

## Editorial

### *Overdue: LaRouche's 'Berlin proposal'*

Exactly one year ago, on Oct. 12, 1988, independent U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche unveiled a proposed policy by which the next U.S. administration could bring about the reunification of Germany, at a press conference at Berlin's Hotel Bristol.

Since that historic initiative, LaRouche, who at the time had just been indicted in what became the infamous Alexandria, Virginia "railroad," was convicted of a series of politically motivated charges, imprisoned, and subjected to life-threatening mistreatment in jail. And during that one year, the conditions he identified, of economic breakdown and food shortages throughout the Soviet bloc, have worsened by far.

In Berlin, LaRouche emphasized that the Soviet bloc had entered into a worsening economic crisis in every respect, not food shortages alone. Speaking as an economist, he reported that no amount of restructuring or Western credits, by themselves, could reverse the down-slide of the Soviet and Eastern European economies over the coming period. In his statement, and in answers to a question from a reporter from a Berlin daily, LaRouche emphasized, that as soon as Moscow recognizes this economic fact, it would be forced to consider new options.

LaRouche warned against hope for truly peaceful relations between Moscow and the West sooner than "30 or 40 years ahead." In the meantime, "The best we can do in the name of peace, is to avoid a new general war between the powers." While we maintain military strength and political will in face of continuing threats of Soviet adventures, we must follow the advice of "Nicolò Machiavelli: We must always provide an adversary with a safe route of escape. . . . We must rebuild our economies to the level at which we can provide the nations of the Soviet bloc an escape from the terrible effects of their economic suffering."

He cited the food crisis as an example of such economic diplomacy, emphasizing that the world grain available during 1988 was not expected to reach above 1.7 billion tons, "already a disastrous shortage." Mos-

cow will probably demand at least "80 million tons from the West during 1989, as a bare minimum for the needs of its population." LaRouche proposed that nations act to ensure that at least 2.4 billion tons of grain were available for each of the coming two years. This would require "scrapping the present agricultural policies of many governments and supranational institutions, but it could be accomplished. If we are serious about avoiding the danger of war during the coming two years, we will do just that. By adopting these kinds of policies, in food supplies and other crucial economic matters, the West can foster the kinds of conditions under which the desirable approach to reunification . . . can proceed on the basis a majority of Germans on both sides of the Wall desire it should."

LaRouche described his proposed shift in U.S. policy: "I shall propose the following concrete perspective to my government. We say to Moscow: 'We will help you. We shall act to establish Food for Peace agreements among the international included goal that neither the people of the Soviet bloc nor the developing nations shall go hungry. In response to our good faith in doing that for you, let us do something which will set an example of what can be done to help solve the economic crisis throughout the Soviet bloc generally.' "

He proposed: "Let us say that the United States and Western Europe will cooperate to accomplish the successful rebuilding of the economy of Poland. There will be no interference in the political system of government; but only a kind of 'Marshall Plan' aid to rebuild Poland's industry and agriculture. If Germany agrees to this, let a process aimed at the reunification of the economies of Germany begin, and let this be the *punctum saliens* for Western cooperation in assisting the rebuilding of the economy of Poland."

We face the prospect of a winter of starvation in the East bloc. It is in the power of President Bush to take truly statesmanlike measures to avert that disaster; it is in his power to free Lyndon LaRouche, the author of those measures. He must act now.