few other countries in the region have.

For example, there used to be high tech, modern technology capabilities around the bases—the U.S. military bases—

there in the Philippines. So the problem here is that the Philippines has a very important pivotal role, some people would say geo-politically, in the entire region, of trying to bring together on a global scale *for the first time*, a world system, which is capable of accommodating *both* the European cultural heritage and Asian cultures.

This is the great barrier, the *great frontier*, of a hopeful future for this planet, to bring together the cultures of Asia, which are different than those of Western Europe generally, with the European culture, to get a *global culture* based on a system of sovereign nation-states which understands that this unresolved cultural question has to be addressed, with a long-term view of several generations, of creating an integrated set of sovereign nation-states as the system of the planet. So the Philippines is a very special country, with a unique importance for the people of Asia, in particular, in playing a key role in bringing about this kind of general integration of Asian and European civilizations.

Valdez: A question from the LYM, from Marlou.

Marlou: Hi Lyn, it's nice to hear from you. You were mentioning that the only solution to our crisis is to change the present monetary system and to have bankruptcy re-organization. Now, I want to ask you, who should initiate this? Who? Because we know that Cheney and Bush are back in office.

LaRouche: Well, maybe they are, and maybe they are not. Maybe it is an unsettled question. I would say that nothing right now is settled. The idea that a report on Nov. 3 settled the election process in the United States, is wrong. Nothing is settled. We are about a day away from the end of the transitional period of the Congress, prior to the beginning of the new year. It looks today as if there are upheavals in Washington, with the announcement, but not yet officially, of the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, that has not yet happened. The announcement of the retirement has happened. The announcement of the prospective appointment of Condi Rice to replace him has been announced, but nothing is settled. The [Alberto] Gonzales case [appointment as U.S. Attorney General] is not settled, and it looks as if it will not be settled.

The score on the elections is not settled. The report of the Electoral College is not complete, and there are important questions, including legal questions involved. There are also potential charges, criminal charges, against Republicans, or some of the Republicans, in connection with the vote suppression, which is unconstitutional and unlawful by specific laws.

So, a lot of things are not settled. Also, the other thing is that nothing coming from the United States is a solution.

Now, those in the Philippines will recall Dien Bien Phu.

In the United States, while this is different than Dien Bien Phu in some respects—that is, the Iraq situation—it has similarities from the standpoint of strategy. It is comparable to the time the French pulled out of Algiers. You have an impossible situation, an impossible war. We have a general destabilization of the entire area of Southwest Asia. We have chain-

reaction effects around the world.

Nothing is settled. We are now in a transitional period between now and about the 20th of January, and it will be somewhere in that time that we have some idea of what kind of a government will actually be formed here in the United States as the next government. It is not yet clear. The propaganda says it is clear, but I know from sitting inside the United States and what I am looking at, and the people I am talking to, nothing is settled.

We have a similar situation in Europe. No government of Europe is stable. You have a right-wing trend in the French government, the present French government. You have instability in Germany. You have instability in Italy. You have a general instability throughout Europe. You have the Blair government up for grabs, in a sense, in London.

So, *nothing is settled.* We are now in a period of transition, a revolutionary period, in one sense or the other. So what we have to do is keep our heads, have a clear perspective of what the long-term issues are, and orient to the long-term and medium-term issues and the key questions, and don't try to assume that anything that appears to be the case now, is the case.

Valdez: We have a caller from Manila, his name is Charlie, who wants to ask his question, Lyn. Charlie, go ahead.

Charlie: Good evening *Ka Butch*, good evening, Mr. LaRouche. Mr. LaRouche I am a regular listener of your radio program here in the Philippines for several months, and it is clear to me that you put a lot of importance on history and philosophy. Considering that people have different interpretations of objective facts, how do you think history should be taught, considering that people are different, they come from different nations, they have different cultures?

LaRouche: Well, there are unresolved cultural questions *within* cultures. The assumption that an existing culture is in a sense relatively *right* relative to another culture, is a mistake. What you have to realize, which is the importance of the existence of the sovereign nation-state, is that if you want to make the transition, as we are trying to complete the transition in European civilization, as we are trying to make the same kind of progress in Asian cultures, for most of history the cultures we have are legacies of a time at which a few people, relatively few, held the rest of the population, of their and other nations, in virtual captivity, either as herded cattle or as wild cattle to be hunted down. So the cultures are based—all cultures are *corrupted*, as in the United States with the legacy of slavery here. All cultures are corrupted by this fact, that in all known history, in most states, with very few temporary exceptions, that *most* of the people have been treated as cattle by a *few* of the people who dominate the culture, and therefore the culture represents a corruption of this type inside it.

If we are going to develop a culture of truly free people, in which no people are held as herded cattle to be used by a few ruling circles, then we are going to have to change cul-

tures, they are going to have to undergo a development.

We have in European civilization, a model for doing that—not that we have succeeded entirely, but we have a model. That model is essentially the history of classical Greece, or the classical struggle. It was the defeat of the attempt by the classical movement in Greece to hold power, as the fall of Athens, through its own self-destruction, and the failure to carry forward Plato's *Republic* and similar works, which is the problem of society in general today.

We have the clue in European civilization for the way in which to transform societies in which most people are human cattle, into societies in which all people are free. The way to do that is by using what is called irony, or the method of Plato's dialogues—to take people with their existing language, existing language cultures, their traditions, and by the aid of methods we call classical drama, classical poetry, classical music, classical science, to use those methods to enable each people, each culture, to go through an internal process of self-development, where it uplifts the members of its own society to eliminate this human cattle factor in society generally.

So, therefore, rather than saying all cultures are equal—they are *not* all equal; or that all cultures have a right—they *don't* have an inherent right, in the sense of being truthful; but all people who have a culture, have the right to be sovereign in the process of development and transformation of their existing culture, and that is what we need.

Charlie: Mr. LaRouche, one final question. I understand you refer to yourself as an Augustinian Catholic. Why the term Augustinian Catholic?

LaRouche: Well, I don't say Catholic, but Augustinian in the Catholic tradition of the Church. Because what happened was, you had a problem, which is the famous Council where the Emperor decreed that he was going to appoint the bishops of the Church, and this was a great corruption, under Constantine, of the Christian Church. There was a revolt among Christians of the Apostolic tradition, the tradition of the Apostles John and Paul, for example, against this Constantine corruption, of making the Christian church essentially a part of the Roman official cult collection. Augustine came to represent, as a convert away from what had been gnostic tendencies of that period—he became a leader to restore the tradition of the Christian Church as opposed to a Roman church. This led to a great struggle, where Isidore of Seville became a leader of this movement. It became known as an educational movement, the Augustinians, as also in the Philippines, are known as a teaching order. It moved from Spain into Ireland, of all places, among the Irish monks who Christianized the Saxons, and from this Christianization from Ireland and the British Isles—you wouldn't believe it, but at that time the British Isles were the center of Christianity—they converted people like Alquin, and created what became known as the Charlemagne system, which is the idea of a system of sovereign



LaRouche pointed out that the Philippines is comparable to countries in Asia, like Japan or Korea “which has a potential, largely from its development since 1898, the development associated for example with the MacArthur period . . . it has the capability which very few other countries in the region have.” Show here is the father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Gen. Arthur MacArthur, who was military governor of the Philippines in the early part of the last century.

nation-states according to the principles of the general welfare of apostolic Christianity.

This was opposed by powerful forces who represented the pagan Roman tradition, but who attempted to seize and control Church institutions. Then the thing was complicated more recently, beginning in the course of the 15th Century, as there was an attempt to restore the old system against the great reform, which had re-created the Papacy. The Papacy was actually re-created after the great period of corruption in the 14th Century, during the 15th Century. And the struggle goes on.

The struggle goes on *within* churches—a struggle between the relics of gnosticism, the relics of specifically the Roman church as such—not in the sense of the church of the Pope. You have it in the Church today. For example, you have Popes such as John XXIII, who was a great Pope, and a true Pope, even though he's been maligned by many in the Church. Paul VI, who was his successor, and his selected successor,

who became Pope after a great struggle, and then Pope John Paul II today, who is a great Pope. So there is that tradition.

Charlie: Augustine mentioned that it would be necessary to undergo the pain of penance to attain heaven. With such a statement, do you think that humankind will have to undergo a great catharsis in order to achieve a situation where you have the common good and the general welfare?

LaRouche: That's exactly the crisis we are facing at this moment. The penance is to eliminate the corruption, typified by the rule of the planet by usury—the submission to usury.

Valdez: We have a question from Jehan from the LYM.

Jehan: You mentioned a lot about an impending new Dark Age, in some of your speeches and your articles. I have also read some books about the Dark Ages in Medieval times. What will it be like in this impending Dark Age, and what can we do to prepare ourselves—or rather, to stop this from happening?

LaRouche: The classical Dark Age came out of the Norman/Venetian system, that is, about the beginning of 1000 AD. The Venetians, who had risen to power as a replacement, essentially, for the power of Byzantium, made an alliance with a Norman chivalry, which itself was a creation of a faction of Byzantium. This was the Normans who deployed first to destroy Charlemagne's system. The Venetians made an alliance with these people, which began with a number of crusades in that century, including, actually, the first major crusade, which was the Norman conquest of England, to eliminate Christianity, which is what the purpose was, by this heathen. This resulted in what became the Venetian system of tyranny, which dominated Europe through this Venetian/Norman alliance during the period deep into the 14th Century. The natural consequence of this from 1339 on, you had the collapse of the financial system, the banking system of Europe. This resulted in the collapse of the population of Europe by a net one-third, and the elimination of one-half of the parishes of Europe.

So, this was the classic Dark Age. It is from this that the 15th Century Renaissance re-created a church out of the massive corruption which had existed in the previous century, during the Dark Age. We launched modern civilization, in which the principle of the general welfare, the common good, was the law of nation-states.

Since that time we have had a struggle by the Venetian system and its legacy, its followers, to maintain the old system. For example, the tendency to go to world government now, or to go to globalization now, are a reflection of the same evil that we experienced back under the Norman/Venetian rule in the Medieval world in Europe.

So that is what our struggle is right now. We now have over 6 billion people on this planet. What has been in progress for the last 40 years in particular has been the attempt to eliminate modern civilization. This is done by attacking mod-

ern technology, modern industrial scientific technology, because in the modern system of the nation-state, science and technological progress have been the basis for increasing the population and improving the general welfare of people.

The tendency has been for 40 years now to reverse that process, an anti-technology, anti-science policy. But we still have—with the growth of the population of China, which has undergone a great surge of progress in the past 30 years—we have a situation of over 6 billion people on this planet.

If we continue the present trends of the IMF, the present trends of anti-technology, the so-called "Green movement"; if we continue to move back toward primitivism, which is what some people want—they say if you make people stupid, you can rule the world. This would mean a collapse of the world population level, from the level today of over 6 billion people to a level of far less than 1 billion people, in a period of one to two generations. That is the danger, and that is what we have to fight, that is what we have to overcome.

We must, in a sense, as some of the previous questions asked on this program indicate, we must have an understanding of the nature of the threat to us. This is the nature of the threat, and we must, therefore, mobilize, saying that we will not let this happen to humanity.

Then, once we have decided we will not let this happen to humanity, then we will say, what is the economic policy, in the sense of the physical economic policy, and what are the policies of finance and monetary affairs, which have to go with that, which enable us to maintain and improve the condition of life of a population of over 6 billion today. That is what we have to do.

We have to have a sense of optimism, a sense of immortality. We have to have a sense that we today are responsible for what happens to coming generations of humanity. We must see ourselves as an instrument of immortality by acting now to ensure that future generations have the opportunity for growth.

Valdez: We have a call from Mrs. Lita Ramos. Good evening, Lita.

Lita: One of the LYM had mentioned about the overturning of the election of Bush. Perhaps you could explain it to us. And I would like to express my disappointment that you were not elected as the Democratic candidate. And my last question is, what is the secret of your stamina? I understand you are now more than 80. Thank you very much.

LaRouche: Well, my enemies are very upset about the fact that I am functioning at the age of 82, and they try to think of ways to get rid of me, but I am becoming much more difficult to get rid of as I have more and more friends around the world, and also because the crisis causes even some people who consider themselves my enemies, see me as a necessary person to have around to get some ideas about what to do with some of the messes they are making of things.

First of all, the election is not decided. There is a report

Even if Bush were confirmed come January 20th next year, as the President, would he actually be the controlling President? Would he be the kind of President he was, or would there be a certain arrangement under which he would sit as President, but the actual important decisions would be shaped in a different way than they have been shaped in the last four years?

of an estimate of the result of the election. There is no confirmation of that report. There is a strong indication that the report might hold up, but there is no proof of it. The election of the President of the United States depends upon a couple of phases: hurdle number one, is the auditing of the vote; that is now going on, and there are many questions being posed. For example, one question is whether the vote is accurate. And the second question is, if the vote is accurate, was the vote obtained by aid of fraud, including criminal action in suppressing the vote of some people who had the right to vote. And that is a crime. That is a violation of the Constitution. It is a violation of law, and it is a crime under U.S. law, which means that some of the people who may have been responsible for this may be in prison, or may be faced with those kinds of charges.

Second, if the vote as tallied is validated by the Electoral College, which comes later, then it goes to another procedure. If the Electoral College cannot decide, clearly, then it goes to the Congress, and the Congress elects the next President and Vice President.

Now there is another phase to this, which is all the more subtle, but is actually what the real situation is in case Bush were confirmed by all these obstacles as having been re-elected. You now go to another phase. Will he actually *be* the President if he is elected? That is, the President has *known mental problems*. They are very clear. Everyone knows it, including leading members of his own family, and his father's circle, the former President Bush, is in the background.

Now you have noticed recently that James Baker III, who is the key spokesman on legal and related matters and financial matters for the Bush group—the Carlisle Group—that he has said rightly, as I have, that we have to get Barghout, the Palestinian leader, out of an Israeli prison to become the negotiating partner with the Israeli government for an Arab-Israeli peace in the Middle East.

That is a very strong opinion. It is probably shared by [former National Security Adviser Brent] Scowcroft and others in that circle. There are big questions. There is a riot going on inside the present Bush Administration. There is a riot of change of seats. There is a suggestion that if Bush were to remain President, he would be a much more quiet President, much more like he was as the Governor of Texas, less active, and the government would actually be run by other people.

Now, we are in the worst financial crisis in modern world history, that is, in modern civilization. This thing is coming on fast. The international monetary-financial system is collapsing. There is nothing that will stop that collapse under present conditions, which means that there is going to be an upheaval in the establishment and institutions of government in the United States and outside the United States.

So that, even if Bush were confirmed come January 20th next year, as the President, would he actually be the controlling President? Would he be the kind of President he was, or would there be a certain arrangement under which he would sit as President, but the actual important decisions would be shaped in a different way than they have been shaped in the last four years?

So these are the kinds situations we're looking at. Now as to myself, of course, I was a key primary candidate for the Presidential nomination during the recent primary campaign for the Democratic Party, and in the two months prior to the election, I was an important figure who was brought in on behalf of organizing the attempted election of John Kerry. I was brought in by various people and played a part in that election process, a key part.

I've now emerged from that process as a key part of the Democratic Party's organization for dealing with the present situation.

I am a king-maker in a sense in the Democratic Party. There are many in the Democratic Party who oppose me, but they also oppose the change that Kerry made in the last two months of his campaign. So now there is a fight inside the Democratic Party for a re-organization of the Democratic Party, and I'm part of the fight. Right as we speak there is a meeting going on in Arkansas involving former President Clinton and his circles who are down there on the occasion of bringing into being the inauguration of the Clinton Presidential Library.

There are discussions in other circles of which I am part of, or I know about, in the United States. Nothing is settled, nothing is settled.

We are in a period of transition in which I have to play an important part, both in the United States and outside the United States, in trying to deal with the great crisis which faces us now: the greatest crisis in modern history, really, in a sense the greatest crisis certainly in the past 300 years, a



"I consider it a singular plan of the fates that human cultivation and refinement should today be concentrated, as it were, in the two extremes of our continent, in Europe and in China, which adorns the Orient as Europe does the opposite edge of the earth. Perhaps Supreme Providence has ordained such an arrangement, so that, as the most cultivated and distant peoples stretch out their arms to each other, those in between may gradually be brought to a better way of life."—G.W. Leibniz, *Novissima Sinica*, 1697.

much greater crisis and much more profound than we faced during the 1930s.

Valdez: We have a question from a brand new LYM member, whose name is Eric.

Eric: Morning, sir, I understand you want to promote Classical culture, the world's greatest scientific, moral, and artistic developments, to neutralize the rock, sex, drugs counterculture now dominating the entertainment industry, trying to corrupt the minds of our young. How do you think we can promote Classical culture, such as Classical music, like Bach, Beethoven, here in our country, since classical culture is a Western thing?

LaRouche: First, on the root of European Classical culture, which is run through the people like the Pythagoreans, Solon, Thales, Plato, and so forth: It is in a sense European Classical culture, but it is also an extension of *world* Classical culture. You have to remember that the human race has been on this planet for over 2 million years, as humans. There is a fundamental difference between apes and men, and that is the *mind*.

Classical culture is nothing but a culture derived from the properties of the mind.

I can show you, for example, that in a Eurasian culture—such as the Vedic culture, with the Vedic hymns, which contain astronomical facts, which are validated: It is a great culture. Before 20,000 B.C., when the ice was sitting on top of most of Eurasia, except for the south, you had maritime cultures, ocean-going maritime cultures, with advanced knowledge of astronomy and navigation based on astronomy, so that these are the roots of Classical culture. What happened after a series of Dark Ages in various civilizations, there emerged in Europe, around the Greeks in particular, but based on a conduiting of knowledge of ancient culture, ancient *world* culture, with the aid of Egyptian astronomy, which became the foundations of a method that developed in Europe, which is a part of *world* culture, a world Classical culture. What we have to do today, is that we have to recognize that in cultures like—look at the great poverty still in China, the great mass of very poor people in China and in India, both of which countries are in a sense Asian powers, emerging Asian powers, yet you have extremely poor people who are living in practically pre-civilized conditions of life in parts of India.

Look at the rest of Asia. Look even at the Philippines, and the terrible conditions of life that some people face. These are pre-Classical conditions. But my contention is, and we have to recognize, that Classical culture, while it developed in its form in Europe, and developed on the basis of principles which have the validity for a culture of scientific principles, like that of Bach for example, that the root of this culture, which we have as Classical culture in Europe, the best of it, is actually a product of world culture, in which Asian cultures have it, as in China, as recognized by Leibniz, which are the foundation of the same culture which we have in Classical European culture.

In India, the same thing. So we have lost civilizations and lost cultures, and lost languages, which have given something to us, reflected in modern civilization.

Classical culture is a commitment to a policy of development of the full potential of the individual human mind, the development of an individual so that they are significant in what they do, as an honor to their ancestors and an ensurance of survival to their descendents.

That is Classical culture, and what we have in Europe is simply that we have the advantage of having developed a powerful culture, a culture which has transformed the planet, has increased the potential population density of the entire planet.

Back, earlier, before modern Europe, the potential population potential of this planet was about a half-billion people. You could not sustain more than that because the culture would not allow it, and what we have today with the vast explosion of population in Asia is a reflection of the impact of the benefits of European culture interacting and absorbed by Asian cultures. Therefore, we have to think not in terms of

a *proprietary* European Classical culture. We have to think of a global Classical culture in which Europe has made a very significant contribution.

Valdez: We have a caller from outside, whose name is Antonio Velazco.

Antonio: Good evening, Mr. LaRouche. I really admire your knowledge. I would like to ask about the Palestinian and Israeli conflict. Who really owns that land?

LaRouche: That should be decided. I don't think anybody owns the land. That is a fact that has to be established. But what you have, if you look at the map, and look at the map of that territory, called Israel and Palestine—because it is one map. Look over the past periods, shall we say the beginning of the 19th Century, when the British first made their intervention into that area during the period of the Napoleonic wars. If you look at the map, everybody lives next to everybody. There is no really contiguous land area, which is owned by anybody in the sense of a national territory. What is needed is to create a definition of what the land area is.

Now that all involves, primarily, most immediately, Palestinians and Israelis. And our view has been—as the view of many Israelis, as well as Jews around the world, has been—either there should be one state responsible for all of the territory inhabited by both Jews and Arabs, and others, without discrimination—just like the United States, for example, which has all kinds of religious groups inside it, including some real nuts, but we have it. Or, therefore, if because of the bloodshed, which has gone on for all these decades, they cannot live at peace with one and another now, let them have two states, and let them divide the territory in some decent form.

The key problem here, once you say that that should be done, the problem is that there is not enough water, in terms of sustainable resources, to meet the requirements of the entire population now living there. Therefore, we need economic development, including large-scale desalination programs to ensure there are the economic conditions of life needed for the people of that area.

It is not a simple question, as to whose property that territory is. We have to decide. We have to recognize it must primarily be Israelis and Palestinians themselves who must make the agreement. We must do what we can to make the agreement work, to make it come into being. But, we also have to recognize that we have a responsibility to ensure there is the physical, economic development, which will make any state, or states so-defined, as viable propositions. Therefore, for example, that's why I find myself, in a sense, in bed with James Baker III, the H.W. Bush Secretary of State, on Barghouti, who is a man who is, like [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon and many others, he's a killer; like Arafat, a killer. They've all been killers. They all *are* killers. They kill each other all the time, so you can't disqualify them because they are killers.

Barghouti was a courageous killer in a civil war between Israelis and Palestinians. Sharon is a killer of known propensities, but Barghouti is the one in prison, held by the Israelis because he is a killer, by the Israelis, who are killers. Therefore, get him out of prison, as James Baker III has said, as I say, and let Sharon, under U.S. and European pressure, negotiate with Barghouti. Because Barghouti has the popularity among the Palestinians now; therefore, he should be negotiated with, and therefore, we should force a peace into being *now*, to settle what the territory is, who owns what piece of land in terms of national sovereignty.

Velazco: The fear is very strong.

LaRouche: I know, but that's alright, we have to take away the fear factor. We have to say to Sharon and company: "Hey, you bum; hey, you killer, we're going to nail you to the negotiating table, and you are going to negotiate."

But the problem is that the United States, which has the power, with its friends in Europe and others, to bring about a forced negotiation of that type, has not done so. The United States must put its full weight, along with Europe and others, and its friends in the United Nations, to put its full weight to make sure that something beyond the Oslo Accords is agreed to and goes forth now. Not over ten years, but *now!* And it has to be an economic development proposal.

We have to force it to come about. We have to tilt the balance to make the peace negotiations actually happen.

Valdez: A question from LYM member Ver.

Ver: Hi, Lyn, you've mentioned earlier the financial interest in today's situation and back in Hitler's time. How did the financial oligarchy come into being, to what they are now?

LaRouche: Well, the financial oligarchy is, as I've written—I've written a paper which I think you younger people in particular, who are going through a university-type education, or self-education as a group, should study, "On Animation and Economy." It is necessary for this period, because we are going into a period where the financial economy, or a finance-run economy, of the sort that is taught in most schools, will no longer work on this planet. We have to go the other way, the American System way. We have to start with a physical economy, as policy, and we have to design a financial system, under regulations which make the financial system work in the way that the physical economy requires.

That means that we have to understand a number of things. We have to understand the history of Europe, especially since about the last 1,000 years, 1,100 years perhaps. We have to understand that Europe was dominated since about 1000 A.D. by a Venetian/Norman chivalry alliance. This was called the Middle Ages. This was called feudalism. This was corrupt. Out of this, the Venetian financier oligarchy, which was the leading force in feudalism, has survived both through the religious wars, which were started by the Grand Inquisitor of Spain, Torquemada, through the period of the 1648 Treaty of

Westphalia, which ended religious war in Europe in that form, although some people are trying to bring it back again today. But during this period, even despite what the Cardinal [Mazarin] did in bringing about the Treaty of Westphalia, and despite what happened in France for a period under Jean Baptist Colbert in terms of scientific and economic development, the Venetians came back to power, reincarnating themselves, so that instead of being Venetians, they now called themselves Dutch or British.

So the world has been dominated since 1763, when, after the Seven Years War—the Anglo-Dutch liberal financier interests have dominated the world since that time. This system, we call the Venetian system—in fact, the British party, the British liberal party of the 18th Century called *itself* the Venetian Party. It was actually run by Venetians. That Venetian system exists in the world today in the form of a syndicate of financier interests which were known in the period of the Versailles Treaty as the Synarchist International. It was this Synarchist International, including bankers in New York, who created Adolf Hitler, and Mussolini, and Franco, and so forth and so on. Now, this same crowd, which includes banks like—Lazard Frères in France is typical of this.

These people created Nazism. They created that. Now they're back. They never went away. The same financier interests are behind globalization; they are behind the changes which occurred, especially in the past 40 years, in the United States, and in Europe. These are the changes. We are now on the verge of going to a new form of what was called on the books, international fascism, or universal fascism. That is their intention. That is the meaning of the word globalization. So, that's what you are looking at. The same people who control the IMF, who are trying to dictate genocide to the people of Argentina right now.

These are the people. My enemies in the United States are these people. I've been their enemy ever since the end of the war, when I came out of the war and came back and found out that the right wing was taking over more and more of the power in my country away from the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt. These are the people that I have been fighting. These are the people who hate me and fear me. So we have a pretty good fight going on.

But if we don't defeat them, now, there is no chance for civilization, except a dark age. They can not *win*. They can win over *us*, and destroy us, but they can not win, because if they win, they will destroy themselves.

Valdez: We have another 25 minutes, if you don't mind.

LaRouche: Okay, let's do it. It's so good to be with the Filipino people now.

Valdez: We're really having fun having you with us, Lyn, you just can't imagine it. We have an American friend who has been living here for some time. He's a writer, whose name is Gary Satre, and he'd like to ask a question.

Gary: Good morning, Mr. LaRouche. How would you describe the mood of the American people in the wake of the election?

LaRouche: First of all, they are stunned. We are not all stunned. We have two groups that I think are significant, or maybe three.

We've got, in the Democratic Party, around the people I collaborated with closely—not all of them, some of them are stunned—but around that group, which is a leading group, we have an emerging sense of what we have to do, and that spreads. We have also—the key thing to look at is the youth movement, because you would notice in the recent elections, the one factor that stood out, which we knew in advance, but the Democrats had to learn it the hard way, that over 65% of young people who voted, between 18 and 29 years of age, voted for Kerry.

Now, this typifies what we are operating on in terms of my youth movement in the United States. Young people have come to a time around the world, not just the United States, but around the world generally, where they realize that their parents' generation—that is, young people, who are 18 years old or more—realize that their parents' generation by and large is morally dead for the time being. They have fled into an escapist society, an entertainment society, thinking that they don't care if the future comes or not, as long as they can live out their time in a reasonable amount of pleasure and comfort, they are not going to worry.

Their children, their young adult children, don't accept that. They recognize their parents are by and large crazy, because they say we have, if we live, we have 40 years of life ahead of us, what kind of a future have our parents, and their parents, given to us? And therefore, they want a future. They are open to ideas.

What happens is that they are also a catalytic factor, because the parents' generation, which is corrupted by the effect of this cultural change of the recent period, especially in the 30- to 50-year-old age group—they are the worst, but the Baby Boomers are also bad. But when they see their children, their young adult children, moving politically toward a future, the parents are not unaffected. They tend to be remoralized, encouraged, and come back into the fight. So, the youth factor here is crucial. Young people now are still open, and this is also true in Europe, as well as in the United States, are open to the idea of a future.

We have it in Mexico. We have proven in Mexico that there is a youth factor in Mexico just like in the United States, and we are very close to Mexico because we have so many Mexican-Americans that we are more than neighboring states, we are very close neighbors. This exists, but on the one hand there is extreme pessimism, there is a tendency toward fascism in Europe, we see it in trends in Germany, in France, in Italy, and in Spain of course, but there's also hope. We are now in one of those periods of turbulence where history in a sense will decide in which direction we will go, to hell or,



This shows a Pegasus rocket boosting the X-43A scramjet up to speed for the most recent Nov. 16, 2004 test of the scramjet, in which it maintained a speed of 6,600 miles per hour, a record for an air-breathing engine. "I pushed" scramjet development "because this is absolutely necessary for any intelligent approach to space which meets the needs of humanity back here on Earth," said LaRouche.

maybe not toward paradise, but certainly toward a great improvement.

Valdez: Another question from the LYM, whose name is Neil.

Neil: I have two questions. Now, if Bush is given a fresh mandate, and given the way that George Bush thinks, what is the likelihood that there would be a nuclear conflict, or World War Three? My second question is concerning the fact that several states at several points in history decided to band together to work for mutual benefits, until finally we have the present United States of America. Now, there is a group here in the Philippines pushing for Philippines statehood, because both nations, the United States and the Philippines, will stand to gain by it. What do you think of the Philippines becoming the 51st state of the United States of America?

LaRouche: Well, I think that the United States—to say this first, if the Philippines were desperate and the United States would improve, then that might tend to happen, because, why not, it could be so. But, I think right now my emphasis would be on the Philippines' sovereignty. I think the Philippines as a sovereign nation-state is actually the immediate most desirable step, with much closer ties than we had recently with the United States, not the wrong kind of ties, but the right kind.

Recognizing that there is a factor in the Philippines—which is historically related to us since 1898, and also the Spanish cultural influence earlier—should recognize that we have a certain moral responsibility, which implicitly was

adopted by us toward the Philippines, and, therefore, in any last ditch chance, we have a destiny with the Philippines. But it should be our desire, as it was the desire of Philippines leaders and wise people in the United States, that the Philippines should emerge from the 1940s as a true independent, developing, progressive republic, and a beacon of culture, of specifically European culture primarily, within Asia.

You look at Southeast Asia, for example, where the Philippines' capability would have been extremely important in that period for the development of Southeast Asia, and still is. So I think my first preference is that the Philippines should develop fully as a truly sovereign republic, but a developing nation.

Don't take the George Bush Presidency as a personal thing, as all determining, as I tried to say earlier. Yes, it is a factor, it is a problem, but everybody who's in a position of influence and power in the United States *knows* it's a problem. We know, contrary to press impressions of people reading from the U.S. press outside the United States, nothing is settled. Even if Bush were to be certified as re-elected, nothing is settled. You

look at the upheaval, the changes in personnel now on-rushing within the existing Bush Administration. You look at the struggles, the quarrels in the Congress. We have an explosive situation here, that the name of George W. Bush is not the decisive factor in determining what the United States will be, even come January and February of this coming year. So, it's not a settled question. This is precisely a wide open question. It is a wide open question among Europeans as well as in the United States. Europeans know this. Europeans are looking at the situation here, from Western Europe, in particular.

Russia is looking at this. China is looking at this. Look, for example, I'll give a case: As a result of certain right-wing factions, synarchist factions, not only in the United States, but in Japan, like the case of Ishihara, the Mayor of Tokyo, or in Taiwan, you have now a threat, oh, say, as of December this year or later, a threat of a Straits crisis between mainland China and Taiwan, orchestrated by right-wing factions in the United States, and others. And that is not something that anybody who is sane wants, but there are some people from Japan and the United States, extreme right-wing forces which are pushing it, and it could become a crisis within coming weeks or slightly afterward, or after December. It is there.

Therefore, we have proper concern about the stability of the entire region of Asia, which could be totally destabilized by this. You can imagine what this involves. It already is an issue, say, up to 2005, late 2005-2007. There is now a threat of a continuing problem in the Straits area, in which everybody in Asia will be affected, and this thing has to be settled. So, the question about how the Bush Administration re-

sponds—whatever the Bush Administration is—on this question, because there are powerful forces inside the Bush combination which want stability in U.S. relations with China, very strongly. There are those who don't, and also others, as in Europe.

Therefore, the question is, are we going to have a Bush Administration, if it is a Bush Administration, which wants stability in this area, or are we going to have one that wants conflict. And you have some British influences and others, who strongly want conflict in this area.

So, there are a lot of undecided questions here, and one has to accept the *tension* of not being able to get definite answers to specific questions, because the questions themselves are not yet defined. One has to go into this kind of suspension thing when you have a highly fluid situation. You have to think like a commander in chief in general warfare, where you know what you're fighting for, you know what the opposition is, but you're not quite certain what your terrain is going to be on which you are going to have to fight in the morning.

Valdez: Another question from the LYM, young Jeffrey.

Jeffrey: Hi, sir. Regarding the recent development of the Scramjet, which I think is a Strategic Defense Initiative proposal, or SDI, what is the benefit of this on the entire nation?

LaRouche: Look, first of all, it is very important, if we are going to develop the planet, we're going to have to have a general science policy, an economic science policy of a type beyond anything we have had so far. You know the planet is getting kind of crowded, not because there are too many people on it, but it is crowded because the effects which we face in any part of the planet are transmitted so rapidly to other parts of the planet. We've got to have a much more stable planet, and a much more stable economy, and a much clearer conception of where we are going.

For example, to become a qualified professional today, means that the first 25 years of life of a young person—up until the time they have graduated from a professional qualification program, is 25 years. That means that a capital cycle, as I have emphasized in various writings, is 25 years, a quarter-century, and, therefore, society has to make an investment in young people of 25 years before there is, shall we say, a payback on the investment. So, therefore, we have to think in those terms.

We have to think, therefore, in terms of two generations ahead, because when you reach the age of 25, in a decent society, you have an active life, active economic and professional life, past the age of 75. That's two generations.

Now, therefore, we have to equip you today for what you will be doing in terms of your development of society, for 50 years. Now, therefore, we have to look ahead, essentially, 75 years from the birth of a child, starting with the 50 years of the people who are now approaching 25. That means we have to look at our planet and our Solar System in a new way.

We have problems in the Solar System. There are threats

to Earth within the realm of the Solar System, that is, long built-in threats—asteroid problems, for example. How about an asteroid hitting the planet Earth, that could make a real mess of things, and that is possible, and other objects of that type.

There are problems in the Solar System that we have to learn how to deal with, and it's going to take time, so we have got to start now.

Also, everything we do in that direction of mastering these scientific questions, will enable us to improve life on Earth by the scientific and related discoveries we make in the process. Therefore, getting into exploring the Solar System, looking at the Solar System from a vantage point *outside* Earth itself, outside our atmosphere, is extremely important.

Now, the first step to explore the universe is to get up through the atmosphere into a position, which is called the geo-stationary orbiting position around earth, because that's the point from which you pivot in going to explore the system as a whole.

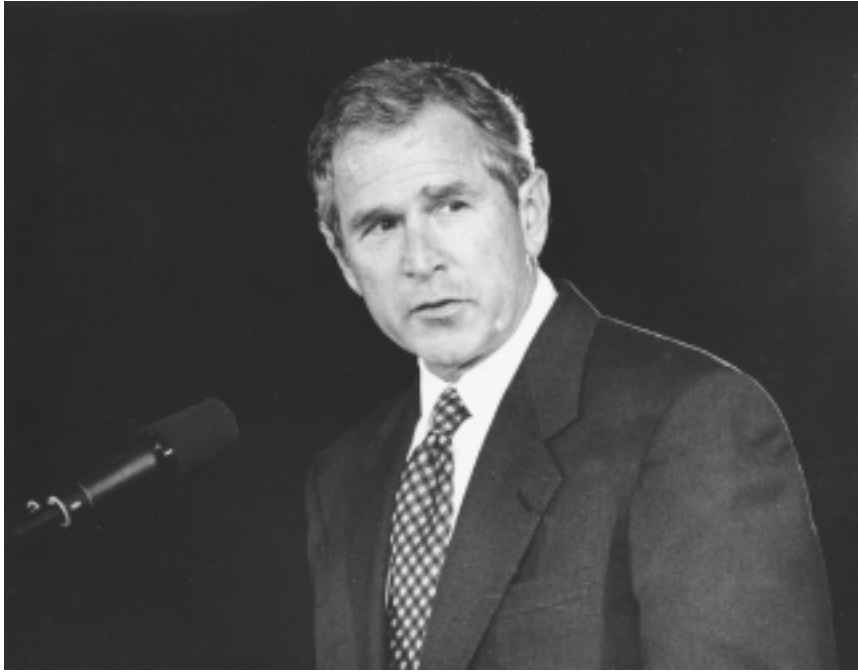
It means we have to get on the Moon—because this involves problems of gravity, for example. Problems of great gravity. To get up to the geo-stationary position through the atmosphere is the biggest cost we have now in getting into exploration of space, because you have to expend all that—you're carrying oxygen now in a vessel, the oxygen you are using to get the plane, or whatever vehicle, up above the atmosphere, to get into space.

Why are you carrying oxygen to get up into the atmosphere? Because the atmosphere is full of oxygen, and that is the concept of the Scramjet, is that we can probably reduce the cost and the effort required to get into orbit, that low-orbiting position, by 90% by using a Scramjet instead of a Shuttle launcher like we are doing now.

So, that is the first step. Now if we do that, it means we have to go into some very interesting areas of exploration, and if we do that, we will be in a position to do exploration we can't do now. We will then have to get to the Moon, because you do not want to build large structures to carry into a Mars orbiting position from Earth. You have to lift these structures up from the Earth. It costs too much.

Why not go to the Moon, which has material there? Why not apply a science to industries on the Moon, automated industries largely, which produce the key elements of things we will put in spaceships and so forth, which will go to a Mars orbit, for example. Therefore, we have to create these industries. We have to know how to do this.

Now putting man into space, we have to think about gravity. It is not necessarily a good idea to have someone running around in space under a low gravity. It may be bad for their biology, so there are a lot of things that we have to do. We have to find out things we don't know now about the Solar System. So, therefore, we are stuck with that, and the Scramjet, the reason I got onto this back in the early 1980s, where I pushed this—as you can see on the website, which



“Even if Bush might be President on Jan. 20, it might not be the same Bush Presidency. All kinds of upheavals are in progress inside the institutions of the United States.” Do not assume “that anything that appears to be the case now, is the case.”

you can pull down—I pushed it because this is absolutely necessary for any intelligent approach to space which meets the needs of humanity back here on Earth.

Valdez: We have time for one last question before your parting words, Lyn. We have a question from Zaida.

Zaida: Hello, Mr. LaRouche. If ever Bush and Cheney will serve another term, is it possible that the cases against them may lead to their resignation in the end?

LaRouche: The likelihood of the elimination of Cheney is much greater now than it was before Nov. 2. What happened is that Karl Rove and company, inside the Republican Party, staged a revolution, which was declared at the famous freemasonic meeting at the Bohemian Grove out there [in California], of absolute support for Cheney as part of the Bush-Cheney re-election team. Therefore, now that Bush has been nominally re-elected, it is now time to get rid of Cheney. That is one of the things that is very much on the table. Cheney recently went into the hospital for a check-up, he has a very unfavorable cardiac condition, and the report was there was a plan to have him be hospitalized and to quit government, because his health requires he be relieved of those stresses.

There is also a significant effort in some quarters to dump the entire neo-con crowd, [Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, and so forth and so on, also with Cheney.

There is also a very important legal case against Cheney’s office, on the illegal exposure of Valerie Plame as a CIA undercover operative. That case is now coming to fulfillment.

Negotiations of a plea-bargain are being considered in various quarters. There are other issues of that type, like the Halliburton issues, which could lead to criminal charges against Cheney, and Cheney, in order to escape criminal charges, would probably agree instead to quietly depart the scene.

So, we don’t know what the situation is going to be. As I said earlier, you have a situation in the United States where absolutely nothing was finally settled by the reported victory of Bush on Nov. 3. There are people who are trying to make that *appearance*, that it is finally settled, like the *Washington Post*, but it is *not* settled, and even if Bush might be President on Jan. 20, it might not be the same Bush Presidency. All kinds of upheavals are in progress inside the institutions of the United States, and internationally also, which can mean that we are in, now, not for a settled consequence of Nov. 2, but we are now for an unsettled consequence. We are entering one of the periods

of the most radical, unpredictable change we have known in a long time.

So, nothing is settled. Everything has now become *unsettled* by the vote, *not* settled by it.

Valdez: We have a couple of minutes more, Lyn, and we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to address the Filipino people. So, you have the floor Lyn.

LaRouche: Okay, thank you, Butch. I have had a long-standing special attachment to the Philippines, and I am very much concerned for its integrity and sovereignty and well-being today. I would be very happy, and the Philippines would make me very happy, by being truly sovereign, successful, growing, and peaceful again today. And you may expect that wherever I am and whatever I am doing, that commitment is very active within me, for very special reasons that I won’t bother going into on this question of the Philippines. I am concerned. I think the sovereignty of the Philippines and the success of the Philippines as a sovereign presidential republic is to me one of the necessary ingredients of a future for the whole Pacific area of the world.

Valdez: Okay, we wish we had more time with you sir. On behalf of the Philippines LaRouche Society, the LaRouche Youth Movement, the Katipunan and Democrats and Filipinos, and thousands of grateful listeners, we wish you all the best and Godspeed.

LaRouche: Thank you. Good night.

Establishment Figures Revolt Against Neo-Cons

We reprint here some of the recent public rumblings of military figures and Republicans against the policies of the Bush Administration.

Gen. Brent Scowcroft (USAF-ret.), *Welt am Sonntag*, Nov. 14

The German weekly published a report on the speech of former National Security Advisor Scowcroft, at the Nov. 13 forum sponsored by the newspaper on “Bundeswehr und Gesellschaft” (the German Army and Society). It has been retranslated here from the German.

“... Sept. 11 was a sudden awakening for us. We knew that the world looked completely different. This was a deep shock. . . . For the first time, a conflict was brought into our home. No one should underestimate the consequences of this experience—they are reflected in part in the most recent Presidential election. . . .

“Shortly thereafter, the U.S. government made the first big mistake. Europe offered its military assistance in the Afghanistan war, but we thanked them and refused it. . . . That was the beginning of the transatlantic crisis. It sharpened increasingly as, in consequence of the terror attacks, the traditionalists among American politicians and military men lost influence. . . . Suddenly the transformationalists set the tone. They argued that through the terror attacks a new, far more dangerous world had arisen, which left no time for traditional procedures.

“... The slogan was: just act first, and later the world will surely learn that the action was right. The holders of this view were also convinced that the solution to the problems of terrorism was to change the Near East, by building democracies there.

“Thus, beginning with Iraq, an entire focus of crisis would be cleaned out. Our current experiences have naturally shaken this conception, but it has not yet been destroyed. . . .”

James Baker III on “The Larry King Show,” Nov. 11

The former Secretary of State and a central figure in the circles around former President George H.W. Bush, Baker stated his view of a sane way to proceed in the Middle East:

“There is now in an Israeli—in an Israeli prison a man named Marwan Barghouti, who is one of the young guard of Palestinians. And if the Palestinians are going to make this

work against the really hard-line elements, the Islamists and some of the people of Hamas, they’re going to have to have a coalition of the young guard and the old guard. And it would be really a very positive step in the right direction if Israel would release Marwan Barghouti so that he could participate in bringing about this transition.”

Gen. Merrill “Tony” McPeak (USAF-ret.), *Rolling Stone*, Nov. 3

General McPeak, Air Force Chief of Staff (1990-94), said in an interview: “The people in control in the Pentagon and the White House live in a fantasy world. . . . I blame Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the people behind him—Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and Undersecretary Douglas Feith. The Vice President himself should probably be included; certainly his wife. These so-called neo-cons: These people have no real experience in life. They are utopian thinkers . . . and they have the courage of their convictions, so it makes them doubly dangerous.”

Gen. Wesley Clark, *Washington Post*, Nov. 14

General Clark writes that the Fallujah operation is “a battlefield success on the road to strategic failure.” We have troops in Fallujah “because of a political failure,” Clark says. An election is necessary, “but you can’t bomb people into the polling booths.”

Anthony Cordesman, *New York Times*, Nov. 14

Cordesman, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, ridiculed the Fallujah campaign. “How much money and aid effort does it really take to jump-start an economy, rather than provide welfare for Fallujah?”

Laurence Eagleburger, CNN.com, “Interview with Paula Zahn,” Nov. 15

The former Secretary of State under George H.W. Bush and a spokesman for the Republican inner-circle opposition to the neo-cons, Eagleburger stated, with reference to the nomination of Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State: “I do not believe that you should have in the Secretary of State someone who has spent their last four years in the White House next to the President. . . . I do believe you need tension between the State Department, the Defense Department, and the National Security Council.”

Nicholas D. Kristof, “The Bush Revolution,” *New York Times*, Nov. 17

Kristof, another member of the Republican grouping opposed to the neo-cons, wrote: “Rice was run over so many times by Mr. Cheney in the first term, that she’ll be docile at State. . . . Condoleezza Rice is smart, diligent, and honest, but she has zero record of pushing back. And that’s what Mr. Bush needs—somebody besides Laura, who will tell him when he’s about to do something stupid.”

Gonzales Unfit for Attorney General Post

by Edward Spannaus

“One Himmler was enough,” said former Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, in calling for the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to replace John Ashcroft as Attorney General of the United States, to be blocked by the U.S. Senate.

Gonzales is a former corporate lawyer from Houston who has no law enforcement experience. He is currently serving as Counsel to the President, and he has all kinds of conflicts of interest, such as his law firm’s representation of Enron and Dick Cheney’s Halliburton. He will face further conflicts of interest in the Justice Department’s grand jury investigation of the Valerie Plame leak, in that he handled the White House’s lackadaisical response to the illegal leak, and was responsible for providing White House documents to the Justice Department. The Plame investigation is also focussing on Cheney’s office as the source of the politically motivated disclosure of Plame’s identity as a covert CIA operative.

Vote Suppression

But the first thing that Gonzales should be asked, is whether he will enforce the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Although the Department of Justice is charged with enforcing the Voting Rights Act and other civil rights laws, through both civil actions and criminal prosecutions, Ashcroft has packed the Department’s Civil Rights Division and its Voting Section with right-wingers, and has virtually stopped enforcement of voting rights. Instead, Ashcroft has shifted the focus from voting access to “voting integrity”—a Republican code word for vote suppression, under the guise of ferretting out “vote fraud.”

Therefore, the first question for Gonzales ought to be: Will you resume enforcing the Voting Rights Act, and vigorously prosecute those who are trying to disenfranchise minority voters—rather than aiding and abetting them, as John Ashcroft has done?

As Counsel to the President, Gonzales was in the middle of the development of the Bush Administration policies that gave rise to the prison torture scandals at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. Gonzales was by no means the originator of these policies, but embraced the policies developed by Cheney and Cheney’s lawyer David Addington, and packaged

them for the President. He then enthusiastically promoted the Cheney policies.

As we have previously documented, Gonzales submitted a “Memorandum to the President” on Jan. 25, 2002, drafted by Addington, which urged the President to declare that the Geneva Convention did not apply to Taliban or al-Qaeda prisoners; the memo called various provisions of the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, “obsolete” and “quaint.”

Gonzales warned the President that top Administration officials might be liable to prosecution for war crimes as a consequence of the U.S. treatment of detainees in Afghanistan, and he calculated that Bush’s issuance of a directive declaring that the Geneva Convention does not apply, “substantially reduces the threat of domestic criminal prosecution under the War Crimes Act.”

Gonzales was clearly not worried about the current Justice Department under Ashcroft (or under himself), but alarmed about what might happen under a future administration, warning, “It is difficult to predict the motives of prosecutors and independent counsels who may in the future decide to pursue unwarranted charges.” Therefore, he surmised, a determination by Bush that the Geneva Convention does not apply “would provide a solid defense to any future prosecution.”

‘Mild Torture Is Okay’

The most infamous of “torture memos” is the Aug. 1, 2002 memorandum to Gonzales from the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), entitled: “Standards of Conduct for Interrogations, under the Convention Against Torture and the U.S. Anti-Torture Act.”

What is less well known is that this memorandum was written specifically *at the request of* Gonzales, and it addresses Gonzales as follows: “You have requested the views of our Office concerning the legality, under international law, of interrogation methods to be used in the current war on terrorism.”

The OLC memo was reportedly sent directly to Gonzales at the White House, without consultation with either the State Department or the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Joint Staff legal experts. It is well known that most military lawyers were adamantly opposed to the policies coming from the White House and the Pentagon civilians. The OLC memo provides the most lenient interpretation conceivable, of the anti-torture treaty and laws, and it concludes that “for an act to constitute torture as defined in [the Anti-Torture Act], it must inflict pain that is difficult to endure,” explaining: “Physical pain amounting to torture must be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of body function, or even death.”

As if sending Gonzales to the Justice Department isn’t bad enough, it is widely believed that a tour as Attorney General is intended to “launder” Gonzales for a future appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Evidence of Election Crimes Presented At Ohio Hearings

by Edward Spannaus

Testimony presenting dramatic evidence of criminal violations of the Voting Rights Act was presented at public hearings held on Nov. 13 and 15 in Columbus, Ohio, by a coalition of civil rights and voting rights groups and other organizations. An estimated 500 people attended the first hearing, and another 200 the second. There were so many people wishing to testify, that the Nov. 13 hearing, scheduled for three hours, lasted four and one-half hours.

Susan Truitt, of the Citizens' Alliance for Secure Elections (CASE), said the most striking feature of the testimony, was the sharp contrast between the wealthier suburban polling places, where waiting times were very short, compared to lower-income, predominantly minority inner-city precincts, where would-be voters had to wait up to ten hours. "It's criminal," she told *EIR*, describing the testimony of witnesses—such as a hospital patient who could not get an absentee ballot, and who came to his polling place in his hospital gown, with an intravenous tube, and stood in line—as "heartbreaking" and "outrageous." Bob Fittrakis, a local political science professor who helped organize the hearings, was quoted by Associated Press as saying that he is preparing to file criminal and civil actions, an intention which he confirmed to *EIR*. "I believe there is enough evidence for systematic voter suppression," he was quoted by the AP.

In Columbus, the primary means of voter suppression seems to have been the deliberately created shortage of voting machines, causing long waiting times; in Cleveland and Cincinnati, there was a pattern of outright intimidation and dirty tricks, Fittrakis told *EIR*. Cleveland and Youngstown also experienced long waiting times, in addition to GOP dirty tricks.

According to testimony from Cleveland voters and poll watchers, there were a number of instances of persons appearing in polling places in minority neighborhoods, claiming to be attorneys, and intimidating voters and giving out misinformation. In some cases, they told waiting voters that the polls were closed, and that they should leave and go downtown if they wished to vote. Others were apparently pretending to be volunteers for the Election Protection Coalition, and were passing out misinformation, and sending voters to the wrong polling place. There were even men showing up at the polls claiming to be from Langley, Virginia—CIA headquarters.

A representative of the LaRouche Youth Movement testi-

fied about voter suppression he had witnessed in Cleveland, about the long lines which caused many would-be voters to leave after three to four hours of waiting, and about the seemingly deliberate confusion at polling places, with people being shifted from one line to another.

All witnesses at the hearings were sworn in, and their testimony was recorded by a court reporter. Sworn affidavits are also being collected, and the evidence will be used in both criminal and civil complaints.

Official Canvass Under Way

Meanwhile, the official canvass of election results began on Nov. 13 in many Ohio counties; this involves the counting of an unknown number of absentee ballots, about 155,000 provisional ballots, and supposedly verifying votes cast on voting machines.

A statewide recount is being sought by two minor parties, the Greens and Libertarians, which will include a visual examination of each of the estimated 93,000 "spoiled" ballots—punch cards on which a Presidential vote could not be read by electronic card readers. Already, examination of punch cards has been plagued by the same problems, such as "hanging chads," which became infamous in the 2000 Florida recount.

However, the severe limitation of the canvass and of the recount, is that it can only count the votes of voters who actually made it to the polls and succeeded in casting a vote. What about the thousands who were kept away from the polls by dirty tricks and misinformation, or who could not stand in line for three to seven hours—or more—on Election Day?

Or, what about the many people who testified that when they tried to vote for Kerry on touch-screen machines, the votes jumped to "Bush"? They don't know how their votes were finally recorded, and a recount won't help.

While the Kerry campaign is not officially challenging the outcome, it is tacitly encouraging others to take action, including legal action, and campaign lawyers are seeking information on ballots and other matters from a number of counties in the state.

Further criminal violations have been identified by investigative journalist Greg Palast. While investigating for BBC, Palast reports, he and his team obtained three dozen of the GOP's "caging" lists—the spreadsheets they used to list the names and addresses of voters they intended to challenge, using any pretext. "We found that every single address of the thousands on these Republican hit lists was located in Black-majority precincts," Palast reports. "You might find that nasty and racist. It may also be a crime."

Palast points out that minor technicalities were used in the South to prevent Blacks from voting, and that the 1965 Voting Rights Act made such practices of targetting and impeding minority voters a criminal offense: "Profiling citizens of one race to block their voting, even if each challenge has merit, is a criminal violation of the Voting Rights Act."

Blair Gets No Bone From Bush

“Bush’s poodle” needed something to boost his popularity at home, but didn’t get it in Washington on the Mideast.

It was not unexpected that Great Britain’s Tony Blair would be the first head of government to visit George Bush after his re-election as President. While of Tony hung together with George through thick-and-thin during the run-up to, and the immediate follow-up of, Bush’s Iraq debacle, he is paying a price for his role as George Bush’s “poodle,” an epithet given him by the not-so-adoring British media. Although he has been able to hang on to his post by the skin of his teeth, he was in need of whatever help he could get from Bush in order to shore up his tenuous standing with an increasingly enraged British populace.

In the aftermath of the U.S. Presidential election, Blair himself has been making some noises about holding an international conference on Mideast Peace as a means of reviving the momentum toward peace negotiations. There have also been rumors since the election, and what then seemed to be the pending death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (a man whom Bush wished to eliminate from any peace talks), that Bush might be considering appointing a Mideast envoy. If Blair thought that he would come out of the meeting with the President with any concrete commitments in that area, he was sorely disappointed.

Certainly, President Bush extended all manner of praise to his primary “weapons-bearer” in the Iraq War debacle. He fended off one brazen British correspondent’s comments about Blair’s being characterized as Bush’s “poodle,” a comment which seemed to make Bush bristle more

than Blair. Bush called the Prime Minister “a strong, capable man” and “a big thinker.”

The President was not, however, prepared to appoint a Mideast envoy, nor was he eager to engage in an international conference on the issue. “I’m for conferences as long as conferences produce something,” Bush said.

While Bush indicated that there might be some progress if Palestinian elections were held, he demanded that the Palestinians also take steps to institute the type of “democracy” consistent with his “Greater Middle East” boondoggle. What that actually would require from the Palestinians is far from clear. After all, Yasser Arafat was the democratically elected President of the Palestinian Authority, and the Bush Administration absolutely refused to deal with him.

What if the Palestinians, in a democratic process, chose a leader who was not entirely to the liking of the U.S. President? asked one reporter. Just wouldn’t happen, the President claimed, but if it did, there would be consequences. “The Palestinians may decide to elect a real strong personality, but we’ll hold their feet to the fire to make sure that democracy prevails,” Bush said. As the dust settles over the bombed-out ruins of what is left of Fallujah, such words are ominous.

Bush has promised to travel to Europe to help repair the tattered relations with the European nations, and also to discuss the Middle East. But Bush’s words provided little solace to the embattled Prime Minister. “If you want to be helped, here’s what we’re

willing to do,” Bush directed his comments to the Palestinian leaders. “If you choose not to be helped, if you decide you don’t want a free, democratic society, there’s nothing we can do. If you think you can have peace without democracy again, I think you’ll find that I will be extremely doubtful that it will ever happen.”

Given that peace negotiations generally involve two parties, what is the U.S. President prepared to do to bring Israel’s Prime Minister to the table? When asked at the joint press conference with Blair if he wanted a freeze on Israeli settlements in the West Bank, President Bush simply chose to ignore the question.

What was otherwise being demanded of the Palestinians was indicated by a senior Administration official, briefing reporters Nov. 12, on the President’s meeting with Blair. “Well, the road map, which we have endorsed again today and which has been endorsed by the international community time after time, requires the dismantling of terrorist groups,” the official said, “and certainly the ones you mention [Islamic Jihad and Hamas] are terrorist groups. Palestinians will have to make a choice about whether they are going to fight these terrorist groups and put them out of business and turn the struggle, as Mahmoud Abbas said in Aqaba during the summit there, turn this into a political struggle.”

Given the recent attempt on the life of Palestinian President-designate Mahmoud Abbas, this somewhat ham-handed U.S. position will exacerbate rivalries among Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, a situation that Prime Minister Sharon may not find terribly unsettling. But the neo-conservatives in the Bush camp have never really understood the complexities of dictates imposed from the outside on a popular insurgency.

Free Trade Spawns Masses Of Marauding ‘Maras’

by Gretchen Small

In his historic 15-point anti-drug war-plan for the Western Hemisphere issued in March 1985,* U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. warned: “The greater political threat to democracy in Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and other countries, is the use of the billions of revenues held by the drug traffickers to fund terrorist armies, and to bring corrupted military officers into right-wing coup plots directed by former officials of the Nazi regime of Germany.”

LaRouche called for an alliance of the nations of the Americas—an alliance in which the absolute sovereignty of each be respected, he specified—to crush the power of this “enemy quasi-state.” This war must include the confiscation of its financial and economic resources, the which are to be allotted to the needs of economic development, in basic economic infrastructure, agriculture, and goods-producing industry. Should that not be done, “the nations of Central and South America will each and all either fall under bloody, Nazi-like dictatorships, or will be destroyed through more or less perpetual civil war,” LaRouche forecast.

The needed alliance was not formed, sabotaged from within the United States by precisely the financier interests who, since the 1970s, have fostered the spread of a drug empire across the Americas, from which they have reaped billions in profits. As LaRouche warned, the whirlwinds of hell are today engulfing the Americas, including the United States.

Emergency law enforcement meetings are being held across North and Central America, as governments attempt to respond to the rapid spread of the “*maras*”—transnational

gangs of thousands of largely Hispanic youth, moving back and forth across borders from Panama up to the United States, and now into Canada. These are not Hispanic gangs in general, but a specific structure of gangs, founded in Los Angeles, California, which have become an integral part of the dope and illegal weapons trade in the Americas, and are reported to be moving into Europe’s prostitution rings, as well.

The origin, extent, and bestiality of the *maras* provides a hideous picture of a New Dark Age: It is an omen—so far, numbering only in the hundreds of thousands—of what LaRouche has warned will soon become tens of millions of homeless people migrating across the globe, in search of a life where there is none to be had, if free trade and globalization are not dumped.

Estimates of their numbers range from a conservative 100,000, to 600,000. Distinguished by hideous tattoos, and using Satanic hand-signals as part of their cult rituals, these gangs are used by migrant-labor traffickers to terrorize, maim, or kill migrants who don’t pay up. Some of these youth have become so dehumanized that they have adopted beheadings as a means of reprisal against rivals and opponents. They terrorize whole towns in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, including the capitals of several of these nations. Now *maras* are reported to have put out orders to kill policemen in two counties which border the U.S. capital itself.

People were forewarned. Today, the problem is vastly greater than in the mid-1980s. Governments now face not only the extraordinary military and economic power of the drug trade, but millions of citizens who have fallen under the control of the drug trade. Not only is it the children of Central America who have been abandoned into the hell of the *maras*, stealing the very future of the region, but there are millions of peasants throughout Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru

* “A Proposed Multi-National Strategic Operation Against the Drug Traffic for the Western Hemisphere.” March 9, 1985. See the December 2001 LaRouche in 2004 Special Report, “To Stop Terrorism—Shut Down ‘Dope, Inc.’ ”

for whom the drug trade provides their only livelihood and which controls their lives through narco-terrorist forces. Millions are also trapped in the slums, the *favelas*, in Brazil's major cities, run by the local equivalent of the *maras*.

In their desperation—and in some cases, spurred precisely by the Nazi networks of which LaRouche warned—some have launched a campaign for imposing the death penalty upon gang members as the solution.

Could a society survive, which orders the mass execution of its own *children*, as a solution to the savagery created by its own policies? For experts in the *maras* agree that they are, by and large, *children*. In the most dramatic case, a May 2004 study by an anti-drug expert of El Salvador found that 51.9% of the *mara* members in her nation are between 11 and 15 years old; 2% are only 7 to 10 years old; and the remaining 49.6% are under 25!

It is time to face reality: Without a radical reversal of the last 40 years of free-trade economic policy, of which the drug trade is but a subsumed part, there is no strategy that can succeed in saving the children of the Americas, its future, from this hell.

Product of a Policy

Neo-conservatives and anti-immigrant racists are using the *maras* crisis to promote Samuel Huntington's thesis that the United States' greatest enemy is Hispanics, within and beyond its borders. Harvard's Huntington, who promoted the lie that a "clash of civilizations" between Muslims and the West is inevitable, named Hispanics, the largest ethnic minority in the United States, as the new "enemy image" for the United States, in his May 2004 book, *Who Are We?* (See Anton Chaitkin's review in *EIR*, May 21, 2004.)

Playing on fear, these circles put out the line that al-Qaeda terrorists have hired the *maras* to get them into the United States—the truth of which assertion no government in the region, that of the United States included, has been able to prove. (A U.S. military officer knowledgeable in this area told this news service that U.S. intelligence today is so inadequate, that people could only guess whether it is true or not, and it would not even be an educated guess.)

None of that has stopped the radical free-traders of the Mont Pelerin Society's Manhattan Institute from churning out articles about "The Illegal Alien Crime Wave" and the "Immigrant Gang Plague," which scream that "tens of thousands of illegal farmworkers and dishwashers bring thousands of brutal assailants and terrorists in their wake," to justify their demand for mass deportations and sealing the U.S. southern border.

The truth is, as Honduran President Ricardo Maduro reiterated in a press conference with Mexican President Vicente Fox on Nov. 11, that the *maras* are a problem "exported by the United States." Maduro pointed out that their headquarters are located in Los Angeles, and their violent actions in Central America are done in consultation with headquarters.

LaRouche goes much further. "This is a New Dark Ages phenomenon. And it was done by the U.S. government," LaRouche stated on Oct. 24. "This is not just an operation. This is a *policy*. The policy is to destroy the nation-state, to destroy the idea of the nation-state. The intention is to plunge the whole planet into a New Dark Age. You are not going to get solutions, unless you change the situation in the United States."

The specific structure of the *maras* in question (as opposed to pre-existing gangs) was founded in Los Angeles in the 1980s, by children of the million or so poor refugees who fled to the United States, to escape the civil wars in Central America. Those brutal wars, which *EIR* documented in the early 1980s in several studies on El Salvador and Guatemala, were no "local" affairs. These were wars financed and fomented, like the "dirty wars" between terrorists and right-wing military governments in South America in the same period, by foreign financier interests out to crush Ibero-America's capability to resist the sudden, sharp increase in foreign looting which followed the imposition of the floating-exchange-rate monetary system in 1971-72, and the subsequent global oil price hike.

In April 1983, LaRouche, in his capacity as chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), issued a four-point program for ending the slaughter in Central America. The United States, he said, should cooperate with its neighbors in the Contadora Group (Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, and Mexico) to shut down arms-trafficking in the region, including Israeli trafficking to all sides of the conflict. The U.S. must also crack down on the agencies fomenting the war: the Jesuits in the United States (including those operating out of the notorious United Brands Corporation) running the Liberation Theology networks, and their "opposite numbers" among the Moonie and Christian fundamentalist cults swarming over the region. With some stability restored, the Contadora Group and the United States must help Central America undertake the great projects needed to develop the transportation, energy, and agro-industrial infrastructure of Central America.

LaRouche followed with his 1985 hemispheric anti-drug plan. In 1986, working with patriotic U.S. and Guatemalan military circles, he designed a pilot project, called Operation Guatusa, to demonstrate how the war plan could work. Follow-up on LaRouche's plan was sunk by the Iran-Contra team of Lt. Col. Oliver North, then-Vice President George H.W. Bush, and Nestor Sanchez.

The problem was, that the Reagan Administration had decided in 1983 to hand Central America policy over to Henry Kissinger and Vice President Bush. Kissinger's Bipartisan Commission on Central America decreed that Central America was fit only for plantation agriculture, Hong Kong-like free-trade zones so useful for drug-trafficking and drug-money laundering, and sweatshops (today called *maquiladoras*). Facing spreading war, and watching their already poor

economies shipping net capital out because of increased debt and the oil price, the Central Americans' exodus toward the United States got under way.

Now, Add Bush's Iran-Contra Dope

Even before they arrived in the United States, the victims of these wars who fled to the United States, had already seen "carnage that even Faces of Death chose not to use," as one former gang member put it. And those who went to Los Angeles, already on its way to earning its title of "gang capital of the world," arrived in the very years that crack cocaine was introduced into the ghettos of the United States, starting precisely with LA.

The spread of crack was one of the most organized drug operations ever seen: In a few short weeks in the pre-Christmas rush of 1985, crack hit the streets in a score of America's most burned-out urban neighborhoods. With an average purity of 90%, the drug is instantly addicting. It's cheap, and easy enough for local retail dealers to manufacture it. The franchise to manufacture and market crack was given to a nationwide infrastructure of black and Hispanic gangs.

With crack came a subculture of unprecedented violence. The crack itself induced wild mood swings in its users, fueled paranoia, rage, and irrationalism. With fast profits to be made from crack manufacturing and sales, violent urban youth gangs began to spring up everywhere.

As that was done in the United States, the "parallel government" networks operating under then-Vice President Bush set up yet another instrument for war in Central America, the Nicaraguan Contras, an operation, as *EIR* exposed in the 1980s, paid for by trafficking Colombian cocaine. It was in August 1996, when the *San Jose Mercury* blew the story of how those Contra networks had flooded the streets of Los Angeles with crack cocaine, that the full extent of the story was known. *EIR* pulled its extensive files to put together the full story of how crack cocaine was deliberately introduced into the United States, in order to develop a new market for the cocaine being trafficked by Bush's secret government Contra operation. The amazing story was told in *EIR*'s 1996 Special Report, *Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?*

Jobs! Create Jobs!

The early 1990s marked another turning point in the development of the *maras* structure. Central America's wars were ended in the early 1990s, but with "peace" accords which brought no economic development, only more free trade, a giant black market in weapons, and tens of thousands of unemployed former guerrillas and former soldiers. The drug traffickers had a field day.

At the same time, in its infinite wisdom, the U.S. government began a program of mass deportation of the young, criminalized Central American gang members back to their countries of origin, which had nothing to offer them, and no

capacity to handle the crime. Here, unemployed guerrillas and soldiers supplied the *maras* with a new wave of battle-hardened cadres and a qualitatively more sophisticated level of military training.

Just as the mass deportation policy of the 1990s spread Los Angeles's highly organized gang structures back into Central America, so the "zero-tolerance" policies adopted by terrorized governments in El Salvador and Honduras, have simply driven thousands of *maras* north into Guatemala, Mexico, and back into the United States.

Law enforcement is needed, but until millions of good jobs are created, around a crash program to build infrastructure in Central America and the United States—jobs which provide training and a source of pride of participating in building one's country—there will be no solution. Guatemalan Planning Minister Hugo Beteta told the *Washington Post* in October that more than half of the citizens of his nation are under 18 years old, and most of them have no chance to get a job. Poor youths see two choices: Migrate to the United States, or join the drug trade, he said. "And if you get tough on migration, what is left for them?"

Today, crack is spreading through Central America. In Guatemala, drugs are now a leading domestic problem. The country is the leading transshipment point in Central America for Colombian cocaine being sent to the United States. Because traffickers pay people for the trafficking in drugs, an estimated 10% of the 150-200 tons a year moving through the country, now stays there. So, too, drug-money laundering through the local economy has soared, spreading corruption. Government officials report that the *maras* are a leading component of the drug trade, used to distribute the drugs locally, and to tie down law enforcement personnel, leaving the drug lords with a freer hand. *Maras*' use of crack cocaine is soaring, making their actions even more brutal.

Likewise, the capital of Honduras is being overrun by these gangs. President Maduro ordered a police mobilization to protect public buses in October, after bus drivers refused to enter several sections of the city, because the *maras* were systematically stopping the buses, to demand that drivers and passengers pay a "war tax," and killing those who refused to do so. Attacks on buses dropped with the police presence, but trucks and people on the street are now being assaulted. In a country where unemployment and under-employment was officially registered at 42% in 2003—and where others estimate that as many as 70 to 80% of the people do not have work!—for every youth gang member jailed, many more will be recruited.

The anguish of the people of these nations is captured by the recent report in the Honduran daily *La Tribuna* that many of the criminal gang members "were in the past normal youth, who because of the lack of opportunities, opted to forge a criminal career. There are neighbors who remember with nostalgia many children who over time became transformed into rapists, assassins, and drug addicts."

Slave-Labor Drive Behind Bush Immigration Policy Fight

by Paul Gallagher and Dennis Small

One of the first external policy fights of the dysfunctional second Bush Administration, as it is being purged within, will be for an “immigration reform” which enables U.S. businesses to legalize completely their large-scale importation of cheap labor from Mexico and Central America. Administration figures, from the now-purged Secretary of State Colin Powell (while visiting Mexico on Nov. 10) to leading controller Karl Rove (on Nov. 9) made it clear that the White House wants immediately to put drive wheels behind President Bush’s July 2004 proposal, that present and future undocumented immigrants be made “guestworkers” for a 3-year period (renewable once) and then sent home. “Now that the election is behind us, the President intends to engage Congress on this,” Powell told the Mexican press.

While this scheme, and variations floating around Congress in half a dozen legislative alternatives, is being compared to historical examples such as the 1946-64 “bracero” importation of Mexican migrant farm laborers, in reality it has nothing to do with any previous economic period. In *this* period, Mexicans and Central Americans are flooding into the United States as refugees from the complete devastation and prostrate collapse of their home countries under wars and International Monetary Fund debts. **Figure 1** shows the extraordinary proportions of these countries’ entire populations—men, women, and children—which have fled to the United States labor market, whether by crossing illegally, overstaying work or student visas, or other means, in order to survive. The proportion for Honduras, not shown here, is also now 10%.

And in *this* period, U.S. employers are using this desperate, virtual slave-labor flow to “recycle” and underpay the American labor force in a way never seen before.

Although the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act is rarely being enforced against these firms as it is—enforcement has been “at the border, not at the business”—the Chambers of Commerce and big chains led by Wal-Mart want unrestricted license to employ illegal immigrants “legally.”

‘Essential Worker Importation’

The Bush guestworker idea—“indentured worker” is a less euphemistic and much more accurate term for it—was reject-

ed by Congress when the President proposed it earlier this year. The 109th Congress that convenes in January will be more Republican, but may be even more opposed to indenturing undocumented immigrants to U.S. corporations than the 108th was, making this a sharp fight within the Republican Party. Rep. John Hostettler (R-Ind.), for example, head of the Immigration subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, told the press on Nov. 11 that the idea won’t pass Congress, and a spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) agreed. Said Hostettler: “In our subcommittee, we have held hearings in the 108th Congress that indicate such a program would continue a long-term downward spiral in the wages of low-skilled workers. The simple fact of the matter is, when we bring in individuals who are willing to work at such low wages, we do nothing but displace American citizens.”

Various “immigration reform” bills, including one pushed by Republican Senators McCain of Arizona and Larry Craig of Idaho and which had 63 Senators signed up in the 108th Congress, agree with President Bush’s scheme in that they document the undocumented worker with a temporary work card—i.e., tie him or her to an employer. But these bills are limited to farm work, or to at most a couple of hundred thousand workers—and they lead to a green card and eventually can lead to citizenship. Bush’s plan emphasizes the effective deportation of the indentured illegals, after three years or six, and it is much broader, applying to millions of illegal immigrants.

During the visit of Powell and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge to Mexico Nov. 8-10, Mexican Interior Minister Santiago Creel stated that Mexico agreed with this policy: “only circular migration. We both [he and Ridge] agree that there is no way to stop this migratory flow,” Creel told their press conference. “We think this flow has to be regulated in a circulatory manner.”

George W. Bush’s proposal to “circulate” illegal immigrants through the U.S. labor force as essentially indentured workers, was crafted in August 2002 by the right-wing anti-government Cato Institute in Washington, on behalf of a Wal-Mart-centered business lobby calling itself the Essential

TABLE 1

U.S. Comparative Wages, 4th Quarter 2003

Labor Force Group	Mean Weekly Wage	Median Weekly Wage
Whites	\$729	\$600
Blacks	\$571	\$480
Hispanics	\$494	\$400
Others	\$706	\$560
All Workers	\$680	\$550

Source: Pew Hispanic Center.

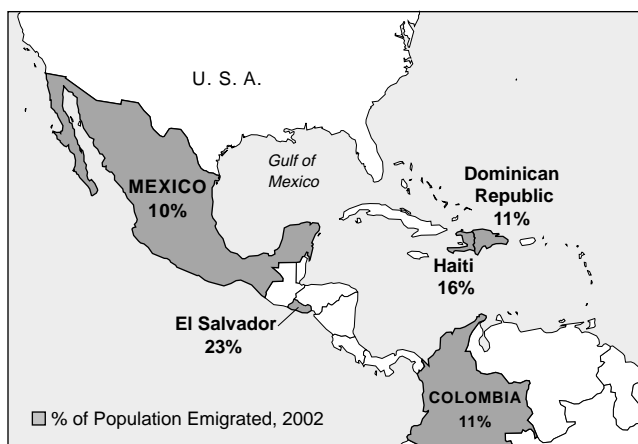
Worker Importation Coalition (EWIC). Cato's code-phrase title for the scheme was "Willing Workers"; and when Bush brought it up again in the Arizona State University Presidential debate on Oct. 13, he used the code format: "There ought to be a temporary worker card that allows a willing worker and a willing employer . . . to fulfill the employer's needs." A more succinct indentured-servitude formula would require going back to the contracts of Irish indentures brought to the Carolinas and Georgia in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

By "essential workers," Cato Institute and Cheney-Bush mean cheap workers. The comparative mean and median wages in 2003 shown in **Table 1** make very clear what the policy is. The Census Bureau's report on poverty in America in 2003 showed both 5 million newly poor, and a drop in the median American household income by \$1,500 during a supposed 2002-2003 "recovery." These figures are at the core of that, because such a large proportion of the new jobs in this alleged "recovery," as shown below, are going to, *not immigrants in general, but new immigrants who've entered the United States since 2000*. These immigrants are overwhelmingly employed, and can enforce almost no rights, sometimes not even the right to be paid at all, as recent cases with Wal-Mart, Target, Albertsons, Vons, Safeway, and Ralph's stores have shown clearly enough.

Strategy for Destroying Real Wages

The degree to which the Bush Administration's feeble "job recovery" in 2003-04 has been dependent upon the cheap hiring of new immigrants is astonishing. An *EIR* study in September ("A Fifth of All Mexicans Are Now Economic Refugees in the U.S.," in the Sept. 10 issue) showed that *post-2000* Hispanic immigrants had gained more than 1 million jobs during Bush's first term (from mid-2000 to mid-2004) while non-Hispanic white workers, black workers, and earlier Hispanic immigrants, combined, had lost more than a million. At the end of October, a labor force analysis was released by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) in Washington, entitled *A Jobless Recovery?* The study is based on very close analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's most comprehensive and in-depth survey, the Current Population Survey, in which every one of 225,000 households is visited by a Census

FIGURE 1

'Export of People' from Mexico and Central AmericaSources: International Monetary Fund; *EIR*.

employee.

The CIS analysis showed U.S. business even more dramatically "hooked" on hiring recent immigrants (the study, together with one by the Urban Institute, estimated 10 million or more undocumented immigrants here now, with 600,000 arriving a year).

Table 2 is taken from the CIS study. From mid-2000 to mid-2004, the number of employed adult immigrants increased by 2,279,000, while the total number of jobs in George "Herbert Hoover" Bush's entire economy fell! And—not shown in this table—the number of employed adult *recent* immigrants—those who fled to the United States seeking work *only during this four-year period*—rose by an even greater amount, 2,857,000. This means that there was a net *loss* of half

TABLE 2

Immigrant and U.S.-Born Labor-Force Status, 2001-04

(Thousands of Workers)

Status	Immigrants	U.S.-Born Workers
Working 2000	17,463	115,797
Working 2004	19,742	115,315
Change 2000-04	2,279	-482
Unemployed 2000	904	4,812
Unemployed 2004	1,292	7,085
Change 2000-04	388	2,273
Out of Labor Force 2000	5,883	30,846
Out of Labor Force 2004	6,923	34,813
Change 2000-04	1,040	3,967

Sources: Center for Immigration Studies; U.S. Census Current Population Survey.

a million jobs by all the earlier immigrants combined; as well as the net loss of 482,000 jobs by all U.S.-born workers combined! Conclude the CIS researchers, “All of the net growth in immigrant employment is due to *new* immigrants. . . . The reason the number of adult immigrant workers did not grow by 2.9 million is that some immigrants [already] here in 2000 had died, gone home, become unemployed, or left the labor force by 2004” [emphasis added].

Table 2 also highlights the very large number of U.S.-born workers, and of earlier-than-2000 immigrant workers, who dropped out of the workforce during 2000-2004, while the newest immigrants were being hired for 2.9 million jobs. The CIS study shows that only about 30% of these left the workforce for non-economic or semi-economic reasons—caring for young children, retiring early, attending college, etc.—and most left the workforce unable to find decent work. And **Figure 2** breaks this process down year by year, making clear that it was not letting up at the end of Bush’s first term: Immigrants got two-thirds of the new jobs created from mid-2003 to mid-2004, while making up only 15% of the work-

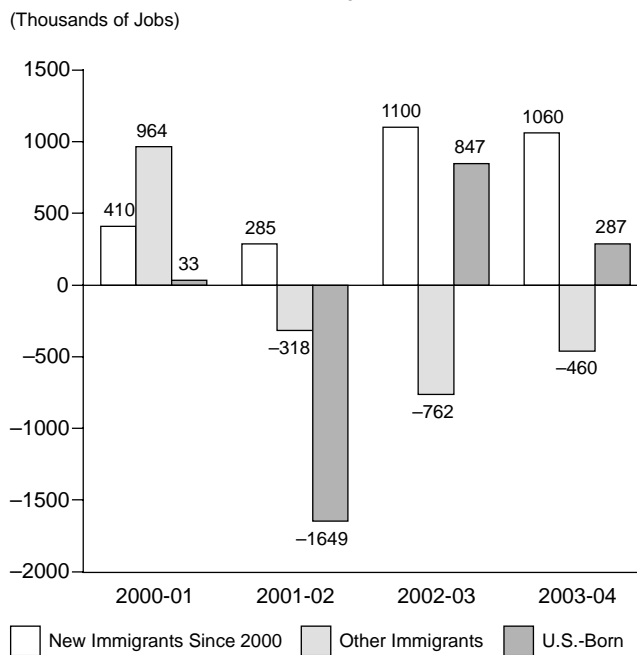
A New ‘Southern Strategy’?

This recycling of employment to a growing flood of legal and illegal immigration—what economist and Democratic leader Lyndon LaRouche has called a virtual slave-labor supply—while distributed across the whole labor market, is heavily concentrated in some, mainly southern and southwestern states. From mid-2000 to mid-2004, some 60% of the increased employment of immigrants in the country, was concentrated in seven states: Texas (with 17% of the total national increase by itself), Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and California. In most of these states, immigrants accounted for close to 100% of net new employment. And these seven states accounted for 40% of the labor-force dropouts among U.S.-born workers nationally.

The CIS analysis proves that the domination of U.S. business’ job creation by new-immigrant hiring stretches across the labor force by sector, skill, and wage level, destroying the myth mouthed by Bush, and developed in the Cato Institute scheme, that new immigrants are taking only unskilled, very low-paid jobs for which the available native workforce is declining. This is most dramatically shown in the construction trades, which have been high-skilled, well-paid employment, and in which there is a high rate of unemployment overall. Immigrants now comprise one-quarter of construction workers; brand-new immigrants comprise 7% of employed construction workers; and unemployment of U.S.-born construction trades workers is at 12.7%.

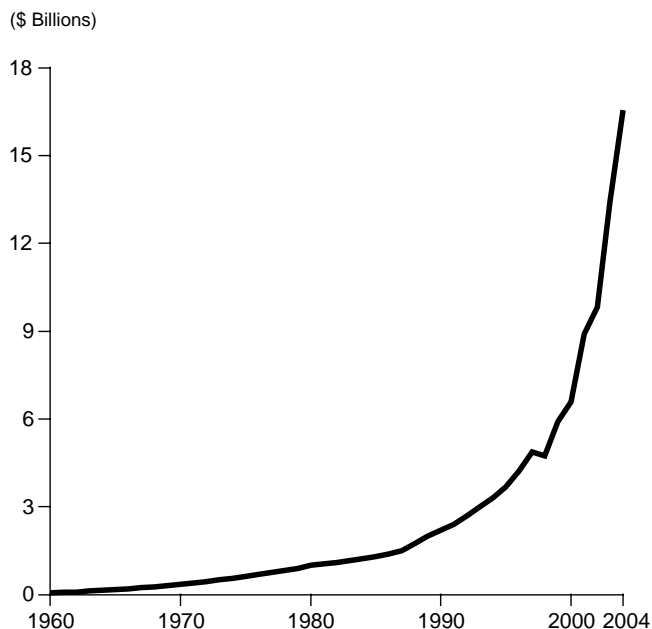
The assumption of the Cato/Bush policy—that Mexicans and Central Americans still come to the United States to earn some money and return (“circular migration”)—is a lie; this

FIGURE 2
Job Gains and Losses by Year, 2000-04



Sources: Center for Immigration Studies; U.S. Census Current Population Survey; *EIR*.

FIGURE 3
Mexico: Workers’ Remittances

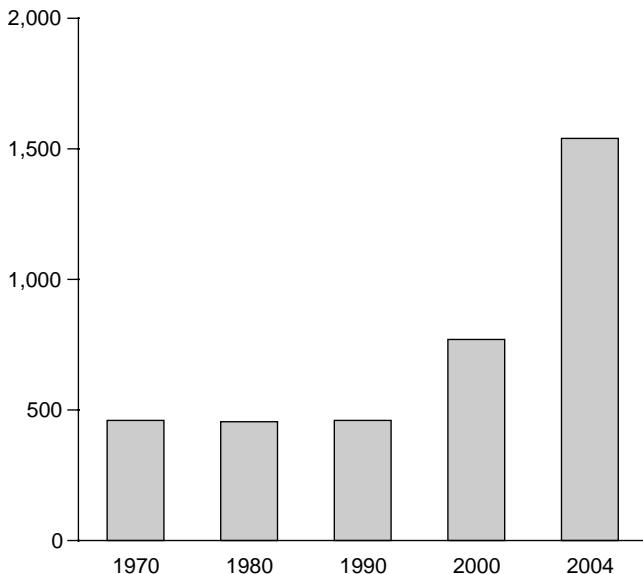


Source: Central Bank of Mexico.

FIGURE 4

Mexico: Remittances per Emigrant

(Dollars)



Source: Central Bank of Mexico; INEGI.

immigration has become a desperate flood of economic refugees from destroyed economies, and is self-accelerating as the dependence of people in those countries upon remittances from the United States grows, and draws more and more to flee across the border.

Remittances Skyrocket

Now look at this same process from the vantage point of the remittances sent back to their countries of origin by these migrant “economic refugees.” In many countries, these remittances constitute a giant portion of the country’s total Gross Domestic Product: 22% in the case of Nicaragua, 17% for El Salvador, 9% for Honduras, and 3% for Guatemala. But Mexico, even though remittances were “only” 2.2% of its GDP in 2003, is the dominant and exemplary case to be examined.

Figure 3 shows that remittances sent back to Mexico from the United States rose gradually over the three decades from 1960-1990, from about \$50 million, up to \$2.2 billion. But then, as Mexico’s economy crumbled under IMF conditionalities and as NAFTA rammed free trade lunacy down the throats of both the United States and Mexico, legal and illegal Mexican emigrants residing in the United States rose from 4.8 million in 1990 to 8.5 million in 2000, and their annual remittances tripled from \$2.2 billion in 1990, to \$6.6 billion in 2000.

Enter George Bush—and his *amigo* in free-trade lunacy, Mexican President Vicente Fox. Over the Bush-Fox years,

remittances leapt to \$13.4 billion in 2003, and the pace of the first three quarters of 2004 indicate that this year remittances will hit a staggering \$16.6 billion. This gigantic sum is more than 80% of Mexico’s earnings from oil exports this year—even though the price of oil is soaring—surpassing total foreign direct investment, or the earnings of national and international tourism combined. The average growth rate of remittances, between 2000 and 2004, has been 26% a year.

But it is not only that remittances are rising: the amount sent home by each emigrant is also rising dramatically, underscoring the fact that we are witnessing a phenomenon of economic refugees being driven into indentured servitude. **Figure 4** shows that the average annual remittances sent back, per emigrant, was steady in the 1970s and 1980s, then rose by about 5% per year over the 1990s; and then *doubled* from \$770 per emigrant in 2000 to \$1,540 in 2004—an average increase of nearly 19% a year from 2000-2004.

Underlying these numbers is the fact that emigrants are increasingly young males, who come to the U.S. to work two or three jobs, in order to insure their families’ mere subsistence back in Mexico. Family structure is being ripped apart by this desperate economic reality—making the Bush policy in fact the most *anti-family* policy imaginable.

What becomes of this money? The remittances are principally spent on basic consumption items back in Mexico: food, clothing, and household goods. Entire local economies survive only because of these remittances. That has been the case with communities in the central Mexican states of Michoacán, Jalisco and Guanajuato, but this is also the case now in the southern states of Puebla, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Yucatán, from where immigration has been growing. **Table 3** lists the top six states in terms of total remittances received in 2003—which lawfully closely match the country’s leading “exporters” of migrant labor. Although nationally remittances are “only” 2.2% of GDP, on a state level they rise to as much as 15.7% of Gross State Product (GSP), as in the case of Michoacán. **Figure 5** locates the six leading remittance-receiver states, which form a belt across the middle of the country, as well as those states where remittances are more than 7% of their respective GSP.

As mentioned, these remittances are the most important source of foreign exchange—after oil—which Mexico receives; and if the current pattern continues, remittances will *surpass* oil in 2005. This foreign exchange is desperately needed by Mexico to pay its gigantic foreign debt, which in real terms today exceeds a quarter trillion dollars. In fact, as **Figure 6** shows, in 2003 remittances exceeded foreign interest payments for the first time ever. No wonder, then, that the IMF, Wall Street, and their advocates in government have been avidly promoting the flow of remittances as a source of “development” funds—by which they mean foreign exchange that can be used to pay the foreign debt.

For example, Assistant Treasury Secretary for International

FIGURE 5

Top Mexican States in Receiving Remittances

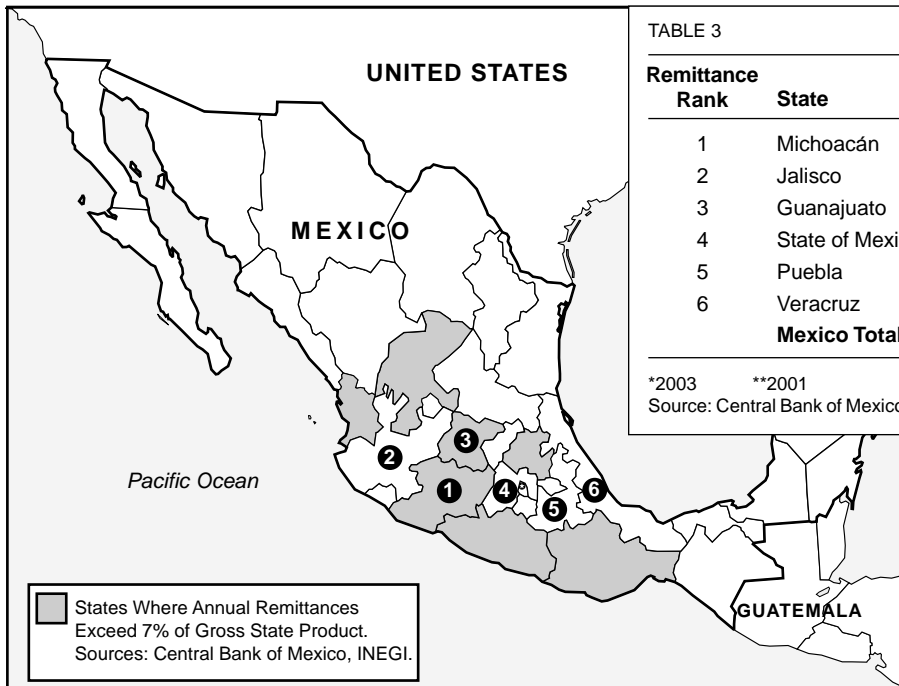


TABLE 3

Remittance Rank	State	Remittances* (\$ Millions)	As % of GSP**	Emigration Rank
1	Michoacán	1,695	15.7%	2
2	Jalisco	1,277	4.0%	1
3	Guanajuato	1,210	7.8%	3
4	State of Mexico	1,028	2.1%	4
5	Puebla	786	4.3%	7
6	Veracruz	769	2.9%	5
	Mexico Total	13,396	2.2%	

*2003 **2001
Source: Central Bank of Mexico.

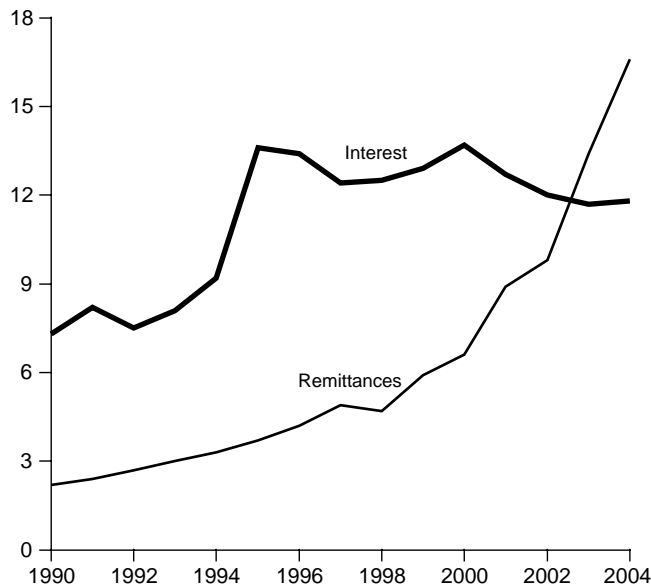
Affairs Randal Quarles told a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank on March 29 of this year, that “harnessing the full development potential of remittances [is] an indispensable part of the growth agenda.” Remittances from workers in the United States, he insisted, are “a powerful source of

Sources: Central Bank of Mexico, INEGI.

FIGURE 6

Mexico: Remittances vs. Foreign Interest Payments

(\$ Billions)



Sources: Central Bank of Mexico; World Bank.

funds for development.”

As Bush splits his own party for and against the “guest-worker” scheme, he opens a flank for the anti-immigration fascism of Harvard’s Samuel Huntington, whose book *Who Are We* is being used to coalesce an anti-Hispanic “nativist” backlash. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) leads this drive in the states, where several anti-immigrant referenda were on the Nov. 2 ballot—one passed in Arizona, but another failed in Tancredo’s home state—and in the Congress. Tancredo and others, most Republicans, are organizing a Congressional letter of opposition to Bush’s policy. They use the claim that Hispanic immigrants are simply stealing “native” workers’ jobs. But in fact, these new immigrants are simply being caught up and used in the final deindustrialization of the United States economy. The 2.2 million manufacturing jobs lost during Bush’s term have not gone to the 2.3 million newly-employed immigrants—they’ve simply gone; service jobs have replaced them.

The only policy which can stop this entire process, is one policy of *cross-border economic reconstruction*, economic infrastructure-building on a grand scale, including the great project of watering the Great American Desert. This, in fact, is the only policy which can be combined with an open border. Bush’s “indentured temporary worker” scheme is not only a fascist economic and labor policy, but a guaranteed failure as an immigration “reform.”

WHO Summit: Pandemic Coming, Vaccine Production a ‘National Security Matter’

by Linda Everett

If the world were to face a global pandemic influenza outbreak today, infectious disease experts internationally have one message for you: “We are not ready for it.” The World Health Organization (WHO) held an unprecedented two-day (Nov. 10-11) influenza summit in Geneva, with WHO officials, vaccine manufacturers, national licensing agencies, and governmental representatives, to define and address the crisis. The world has no vaccine to combat such a deadly threat today, but could have one if months of concentrated work with the support of governments begins now, and a huge increase in world vaccine production is aimed for. The summit was called because the H5N1 type-A avian influenza virus is again sweeping Asian countries; it has killed 32 people this year (20 in Vietnam, 12 in Thailand),

Unlike the recent and current—so far—flu seasons in which infection may or may not reach epidemic proportion in a few regions or countries, a flu *pandemic* involves the epidemic spread through many countries simultaneously, often of a new and deadly variant, as in 1918-20, and in 1957.

The imminent threat is that the extremely contagious bird flu, now in Asian poultry flocks and circulating in wild waterfowl worldwide, may mutate or recombine with another, mammalian virus and introduce a new influenza type to which the human population has widespread susceptibility, thereby unleashing a deadly pandemic. In the past three years, there have been a series of alerts involving avian viruses called H5, H7, and H9. In February, Canadian epidemiologists confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza A-type H7N3 infection in two people in British Columbia. As Dr. Klaus Stohr, who is the coordinator of the Global Influenza Program for WHO, said, “We have had three influenza pandemics in the last century, and many, many before. There is no reason to believe that there will not be one this century.” Right now, Dr. Stohr reiterated in a teleconference following the WHO meeting, “We have a unique window of opportunity to develop a pandemic flu vaccine.”

The meeting was characterized as “consciousness raising” about the need for building greater momentum among countries to fund the development of a vaccine, and its clinical testing. To that end, Dr. Arlene King of the Public Health Agency of Canada pointed out that pandemic influenza will be a national health security issue. “It will be the biggest

public-health infectious-disease emergency that we ever face, both globally and within our border.”

Stohr has warned in speeches and press conferences leading up to the summit that nations face the daunting challenge of increasing world influenza vaccine production—now at about 300 million doses a year, primarily in Europe—nearly tenfold, to 2.5 billion doses annually.

Pharmaceuticals’ Not-Too-Encouraging Word

One of the meeting’s concrete steps described by Dr. Stohr was the establishment of groups with specific tasks—such as one that would pin down a clear regulatory pathway between North America, Europe, and Asia so that vaccine manufacturers would know what vaccines should be tested. Another key group will concentrate on the coordination of clinical trials, collecting data on pre-clinical and clinical tests, and discussing what vaccine formulations are needed.

Stohr described the need for a public-private partnership to change the current non-momentum in vaccine development, along with a very strong international need to increase funding. Dr. Luc Hessel, executive director of Medical and Public Affairs in Europe for Aventis-Pasteur—one of eleven vaccine manufacturers at the WHO meeting—also spoke of the need for shared responsibilities; otherwise, he said, companies will have limited capacity to develop extensive research and development activities in the field. Hessel told reporters that most of the vaccine manufacturers, as an industry, already have plans to develop a pandemic influenza vaccine, but that there are internal challenges they face, such as how to be prepared to switch—and to accelerate plans for switching rapidly—from production of vaccines for the (current) epidemic period, to the inter-pandemic period, to the pandemic period.

While Hessel said that “there is a lot of commitment and effort from the industry to face the current challenge,” he also said that the reason there are only two companies close to clinical testing a vaccine, is that its development is a very intense and expensive effort.

Don’t Leave It to ‘Market Forces’

“Normally,” Dr. Stohr said on Nov. 11, “market forces typically regulate which products are going to be available

for public health emergencies or for normal medical interventions. The market forces have not brought companies into pandemic vaccine development. This is something that has been clearly recognized.” He says it is the responsibility of health authorities to seek ways to support pandemic vaccine development if they consider vaccines to be a public health good.” Some companies have invested into the first stages of testing or into development of a small amount of vaccine, but that’s a risky investment that too few companies are willing to make, Stohr says. He calls on governments to intervene by waiving fees and by tax alleviation.

So far, the United States has invested in testing two different pandemic vaccines, produced by Aventis and by Chiron—the same pharmaceutical company that had to dump nearly half of this season’s flu vaccine supply for the United States, due to contamination in its Liverpool plant. Japan is also working with four companies, investing in clinical testing of new vaccines. But, Stohr said, the expression of interest by governments must be expressed by putting up financial support.

In the area where the majority of influenza pandemic production capacity is currently located, Europe, there is no support for development.

But, what happens when governments provide substantial financial aid to develop/test a vaccine? Will history replay itself? Will vaccine makers hold a government hostage—by holding out for more lucrative deals or more investment into their plants? This happened just four years after Pennsylvania-based Wyeth Labs was licensed to produce the adenovirus vaccine for use among U.S. military recruits. When Wyeth couldn’t get the Department of Defense (the only purchaser) to pay for \$3 million in plant upgrades required by the Food and Drug Administration, the company stopped producing the vaccine. Now, epidemics of the adenovirus and respiratory complications it causes rage regularly through U.S. military bases—at considerable expense to the military and to the sickened recruits (some of whom die).

The WHO summit’s call to action is still a far cry from what physical economist Lyndon LaRouche says must be a “military mobilization” to take on this looming emergency. At no time during the press briefing was the recent decades’ takedown of most, if not all countries’ public health infrastructure, mentioned. *EIR* has demonstrated the erosion of U.S. public health funding, and the loss of epidemiologists, staff, hospitals, and hospital beds. Over the last decade, 1,000 U.S. hospital emergency rooms have closed. The situation is no better in Canada, where highly contagious *Clostridium difficile* bacterium is raging through at least five hospitals in Montreal and 25 teaching hospitals throughout Canada. In Quebec alone, from April 2003-April 2004, there were 7,000 infections and 600 deaths from it.

Basic public health conditions went out the window in Canada when hospital budgets were slashed. Hospital clean-

ing staff were cut or told to spend only 36 seconds cleaning toilets. Whole hospital wards of 40 patients have the use of two bathrooms; the lack of quarantine beds meant infected patients were placed next to uninfected patients. And the current spread of *Clostridium* is a localized epidemic, not a pandemic. How will nations put in place the public health infrastructure and protocols necessary to protect their populations from a mutant flu pandemic, without national governments making credit available—as LaRouche has demanded—to restore fallen public health investment around the globe?

What of the Developing Countries?

About 90% of pandemic vaccine production exists in countries where only 10-12% of the world’s population lives. “We consider vaccine production a task for developed countries. Developing countries have no capacities,” Dr. Stohr told reporters. “And, there is no sign that the vaccine produced in these [developed] countries is going to go anywhere else until the domestic market might be saturated.” That means that the pandemic and whatever other disease or virus spin-offs it proliferates will be allowed to rage in the Third World, where, Stohr said, the majority of people lack good transit access and electricity.

Conference participants are counting on foundations to pay for vaccines for these countries. Unbelievably, it was suggested that the World Bank—the international institution that is most responsible for implementing genocidal economic policies in these countries—could help make the case for these international initiatives!

LaRouche warned in his Nov. 9 international webcast, that in the current floating-exchange-rate financial system, predators called bankers, or financiers who own bankers, tell countries, “Behave yourself and you might get a cookie.” LaRouche warned again of the policy expressed by Henry Kissinger in his 1975 National Security Study Memorandum 200 (NSSM200). That policy memo targeted the growing population of Africa and 12 other lesser developed countries as being national security risk to the United States—because they are using raw materials the United States wanted to control. Kissinger proposed to use food as a weapon to coerce these countries to cut their birthrates. As Kissinger wrote: “Is the U.S. prepared to accept food rationing to help people who can’t/won’t control their population growth?”

By calling in the World Bank, might we not see such coercion again—“be good,” pay your debt, implement this genocidal policy, or, you don’t get pandemic vaccine. To follow such a policy for the majority of peoples in this world in a pandemic, would mean unleashing unknown biological catastrophes on the rest.

LaRouche emphasized that in contrast, for any nation to win against a pandemic, it must invoke the spirit of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia which Kissinger hates, to, “Consider itself indebted to promote the advantage of other nations.”

To Meet New Pandemic Threats, Reverse Policies Creating Public-Health Crisis

The Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee delivered this testimony which was placed in the record of the House Committee on Government Reform's Nov. 17 hearings on "The Nation's Flu Shot Shortage: Where Are We Today, and How Prepared Are We for Tomorrow?" A slightly altered version of the same testimony was placed in the record of the Nov. 18 hearings of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittees on Health, and on Oversight and Investigations. Those hearings were entitled "Flu Vaccine: Protecting High-Risk Individuals and Strengthening the Market." The testimony was prepared for both hearings by EIR economics editor Marcia Merry Baker.

To Committee Chairman Rep. Tom Davis; Rep. Henry Waxman; and Committee Members:

In recent weeks, members of this Committee have rightly undertaken a necessary line of investigation into the current U.S. flu shot supply shortage, namely: How did it come about, that the U.S. 2004-05 flu vaccine was to come from only two suppliers, including one company reliant on an off-shore facility with a known history of risk?

Throwing a spotlight on this question is important. But in terms of government oversight, we want with this testimony to bring attention to the broadest context within which to judge government responsibility:

First, what is the full scope and nature of the disease threat faced today by this nation and internationally—going beyond even pandemic influenza?

Second, from that vantage point, what are the public-health and other actions called for in the immediate situation, and what must be done to reverse the policies that created the crises in the first place?

The particulars of the various dramatic episodes in recent years, including the anthrax attack (2001), SARS (2003), Mad Cow Disease in North America, etc., illustrate the point that it is the takedown of public-health infrastructure, along with globalization practices in agriculture and throughout the economy, that are themselves causing increased likelihood of harm.

Forewarning was given decades ago by American economist and Democratic Party leader Lyndon LaRouche, who in

1973, commissioned a task force on the prospects for a "biological holocaust," if policies of de-industrialization and free trade were to prevail, and to create "points of congruity and interaction of economic and biological processes," leading to the spread of disease. In July 1985, the task force published the *EIR* Special Report *Economic Breakdown and the Threat of Global Pandemics*.

Unfortunately, LaRouche's warnings have been borne out. We are now seeing dramatic, deadly proof of how new and re-emerging diseases are associated with practices of outsourcing, lack of sanitation and pest eradication, monoculture in agriculture, and all the other hallmarks of so-called "competitive global sourcing and markets."

Moreover, bad as this free-trade era was when it "worked," it is now simply breaking down.

Lyndon LaRouche, on July 30 of this year, addressed the issue of the public-health crisis, and the general collapse process in the economy, at a Boston press conference following the end of the Democratic Party Convention; there, he announced the formation of the political action committee Lyndon LaRouche PAC, to fight for emergency measures to restore a functioning *physical economy*.

During September and thereafter, LaRouche PAC put out 800,000 copies of a mass pamphlet on that very point, *It's the Physical Economy, Stupid!*

During October, LaRouche PAC put out 1.5 million mass leaflets on the flu vaccine debacle, to jolt the public and lawmakers alike into facing what responsible government should be doing, instead of writing off the sick and poor.

LaRouche stressed on July 30, that people don't look at what's right in front of them. "You see a country that is being destroyed while people are talking about prosperity and improvement of conditions of life. In fact, when you look at the physical reality, per county, across the entirety of the United States; look at the standard of living; the capital investment; the infrastructure; per county, across the United States. You see a nation which has been physically destroyed, in which those who consider themselves wealthy are in the upper 20% of family-income brackets, and more and more concentrated in a few areas." There are bubbles of housing real-estate values and the like,

while manufacturing, health care, and necessities of life are collapsing.

“...The physical reality of the condition of the United States has to be brought to the consciousness of people, who see this, but they look at it as if they didn’t see it. They say, ‘But we see, the report is that the economy is getting better.’ Look at the reality: The economy is getting worse.”

That’s what lies behind the government malfeasance in failing to see to flu shots, and failing to provide for medical care.

Threat of Flu Pandemic, Other Diseases

For years, epidemiologists and livestock and other experts have sounded alarms about growing disease threats. Three recent sources make the necessary points about the scale of danger today, beginning with influenza.

Pandemic Flu

On Oct. 28, Dmitri Lvov, director of the Ivanovsky Virology Institute and Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, held a press conference (source: RIA-Novosti News Agency), warning of the threat of avian flu becoming transmissible from human to human. “Up to 1 billion people could die around the whole world in six months. We are half a step away from a worldwide pandemic catastrophe.”

The World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Vaccine Institute based in Seoul, South Korea, and many other agencies, are likewise warning of flu pandemic.

On Sept. 25, 2004, a report given to the Pan American Health Organization conference warned of a potential “new influenza strain” saying that the “sudden and marked change in Influenza virus A [in Asia] should be considered one of the greatest public-health concerns” in the Americas. The report said, “Recent episodes of animal strains causing disease in humans, support experts’ views that a new pandemic is inevitable. . . . Epidemiological studies project that another pandemic is most likely to result in . . . 280,000 to 650,000 deaths in less than two years—in industrialized countries alone.”

New and Re-Emerging Diseases

Apart from influenza, there are threats from other new and re-emerging infectious diseases. A September 2004 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), “Emerging Infectious Diseases,” reviewed how well state and Federal surveillance systems are set up to monitor disease incidence. Provided at the request of Sen. Norm Coleman, Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, the study took place over the past year, and the report includes a world map showing many of the “Selected Emerging Infectious Diseases, 1996-2004.”

On the flu, the GAO report stressed: “The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that if an influenza pandemic were to occur in the United States, it could cause an estimated 314,000 to 734,000 hospitalizations and 89,000 to 207,000 deaths, with associated costs ranging from \$71 to \$167 billion.” (From the CDC, *Fiscal Year 2005, Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*, p. 172.)

On disease threats generally, the GAO report states, “More than 36 newly emerging infectious diseases were identified between 1973 and 2003, and new emerging infectious diseases continue to be identified.”

Microbial Threats

The U.S. crude death rate from infectious diseases, declining for 80 years, is now on the rise! The National Institutes of Medicine, which surveys rates of infectious diseases every 10 years, released its 400-page report in 2003—*Microbial Threats to Health; Emergence, Detection and Response*—and stressed at the outset that in the United States, the crude death rate per 100,000 persons from infectious diseases has increased from 1980-1999, from under 40 deaths to over 50; and this is before the death toll from HIV/AIDS is added in. With that included, *the U.S. death rate from infectious diseases has risen from 40 per 100,000 in 1980, to over 60 by the turn of the century!*

Why? The Institutes of Medicine faults the head-in-the-sand policies of the past 20 years, in which the public and lawmakers discontinued base-line public-health policies, perhaps under the delusion that disease threats had somehow come to an end! “As a result of this apparent reprieve from infectious diseases, the United States Government moved research funding away from infectious disease toward the ‘new dimensions’ of public health—noncommunicable disorders such as heart disease and lung cancer. The government closed ‘virtually every tropical and infectious disease outpost run by the U.S. military and Public Health Service’ [quote is from a 1989 study by Garrett]. Infectious disease surveillance and control activities were de-emphasized. Research, development, and production of new antibiotics and vaccines declined. The potentially devastating impact of infectious diseases was either relegated to the memory of previous generations or left to the imagination of science fiction enthusiasts.”

All kinds of infectious diseases are on the rise—not simply recent and exotic varieties such as the West Nile virus, or Lyme Disease. Two cases in point: whooping cough and food-borne illnesses.

- Whooping cough, or pertussis. The seventh-ranked killer infection globally, this is making a comeback in the United States, due to lack of vaccination, poverty, immigration, and general neglect. Thirteen children died in 2003 due to pertussis, which can also cause pneumonia and inflammation of the

brain. In 2004, the CDC reported that North Dakota has had one of the largest outbreaks, with 693 cases in 2004, up from just six in 2003.

- **Hepatitis A.** In October-November 2003, the largest-ever U.S. outbreak from a single source took place near Pittsburgh, in Beaver Valley, Pennsylvania. At least 650 got sick; 100 were hospitalized; three died, two men (aged 38 and 46) and a 51-year-old woman. The source was contaminated scallions, imported from a cheap-labor farm operation in Mexico. Another incident may occur at any time. During the winter months, up to 70% of the fresh fruits and vegetables consumed in the U.S. are imported; the average annual rate is 25-35% and rising. Harmful pathogens are more than three times as likely from low-infrastructure sources in Mexico, Guatemala, the Philippines, and elsewhere; including *salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *shigella*.

Zoonotics and Botanicals

Beyond basic sanitation and pathogens, risks of disease are increasing, simply because of the common patterns of plant-life and livestock-raising under globalized agriculture, and lack of public-health infrastructure under borderless “free trade” generally.

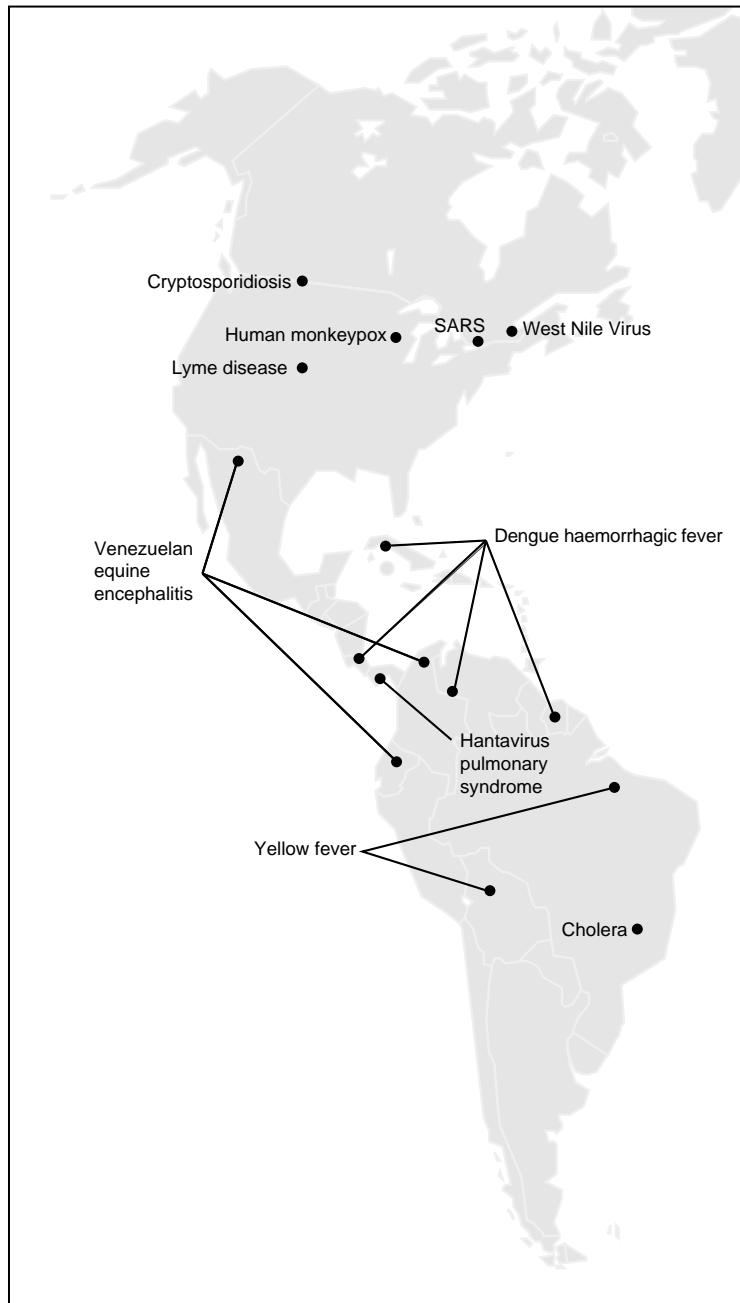
The threat comes from the fact that the last 40 years have been characterized by ever-increasing monoculture in crops and livestock; increasing reliance on a few varieties of plants and animals; and dangerous animal husbandry practices. Therefore, vulnerability and extent of damage are maximized, in the case of any mutation, outbreak, species-jump, etc.

One recent case of plant disease, and magnified harm from monoculture, is the arrival this fall of soybean rust, a fungus, in the United States for the first time (confirmed Nov. 10 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture). The blight, of the species *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, was identified in Louisiana. It can cut yields significantly. The same fungus—entrenched in Asia—arrived in South America in 2001, and has spread since, reaching Argentina in 2003.

The salient point about this pest, is that food cartel-imposed policies have led to a situation of such concentration, that only three countries of the Americas—the United States, Brazil, and Argentina—together account for 188 million metric tons, which is over 80% of all world annual soy production (229 million metric tons), and those three account for over 90% of all soybean exports. There is no redundancy and no reserves.

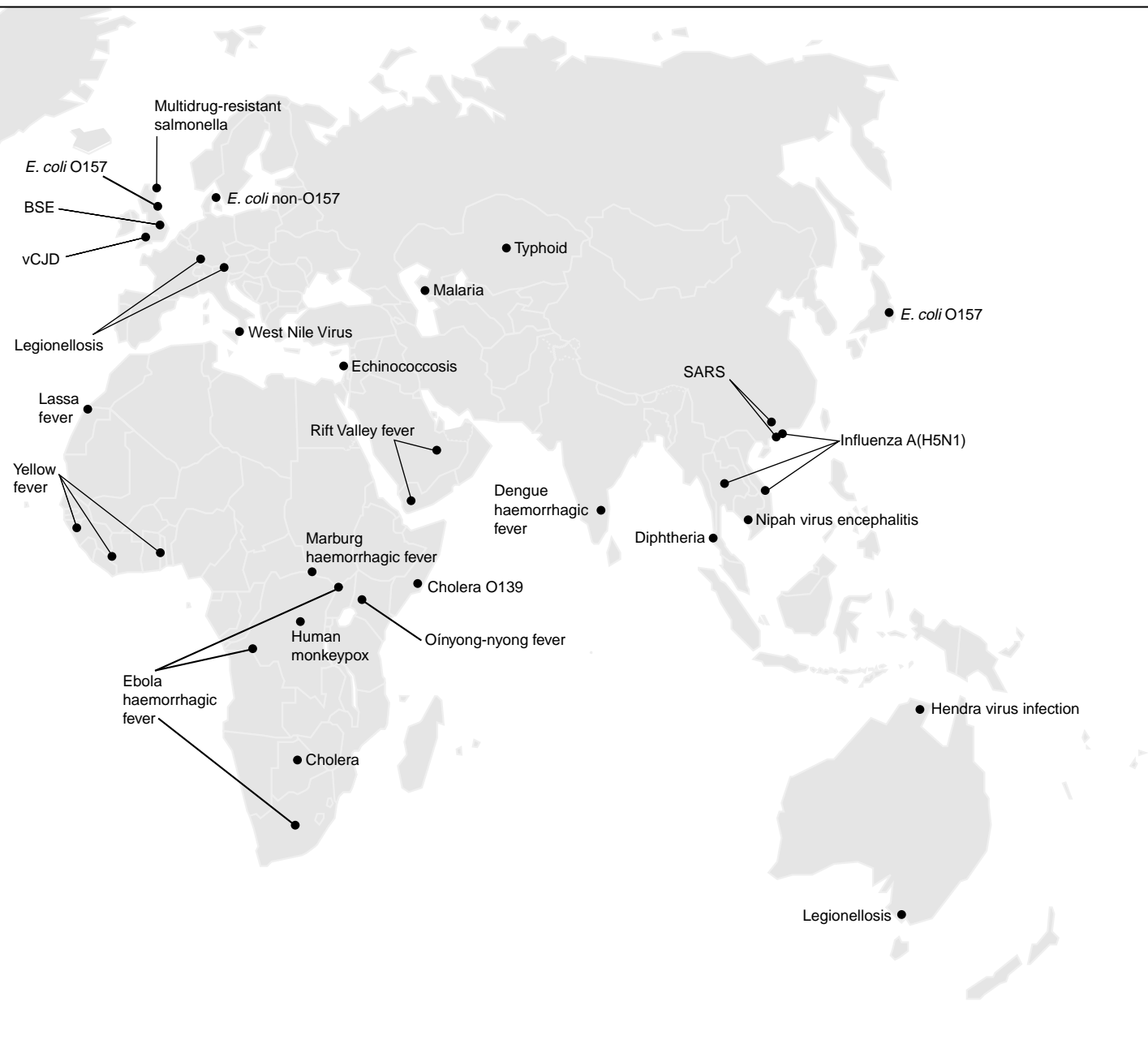
The cartel companies (ADM, Cargill, Monsanto, Smithfield, et al.) imposing extreme concentrations of food processing, factory-farm-production monoculture, and trading, have been extensively documented by Prof. William Heffernan, of the University of Missouri.

Animal sources of diseases are equally serious, both for risk of direct transmission, and as “mixing bowls” for mutations of pathogens that can then become human-to-human



Source: World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

transmissible. The GAO September report summarized, “According to CDC, nearly 70% of emerging infectious disease episodes during the past 10 years have been zoonotic diseases, which are diseases transmitted from animals to humans. The West Nile virus, which was first diagnosed in the United States in 1999, is an example of a zoonotic disease. The West Nile virus can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. . . . Other zoonotic diseases include SARS, avian influenza, human monkeypox, and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob diseases (vCJD), which scientists believe



is linked to eating beef from cattle infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and is often called mad cow disease.”

Look at the record of the period of origins and spread of BSE in Britain, under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the quintessential free-marketeer government (1980-90).

After the 1970s, studies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others were finding risks of “transmissible dementias” between species; the strong recommendation

was made in September 1979, that hygiene standards be tightened for animal feeds in Britain, where a large outbreak of sheep scrapie was underway (TSE, transmissible spongiform encephalopathy). The British Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution wanted tight licensing for processing animal proteins—especially sheep parts—back into the feed and food chain, especially the chain destined for cows.

Thatcher and her Agriculture Minister, Lord Peter Walker, refused, on grounds that this violated the privatiza-

tion principle of “self-regulation” of farm and health industries; they loosened rules on cycling animal wastes back into feed; and on exporting animals. By 1986, BSE was identified; by 1996, some 162,000 cases of BSE cows were officially reported in the U.K., and the epidemic had been exported.

Government Responsibility

These kinds of ideologies must be stopped cold, and public-health principles re-established as the basis for government action. The current U.S. flu shot debacle underscores that very point.

What needs to be done in the short term is straightforward, generally falling into two categories: vaccines, and medical treatment contingencies.

Vaccines: Both for the 2005-06 “normal” flu season, and for the threat of a killer flu pandemic, the United States government must take domestic actions, and collaborate internationally, to see to a ramping-up of vaccine production capacity, and to back the best science and production of a potentially useful avian flu vaccine. Currently, two companies are tasked to make some 2.4 million shots of an experimental vaccine. *It is of the utmost importance to evaluate and vastly expand that program.*

The Nov. 11-12 unprecedented “Flu Summit” of 50 government leaders and 16 vaccine manufacturers in Switzerland, has created an institutional forum through which a crash program of vaccine production can take place, if the United States and collaborating nations act on this.

The “Flu Protection Act,” sponsored by Senators Evan Bayh and Larry Craig, and many others, has been introduced into Congress, and includes the initiatives essential to ensuring the needed volumes of vaccine. The measures contained in this bill have been endorsed by the American Public Health Association, the American Lung Association, and many other organizations.

Medical Treatment Contingencies: Also in the short term, Federal intervention is required to aid states and localities to provide contingency plans for hospital emergency rooms and beds, anti-viral medicines, staff, and so on, to handle any surge of patients caused by the fact that in this 2004-05 season, the United States lacks half the needed flu shots.

The need for contingency logistics has in fact been heightened, because Federal authorities did not take timely action immediately after Oct. 6—the day of the announcement of the delicensing of the Chiron plant in Liverpool—to collect and re-allocate scarce flu shots. Thus closed a window of opportunity for at least mitigating the chaos, and that means that harm will now be inevitable.

The takedown of the U.S. hospital system, Veterans Administration hospitals, and public-health agencies has been so drastic over the past three decades of the “managed care”

ideological era, that even a mild flu season, with plentiful vaccine, has seen hospitals overwhelmed. The Homeland Security fund infusions of 2002-04 have in no way reversed the net decline of the U.S. health system.

On Oct. 18, the American College of Emergency Physicians, an organization of 22,000 doctors, meeting in San Francisco issued a plea for Federal action and resources to be able to handle the coming wave of patients.

Return to the ‘Hill-Burton’ Principle

The principle to guide both short-term contingency medical arrangements, and the restoration of the U.S. health system, is the traditional American health-care policy known historically as the “Hill-Burton” principle. This refers to the 1946 bipartisan law, “The Hospital Survey and Construction Act.” This simple, nine-page law mandated that every county in the nation must provide hospital facilities on a ratio of licensed beds per 1,000 residents, based on modern medical standards of treatment. During the years from the late ’40s through the mid-1970s, this policy led to the successful provision of hospital beds in nearly all 3,069 U.S. counties, at a ratio of 5.5 beds per 1,000 in rural areas, and 4.5 per 1,000 in urban areas (where transportation was easier).

During the 1950s and ’60s, the same “Hill-Burton spirit” governed the aggressive efforts to defeat poliomyelitis and other diseases, as a matter of principle.

Then came the dismantling of this system, and the thinking behind it, with the passage in 1973 of the first HMO furtherance act, the subsequent deregulation of health care, and the concept of “managing” care, instead of combatting disease.

Today’s flu vaccine fiasco in the United States underscores the point that generally, the *economic system itself* is now breaking down; along with it, the ideologies that rationalized the economic takedown all along, are disgraced. We face the opportunity and the necessity to return to the principles and tasks of restoring the physical economy—in particular, health care.

This is a bipartisan duty of the highest level. Sen. Harold Burton was a Republican from Ohio; Sen. Lister Hill, a Democrat from Alabama. Both were advocates of industry, agriculture, and public-serving infrastructure, as well as health care in particular.

Your leadership on this Committee, on the particular matter of flu vaccine, can provide a needed impetus across the board to bring about the collaborative steps necessary to restore the health-care system, and the economy itself.

On Oct. 6, Lyndon LaRouche, asked about the significance of the 50-million-flu-shot cancellation, during an international webcast in Washington, D.C., said, “To put the human race at risk in this way, was a mistake! We have to adopt a policy of correcting that mistake, by reversing the policies which led to that mistake. . . . Do whatever it takes.”

Cheney Helps Destroy UP And the U.S. Rail Grid

by Richard Freeman

Union Pacific Railroad, America's largest railroad, whose pillaging and flagrant disregard for safety have helped take down the U.S. rail grid, has benefitted from its relationship with two individuals in government: Betty Munro, the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, the chief agency charged with oversight of American railroads; and the U.S. President of Vice, Dick Cheney. Cheney is not only a former Union Pacific board member, and a close friend and hunting buddy with current Union Pacific CEO Dick Davidson; he also played a crucial role in 1995-96 in turning Union Pacific into the predatory behemoth that it is today.

This is one more stage in the sordid history of Cheney's criminal activity, made notorious by his work with Halliburton. In 1995, the perpetual war-advocate Cheney took over as chairman and CEO of Halliburton, which, under his direction, conducted a number of criminal deals. That same year, he was appointed to the board of directors of the Union Pacific.

President Abraham Lincoln and the great economist and patriot Henry Carey had created the Union Pacific as a leading part of the trans-continental railroad project to develop America, which included the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862. The Union Pacific began operating in 1869.

During the last quarter of the 20th Century, Union Pacific built itself by gobbling up and asset-stripping other American railroads. Starting in 1995, Cheney, along with his buddy, Union Pacific CEO Richard Davidson, played a leading role in directing the biggest rail merger in America's history, Union Pacific's takeover of Southern Pacific Railroad, which was finalized in October 1996. Cheney was in the thick of things. According to the July 25, 2000 *USA Today*, "Cheney was 'very cool' in trying times when Union Pacific was bleeding red ink in its tormenting quest to merge the operations [with Southern Pacific], Davidson says. When Cheney was travelling in Bangladesh, the [Union Pacific] board was assembled for an emergency teleconference. He was on the phone at 3:00 a.m. local time, 'making a meaningful contribution,' Davidson says."

Cheney's "meaningful contribution" had two effects. First, as intended, the Union Pacific has gained a stranglehold over U.S. rail shipment: Today, it operates 33,000 route miles, and carries one-third of U.S. rail freight volume—

12% of all U.S. freight traffic by any mode of transport. Second, to pay for the merger, and to enhance "shareholder value," Cheney and Union Pacific CEO Davidson carried out ferocious cost-cutting, which meant shutting down rolling stock, laying off workers, and consolidating operations so that the merged railroad was cut to the bone.

In 1998, the merged Union Pacific-Southern Pacific rail line was completely unequipped to handle that Fall's grain harvest. In the farm states, grain piled up for months at silos, high school football stadiums, and parking lots as the stripped down Union Pacific-Southern Pacific—lacking hopper cars, locomotives, etc.—could not move it.

Asset-Stripping Collapses Safety

Cheney and Davidson's asset-stripping policy devastated Union Pacific's infrastructure and rail safety. The breakdown in safety standards, accompanied by a rash of accidents, is a substantial marker that the overall rail system is not functioning.

Union Pacific's premeditated neglect of maintenance of infrastructure goes back a ways. In September 1997, nearly one year after it swallowed Southern Pacific and slashed workforce and maintenance of the merged railroads, Union Pacific was forced to report that the Federal Rail Administration of the Department of Transportation had conducted a 14-day survey of its system. A Union Pacific press release grimly stated, "On the heels of a comprehensive safety inspection, Federal Railroad Administrator Jolene M. Moloris . . . announced that Union Pacific Railroad will take immediate action to remedy a fundamental breakdown in the railroad's ability to effectively implement basic railroad operating procedures and practices essential to safe railroad operations."

Among the numerous violations by Union Pacific that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) discovered, were that nine Union Pacific workers on duty had been killed in accidents; that "the FRA found examples of Union Pacific train crews being ordered to move trains that had defective equipment, despite protests to supervisors"; that "the FRA found that Union Pacific crews are working longer hours and getting less off-duty than in the past"; that "the FRA found 57% of the Union Pacific locomotives inspected were defective"; and that "the FRA found widespread evidence of employees being harassed and intimidated to cover unfamiliar territory, to not report defects, and to not report injuries."

The FRA recommended safety changes Union Pacific would have to make. Union Pacific made a public show of contrition. But after a decent interval, Union Pacific's core "shareholder value" ideology, buttressed by budget-cutting, re-asserted itself. One rail expert told *EIR* on Nov. 17: "The big thing about Union Pacific is that they're arrogant. Dick Davidson is destroying that company." The pattern of aggressive neglect of infrastructure and safety continued. In

The Union Pacific system. Under Cheney and his pal Dick Davidson, the Federal Rail Administration found “a fundamental breakdown in the railroad’s ability to effectively implement basic railroad operating procedures and practices essential to safe railroad operations.” A rail analyst summed up, “Dick Davidson is destroying that company.”



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a November 2002 memo, Federal Railroad Administration inspectors stated that because Union Pacific had done a poor job of fixing track defects near Shreveport, Louisiana, trains should not be allowed to go faster than 15 mph. Yet, the inspectors said, Union Pacific had raised the speed of the track back up to 75 mph for passenger trains, and 70 mph for freight trains.

During 2004, Union Pacific has created a nightmare in and around San Antonio, Texas, which encapsulates the problem. Starting on May 6, Union Pacific trains have caused six major accidents in this area. On June 27, two trains collided, derailing 40 cars, and sending plumes of chlorine gas and ammonium chloride into the air; four people were killed. As recently as Nov. 10, a Union Pacific train crashed into a building, trapping and killing a worker inside.

Summing up Union Pacific’s accident-strewn record of 2004, *San Antonio News-Express* reporter Ken Rodriguez wrote on Nov. 11, “Someone dies in a Union Pacific train accident about every day and a half.”

Who Protects the Union Pacific?

George Gavalla, who since 1997 was the head of the safety division of the Federal Railroad Administration, made several

attempts to crack down on Union Pacific’s hundreds of safety violations. But he was thwarted by the FRA’s administrator, Betty Munro, whom Cheney-Bush appointed to office. *Ms. Munro’s close friend, with whom she has taken five vacations, is Mary McAuliffe, the head of Union Pacific’s Washington, D.C. lobbying office.* Munro et al. pressured safety chief Gavalla to resign this Fall.

Union Pacific’s take-down of its capabilities has also rendered it incapable of handling the current volume of freight traffic. The railroad is experiencing breakdowns that make goods arrive weeks late, wrecking the operating systems of hundreds of American companies. Given Union Pacific’s dominant size, this is adversely affecting entire sections of America’s rail system and economy.

There is a strong impression, confirmed by one rail analyst, that corrupt Vice President Dick Cheney is extending his long arm to protect Union Pacific inside the Administration. In the 2004 elections, Dick Davidson, Union Pacific’s CEO and Cheney’s buddy, rose to the status of a “Ranger,” someone who packages \$200,000 in contributions for the Bush-Cheney re-election.

Cheney is not only keen to fight more wars abroad; he’s at war at home against our transportation infrastructure.

Trittin Headed For a Meltdown?

by Rainer Apel

Unfortunately, the greenie ideology still heavily influences politics in Germany, but judging from increasing fierce public attacks on Environmental Affairs Minister Jürgen Trittin of the Green Party, at least his days seem numbered. The drastic speculative rise of the price of crude oil is affecting motorists and industry. This has brought the message home to Germany that solar cells and windmills are not the kind of “alternative” that will provide a sufficient supply of power in the future.

The oil price increase, which a few months ago was openly applauded by the German Greens, and by the aforesaid Trittin most of all, as the motivation to enter the era of “natural” energy sources, has backfired. Instead there is now increasing discussion in Germany about the benefits of a return to nuclear technology. This has been augmented by the decision of other European countries—Finland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Bulgaria—which have concluded that the continuation of nuclear technology is vital for them, and irreplaceable by any other energy source.

This does not mean that new nuclear power plant construction, after a 26-year standstill, will begin immediately in Germany, but the increased interest in other countries means an export market for the most modern Franco-German fission reactor type, the European Pressurized Reactor (EPR), and naturally, German industry wants to have a substantial share in such exports, rather than leaving them to the French, exclusively. When earlier this year, Finland signed a contract for an EPR reactor complex with France, the German Greens, the coalition partner of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, insisted that Germany’s Siemens firm not play an active role in the Finland project, although the reactor was a joint development of the French Framatome firm and Siemens. Before the Finland case, the Greens had sabotaged the sale of an unused German nuclear reprocessing unit to China.

But Green Party interventions like these have provoked the leaders of the power technology sector in Germany to be more aggressive against the anti-technology ecologists, and they have dropped their long-term passivity toward greenie policies. This became evident at a recent talkshow on the Phoenix television station, when spokesmen for the power technology sector, and a number of prominent politicians, hit Trittin so hard with arguments in favor of nuclear power that he began babbling incoherently, and started insulting his discussion partners. The talkshow audience was transformed during this event; the number of nuclear power endorsers



“Empty container. . . What to do with it?” Claudio Celani’s cartoon of Jürgen Trittin, who instituted an extra fee for every metal or plastic container, appeared in the German weekly *Neue Solidarität*.

grew visibly by the end of the event, as their applause for those attacking Trittin demonstrated.

Trittin tried to take revenge in an op-ed in the Nov. 15 German economic daily *Handelsblatt*, proclaiming: “We are not witnessing a renaissance of nuclear power, but rather its creeping end.” Trittin claimed that all the talk about plans for new reactors throughout the world was nonsense. The Chinese were committed, Trittin wrote, to install 60 gigawatts in solar, wind, and small hydroelectric power plants by 2010. In the West, France and Finland are isolated in respect to their nuclear policies because the enhanced safety of the French-German EPR reactor had “never been proven.” Trittin then asserted that Islamic terrorists have included nuclear reactors in their list of targets. The “growing worldwide hunger for power” exists especially in “developing countries and in politically unstable regions of the world. There, nuclear power plants are potential targets for enemy states—and for authoritarian regimes just stations on the way to building the bomb,” he said.

Trittin has been disliked by a growing number of Germans since he invented the *dosenpfand* in 1999, an extra fee paid for every tin and plastic can or bottle that is bought at a store. You may pay more for the bottle than for its contents. This is so absurd that comedians have proposed that stores only sell empty plastic bottles or tin cans, because then they would make more money. Several years ago, a cartoon in *Neue Solidarität*, the weekly of the German LaRouche movement, depicting Trittin as a squashed empty tin can, became very popular in the country. Observing Trittin’s recent conduct, one finds that the cartoon anticipated the present state of mind the Green politician is in. In the next cabinet reshuffle, which may occur early next year, the German Chancellor may find Trittin an expendable burden.

'Winning' Fallujah, Losing the War

With the declaration of "victory" by both the United States military and the Iraqi puppet government, the Bush Administration has once again repeated the quintessential accomplishment of the U.S. military in Vietnam: We have destroyed a city in order to "save" it. Every such "victory" simply hastens the day in which the United States will be forced to admit defeat in the criminal adventure it began with the war against Iraq.

Knowledgeable military sources are reporting, under cloak of secrecy when necessary, that the insurgency which once held Fallujah, is growing, not shrinking. A very senior retired military intelligence source told *EIR* on Nov. 18, that "the insurgencies are growing organically from the discontent of the Sunni Arab population, and that these insurgencies will continue to grow, recruiting new members and continuing to resist U.S. forces."

Lyndon LaRouche commented, "They have made all of Iraq, greater Fallujah."

In a Nov. 9 commentary, published on *aljazeera.net*, former United Nations weapons inspector Scott Ritter warned that the attack on Fallujah was an exercise in futility. "Far from facing off in a decisive battle against the resistance fighters," Ritter wrote, "it seems the more Americans squeeze Fallujah, the more the violence explodes elsewhere. It is an exercise in futility, akin to squeezing jello. The more you try to get a grasp on the problem, the more it slips through your fingers."

Events of the past week bear out Ritter's warning. Huge swaths of Iraq are now in open rebellion against the U.S. occupation, and the security situation has become so tense that even members of the Allawi government are now mooting the possibility that the elections scheduled for January will have to be postponed. The slaughter which occurred in Fallujah, and the cruel conditions under which refugees from that city are currently living, are propelling more Iraqis into the resistance to the U.S. occupation, a very bloody resistance.

Nor is it simply Iraq and its inhabitants who have suffered as a result. The pace of death and injury among U.S. troops has increased dramatically during the month

of November. By Nov. 16, the Pentagon's own official tally was reporting 93 American troops dead since Nov. 1 and 806 wounded; since the war began, the totals are 1,210 dead and 8,956 wounded. Fully 7.7% of the deaths and 9% of the total wounded, have occurred in the month of November.

The situation is not going to improve, without a dramatic change in the American approach. In fact, some knowledgeable U.S. analysts are reporting that the occupation may already have created a situation in which a breakup of the Iraqi nation is nearly inevitable. And the chances for a successful long-term American occupation are privately acknowledged to be non-existent.

Of course, to a large grouping within the military-intelligence Establishment, these realities have been obvious for a long time. Many leading personalities actually opposed the war, and they have repeated, again and again, that the approach of "killing all the insurgents" is simply going to increase the number of insurgents. The neo-cons and Cheney have heard them, and thrown their advice in the garbage. The Cheney objective is *not* to win the peace, but to spread destruction, mayhem, and chaos.

Thus, it is for good reason, that some members of the Establishment, including close associates of former President Bush, have responded to the re-election of the Cheney-Bush team with near-panic, as visions of the destruction of the world's cheapest oil fields loom before their eyes.

But will their weighing-in be sufficient to lead the Bush Administration to change course? Will they act before the pace of death escalates even further, killing many more people and killing any chance of peace?

Even today, LaRouche's Southwest Asia doctrine remains the only workable approach on the table to pull the region out of chaos. Some Arab leaders have told *EIR* that LaRouche's approach will be discussed, informally at least, at the upcoming Sharm el-Sheikh conference of Iraq's neighbors. It's high time it became a leading topic in Washington, D.C., as well.

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Mondays—3 pm
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- WASHINGTON
Comcast Ch. 23
Wed:7 pm; Fri:10 am
Sun:6 pm; Mon:11 pm
- RHODE ISLAND
• E.PROV—Ch.18
Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- STATEWIDE
RI Interconnect
Cox Ch.13
Full Ch.49
Tuesdays—10 am
- TEXAS
• EL PASO COUNTY
Adelphia Ch.4
Thursdays—8 pm
Thursdays—11 am

- NIAGARA COUNTY
Adelphia Ch.20
Thursdays—10:35 pm
- ONEIDA—Ch.10
Thu: 8 or 9 pm
- PENFIELD—Ch.15
Penfield Comm. TV*
- QUEENS QPTV Ch.34
Fridays—5 pm
Tuesdays—9 pm
- QUEENSBURY Ch.71
Tuesdays—7 pm
- RIVERHEAD Ch.70
Thu—12 Midnight
- ROCHESTER—Ch.15
Sundays—3 pm
Mondays—10 pm
- ROCKLAND—Ch.71
Mondays—6 pm
- STATE ISL.
Time Warner Cable
Thu—11 pm (Ch.35)
Sat—8 am (Ch.34)
- TOMPKINS COUNTY
Time Warner Ch.13
Sun—11 am & 4 pm
Saturdays—9 pm
- TRI-LAKES
Adelphia Ch.2
Sun: 7 am, 1 pm, 8 pm
- WEBSTER—Ch.12
Wednesdays—9 pm
- NORTH CAROLINA
• HICKORY—Ch.3
Tuesdays—10 pm
- OHIO
• CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Ch.21; Wed—3:30 pm
- FRANKLIN COUNTY
Ch.21; Sun—6 pm
- LORAIN COUNTY
Adelphia Ch.30
Daily: 10 am; or
12 Noon; or 2 pm;
or 12 Midnight
- OBERLIN—Ch.9
Tuesdays—7 pm
- REYNOLDSBURG
Ch.6: Sun—6 pm
- OREGON
• LINN/BENTON
AT&T Ch.99
Thursdays—7 pm
- PORTLAND
Tue—6 pm (Ch.22)
Thu—3 pm (Ch.23)
- SALEM—Ch.23
Tuesdays—12 Noon
Thursdays 8 pm
Saturdays 10 am
- SILVERTON
Charter Ch.10
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri:
Betw. 5 pm - 9 am
- WASHINGTON
Comcast Ch. 23
Wed:7 pm; Fri:10 am
Sun:6 pm; Mon:11 pm
- RHODE ISLAND
• E.PROV—Ch.18
Tuesdays—6:30 pm
- STATEWIDE
RI Interconnect
Cox Ch.13
Full Ch.49
Tuesdays—10 am
- TEXAS
• EL PASO COUNTY
Adelphia Ch.4
Thursdays—8 pm
Thursdays—11 am

- HOUSTON
Time Warner Ch.17
Saturdays—9 am
- KINGWOOD Ch.98
Kingwood Cablevision
Saturdays—9 am
- UTAH
• E.MILLARD
Precis Ch.10
Tuesdays—5 pm
- SEVERE/SAN PETE
Precis Ch.10
Sundays & Mondays
6 pm & 9 pm
- VERMONT
• GREATER FALLS
Adelphia Ch.8
Tuesdays—1 pm
- MONTPELIER
Ch.15
Thursdays 10 pm
Fridays 4 pm
- VIRGINIA
• ALBERMARLE
Adelphia Ch.13
Fridays—3 pm
- ARLINGTON
ACT Ch.33
Mondays—4 pm
Tuesdays—9 am
- CHESTERFIELD
Comcast Ch.6
Tuesdays—5 pm
- FAIRFAX—Ch.10
Tuesdays—12 Noon
Thursdays—7 pm
- LOUDOUN
Adelphia Ch. 23/24
Thursdays—7 pm
- ROANOKE—Ch.19
Thursdays—7 pm
Thursdays—2 pm
- WASHINGTON
• KING COUNTY
AT&T Ch.29/77
Mondays—8 pm
- SPOKANE—Ch.14
Wednesdays—6 pm
- TRI CITIES
Charter Ch.12
Thursdays—12 Noon
Thursdays—8:30 pm
- WENATCHEE
Charter Ch.98
Thu:10 am,12 Noon
- WISCONSIN
• MADISON—Ch.4
Tuesdays—3 pm
Wednesdays—12 Noon
- MARATHON COUNTY
Charter Ch.10
Thursdays—9:30 pm
Fridays—12 Noon
- SUPERIOR
Charter Ch.20
Mondays—7:30 pm
Wednesdays—11 pm
Fridays 1 pm
- WYOMING
• GILLETTE—Ch.36
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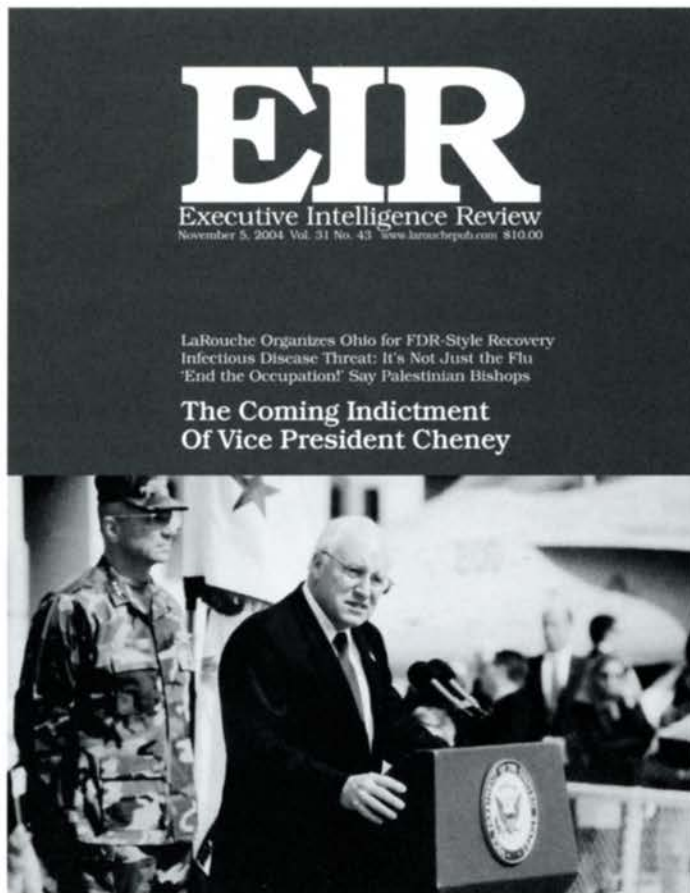
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