

# President Bush called on to release facts that would exonerate LaRouche

*The following is the full text of a letter that was sent by certified mail on Oct. 11, 1989 from Warren J. Hamerman, the chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, to President George Bush. Mr. Hamerman has also made copies of the letter available to the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations:*

Dear Mr. President:

While the entire world awaits the outcome of the appeal of the case of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., there is no escape from the fact that it is within your constitutional power, legal obligation and duty as President, to declassify and cause to be released to the general public *now* all documents, material and evidence exculpatory to Mr. LaRouche and his associated movement.

Contrary to any impression previously received, Mr. LaRouche is entirely innocent. I call attention to your erroneous public statement at a campaign event in Sheldon, Iowa on July 31, 1987 when you said in response to a question: "I don't like the things LaRouche does. . . . He's bilked people out of lots of money and misrepresented what causes the money was going to. LaRouche is in a lot of trouble and deserves to be in a lot of trouble." This statement demonstrated that you were grossly misinformed.

Your administration has been sitting on exculpatory evidence which is in the possession of the Department of Justice, White House, National Security Council, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Department and other federal agencies and inter-agency task forces, and which proves the validity of the allegations made in a still-pending federal Civil Rights law suit initiated by LaRouche against the FBI (*LaRouche v. Webster*, Southern District of New York) for its participation in a massive government campaign of overt and covert operations against him and the movement associated with him.

Not only is there no escape from the fact that you are constitutionally and legally required to make *full admission and disclosure at this time* of all evidence exculpatory to Mr. LaRouche, but as you are personally aware, Mr. President, the LaRouche case is now seen by a large and increasing

number of prominent persons in all strata of society and walks of life around the nation and around the world as the test for whether or not the United States has rebuked its constitutional safeguards and crossed the line to join those states which maintain their order only through the denial of fundamental liberties.

Therefore, it is incumbent on you to set the record straight and end the coverup of the two decades of government Coin-telpro and analogous "shutdown" operations against LaRouche and the movement associated with him.

Evidence in the possession of the federal government will show that there was never any crime by Mr. LaRouche and his associates. Those innocent victims who did lose money did so as a result of the government overt and covert actions.

Before, during, and after his summary trial in Alexandria [Virginia], the Federal Government successfully stonewalled every attempt by Lyndon LaRouche and his fellow victims to receive exculpatory documents which proved their innocence—exculpatory evidence to which he was entitled by law and which the government acknowledged it had.

One small piece of the Government's stockpile of such exculpatory documents has been precisely quantified and acknowledged by the Government. In response to one Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the FBI, alone, confessed before Mr. LaRouche's trial that it possessed 4,700 pages of documents! Yet, the FBI refused to release over 92% of those documents hiding behind alleged exemptions of "national security," "domestic security," and "foreign counterintelligence."

On the eve of LaRouche's Alexandria trial on November 10, 1988 Judge Bryan summarily dismissed two critical defense motions which you are, nonetheless, still today constitutionally and legally empowered and obliged to address.

The first defense request was a "Notice Pursuant to the Classified Information Procedures Act" demanding that the Reagan Administration of which you were a part, declassify documents under the Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA) because they contained information on:

The existence and operational details of U.S. Gov-

ernment counterintelligence, counterterrorism or domestic security activities directed at the finances and political activities of persons and organizations associated with Defendant LaRouche in the United States and in other countries. This investigation is evidenced in part by approximately 4,700 pages of documents in possession of the FBI requested under the Freedom of Information Act. . . . The FBI to date has denied release of all but 350 pages of this material claiming the national security FOIA exemption, among other exemptions. Defendants believe that the government is in possession of information which may be classified which shows that beginning in 1983 the U.S. Government began activities to disrupt the financial and organizational support of LaRouche political causes and activities.

Attached to the motion were three documents which proved that the 4,350 documents which the FBI was sitting on contained exculpatory material. These three "proofs" were:

(1) A declassified synopsis prepared by the Department of Justice of a previously classified document involving an apparent CIA and FBI infiltration of an organization associated with Mr. LaRouche.

(2) A declassified transmission from Richard Secord to Oliver North while he was in his official position at the NSC from the files of North discussing the same subject matter.

(3) An FBI document then recently released which revealed the existence of yet additional FBI "files" involving Lyndon LaRouche which had not previously been identified by the Government.

Judge Albert V. Bryan, who denied Mr. LaRouche's discovery of these documents, was no neutral in the matter of protecting classified government operations since he sat on the highly secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) from its founding in 1979 through 1986, a period roughly coincident with much of your tenure as Vice President under President Reagan. The FISC court is mandated to approve domestic security, national security and foreign counterintelligence use of wiretaps, searches and seizures and other surveillance and infiltration tactics in matters of national security. Therefore, Judge Bryan could well have participated in approving the very matters of covert operations against LaRouche which he subsequently denied discovery of.

Whatever Judge Bryan's motivations may or may not have been in denying the motion, and whatever the Appeals Court may ultimately decide on the judicial process, the Executive Branch has a clear, independent responsibility.

The Executive Branch, while in possession of the exculpatory evidence nonetheless brought the prosecution against LaRouche and his associates. You are empowered to cause to be released *at this time* the 4,350 documents housed by the FBI as well as the uncounted tens of thousands of docu-

ments and tapes housed by the CIA, NSC, State Department and other Government agencies as part of this de facto governmental strike force operating against LaRouche and his associates.

The second motion which Judge Bryan denied on November 10, 1988 was a request for disclosure of the extensive operations of the "Get LaRouche Task Force," in the form of a "Motion for Disclosure of Exculpatory Material" containing 181 separate requests for information of illegal Government operations against Lyndon LaRouche and the movement associated with him.

Lyndon LaRouche and his associates were convicted and imprisoned for failing to repay loans made to companies which the Government shut down in an unprecedented involuntary bankruptcy action.

Yet, Mr. President, the fact remains that the Federal Government to this day is concealing from the public, with the witting complicity of Chief Judge Bryan, the fact that not only had the Government sanctioned the above-described types of covert "neutralization" operations against the LaRouche political movement. It also singlehandedly via the involuntary bankruptcy action, shut down the business firms which in fact had the outstanding and continuing obligations to repay the very loans which LaRouche and his co-defendants now sit in jail for having not repaid. It was your Government's actions which have prevented the repayment of those loans.

The documents still in possession of the U.S. Government prove that Lyndon LaRouche and his associates had good cause to believe that they were being subjected to "extortion" and "threats" by a private effort and "secret government" apparatus—like that which came to public light in the Iran-Contra affair—designed to financially annihilate them.

The Government engaged in a massive disinformation campaign against Mr. LaRouche together with private agencies such as the NBC-TV, the ADL, banks, and the office of the chairman of the Democratic Party aimed at ceasing the financial support of the defendants and turning their supporters against them.

The Government knowingly participated in a coordinated campaign of derogatory media coverage concerning the financial status and practices of defendants directed at supporters and contributors. Among the media "disinformation" campaigns, was the dissemination throughout the world of the false and derogatory allegation that LaRouche was involved in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme during and after March 1986.

In the course of litigation NBC-TV has sworn that it received "non-public" information from the CIA, FBI, IRS and FEC [Federal Election Commission] in preparation of its negative coverage of LaRouche.

The Government aided and abetted the actions of banks and other private agencies in conducting "financial warfare" against defendants by seizing funds or closing down accounts

and intervening to prevent further contributions and other financial support.

The Government sent agents of the FBI, Secret Service, and other Government agencies to comb the country to induce supporters and contributors to the LaRouche movement to “turn” and become witnesses against them. In one instance a major contributor, Barbara Newington, who also was a major contributor to Oliver North’s fundraising operations, was harassed away from the defendants directly by members of the White House and National Security Council staffs.

The Government, beginning in 1983, participated in the dissemination of disinformation and related actions nationally and internationally in an effort to diminish the policy influence of Mr. LaRouche. The proponents of these allegations included Henry A. Kissinger, John C. Train, Daniel P. Moynihan, John Rees, Herbert Romerstein, Walter Raymond, Oliver “Buck” Revell and Roy Godson. FBI files and civil discovery already released to LaRouche and his associates, document such activities. The President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) Memorandum and a memorandum authored by the ex-head of counterintelligence of the FBI, James Nolan, demonstrate that as of early 1983 these allegations had achieved wide circulation in government.

Under the Reagan administration’s Executive Orders 12333, 12334, and other specific related orders, agencies of the Government-launched counterintelligence investigations and repressive covert operations against LaRouche and his associates which were aimed at “neutralizing” his political influence abroad and domestically.

For all of the reasons stated above, the Executive Branch is morally obliged to declassify and make full disclosure.

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## Fact Sheet

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# Declassify the ‘Get LaRouche’ file!

President Bush can disclose the truth about the frameup and railroading of Lyndon LaRouche. All that the President needs to do is to order declassification of the secret files of the “Get LaRouche” task force. This task force operates under the authority of Executive Order 12333. E.O. 12333 created

the “secret government” which was partially exposed in the notorious Iran-Contra affair.

This E.O., utilized against LaRouche and the political movement identified with him, deals with covert foreign intelligence operations, the 1983 “Smith Guidelines” or domestic FBI operations, Presidential Directive 75, and National Security Decision Directive 77, which created “Project Democracy” in January 1983.

This task force is a multi-agency body, whose records will be found principally in the FBI, the Department of Justice, the National Security Council, the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and the CIA.

LaRouche and his co-defendants were denied access to the vast majority of these files in both the Boston and Alexandria cases against them. During the Boston trial (September 1987-May 1988) a few but very significant documents from the FBI, CIA, and NSC were released as part of a Freedom of Information (FOIA) action brought by LaRouche’s co-defendant Paul Goldstein.

In response to the Goldstein FOIA request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation stated that it had over 4,700 pages of documents “responsive” to the request—which asked for all post-1981 files concerning LaRouche and associated organizations compiled under E.O. 12333 or for counterintelligence or other national security investigations. The FBI refused then, and has still refused, to release over 4,000 of these 4,700 pages.

The FBI has recently disclosed that it is withholding one file which is so secret that even the file’s caption and file number are classified. After repeated denials, in July of this year the FBI admitted that this file was compiled under the authority of Executive Order 12333!

During the Alexandria trial, the LaRouche defense team attempted twice to subpoena these FBI files. The subpoena was summarily quashed on both occasions by Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr.

## Exculpatory evidence denied

The LaRouche defense also submitted a detailed pre-trial motion for disclosure of exculpatory information. This motion was extremely specific as to categories and types of documents sought which would be in the sole possession of the government. Documents were sought showing:

- government interference with fundraising efforts by associates of LaRouche, including attempts to harass and intimidate contributors;
- government contacts with banks and other financial institutions for purposes of interfering with fundraising and financial affairs of organizations identified with LaRouche;
- efforts by political enemies of LaRouche to discredit him within the Reagan administration and the intelligence community; and
- the role of government agencies in coordinating or aiding news media attacks on LaRouche, including the insti-

gation of slanderous news coverage and illegal leaks of false and derogatory information to the news media.

This motion for disclosure of exculpatory information was also summarily denied by Judge Bryan.

The full "Get LaRouche" file would prove conclusively that LaRouche and his associates were innocent of any wrong-doing. Full disclosure will show that, on the contrary, LaRouche and his associates are the victims of illegal operations by the "secret government"—operations designed to 1) discredit them in the eyes of the public, 2) destroy the financial base of the LaRouche political movement and associated publications, and 3) railroad them to prison.

From investigations conducted to date, and from those documents already released, certain "footprints" of the "Get LaRouche" operation have been identified. These include the following, which are only the proverbial "tip of the iceberg."

- In June 1982, CIA veteran Walter Raymond was detailed to the National Security Council to oversee Project Democracy covert operations, particularly "black propaganda" operations. Raymond began circulating documents within the NSC denouncing LaRouche as a foreign intelligence asset.

- In August-November 1982, Henry Kissinger and his lawyers wrote a series of letters to FBI Director William Webster, demanding that the FBI investigate LaRouche and determine who funds LaRouche's organizations and publications.

- At the same time, efforts intensified in the intelligence community to discredit LaRouche and associates as agents of "Soviet disinformation"—as shown in a declassified September 1982 FBI memorandum.

- On Jan. 12, 1983, Kissinger's friends on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) demanded an investigation of LaRouche's finances under the pretext that he may be "funded by hostile intelligence agencies."

- In the spring and summer of 1983, an interagency Special Planning Group (SPG) was created to implement Project Democracy. A "private donors group" was also created to coordinate private sector funding of Project Democracy; this group was run by two long-time enemies of LaRouche, Leo Cherne and Roy Godson. This group included some of the CIA's "private" foundations such as the Smith Richardson, Olin, and Scaife Foundations—all three active against LaRouche. (Smith Richardson funded Dennis King's book-length diatribe against LaRouche published last spring.)

- Using press outlets such as NBC and the *New Republic*, the "Get LaRouche" task force created the climate for the opening of a federal grand jury investigation against LaRouche in October 1984, and the seizure of bank accounts of his campaign committees and other publishing companies.

- In February 1986, then-U.S. Attorney in Boston, William Weld, convened a "Get LaRouche" conference in Boston for federal and local officials. Weld's complaint was that, despite all his efforts, "the fundraising continues."

- In March 1986, the Soviets began accusing LaRouche of having masterminded the assassination of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme. The accusations were repeated in the U.S. news media. On March 19, the CIA denounced allegations of a "CIA-LaRouche" connection as "blatant disinformation," but did nothing to refute allegations that LaRouche killed Palme. (In August 1989, it was disclosed that the CIA was aware of Swedish wiretaps showing that the Soviets knew in advance of the Palme assassination.) After the October 1986 raid on offices of LaRouche's associates, the Justice Department leaked information to NBC trying to tie LaRouche to the Palme assassination.

- On May 6, 1986, General Richard Secord sends a secret telex message to Oliver North saying, "Our man here claims Lewis has collected info against LaRouche." This document was later obtained from North's safe during the Boston LaRouche trial. An FBI report soon surfaced which said that a trio of free-lance spooks—Fredrick Lewis, Ron Tucker, and Garry Howard—"claimed that they had been previously requested by the FBI and CIA to penetrate the LaRouche organization." A March 1988 *Washington Post* article states that during the time Lewis, Howard, and Tucker were attempting to illegally infiltrate and plant false information in government files of the FBI and CIA against LaRouche and his colleagues, they were reporting to Mr. C. Boyden Gray in his capacity as General Counsel to the Office of the Vice President.

- In April 1987, the U.S. government initiated an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding against three publishing companies operated by associates of LaRouche. The offices of these companies were seized, their newspapers and magazines shut down, and they were forbidden by court order from raising any revenues or paying any debts. Eighteen months later, LaRouche and six associates were indicted for conspiracy to commit mail fraud—for not repaying the loans of the companies which the government shut down!

These are but a few of the tracks left by the "Get LaRouche" task force. From these scattered items, it is clear that there was a concerted multi-million dollar effort within agencies of the United States government to discredit LaRouche, and destroy and bankrupt organizations and the political movement identified with him.

President Bush must order the full declassification of the "Get LaRouche" file. The truth about how the LaRouche frameup was planned and carried out must now be revealed. This will also show the dirty deal between the "secret government" in the U.S. and the Soviet leadership to silence LaRouche, and will begin to bring to a conclusion one of the most shameful chapters in our nation's history.