

Editorial

At the root of the present crises

The enormous danger of the present world conjuncture comes from proliferation of crisis hotspots—the Middle East, the Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe, the Indian subcontinent, and also the United States, where the escalating collapse of major banks threatens to destabilize the international monetary system as well.

Taken together, these are the ingredients of a devastating world crisis, a new period of war and global economic collapse. The motor-force in the situation comes from the United States. Many people have seen a point of comparison with the conjuncture of the British, French, and Israeli seizure of the Suez Canal in 1956, and the Soviet invasion of Hungary; but Lithuania's President Landsbergis in a recent interview made an even more striking comparison—to the Hitler-Stalin pact, which opened the door to the Soviet takeover of his country.

Just as the Second World War was preceded by a global economic collapse, the U.S. economy is certifiably bankrupt today. This has been papered over by a looting operation, in which the United States and the equally bankrupt Great Britain have wantonly seized resources from Ibero-America.

This looting is now being extending into Eastern Europe and into the Mideast. The policies which the IMF and the Anglo-Americans have forced on Poland and are prescribing for the Soviet Union, are creating intolerable political conditions. Whatever chances existed for a genuine easing of repression, the combination of the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf and the physical economic breakdown of the Soviet Union is propelling Moscow's dictatorial turn.

Over the past 25 years, the post-industrial policy of gutting basic economic infrastructure, agriculture, and manufacturing, especially the machine tool sector, has sent the United States sliding toward last place among industrialized nations in competitiveness and quality of products, and has collapsed the tax revenue base. Comparing the United States with, say, continental Europe and Japan in 1963 and then again today, we see the outcome of two opposite policies. Obviously, the

continental Europeans, under the de Gaulle-Adenauer leadership, and Japan were right in following their dirigistic economic policies, and the British and the Americans were wrong.

At present, Lyndon LaRouche is the American figure who has consistently fought to implement such programs for development, for all of the world's people, not just in the United States and Western Europe or Japan, but also for Africa and Asia.

Emergency measures such as LaRouche has repeatedly proposed, to bring the banking system of the United States under control of the Treasury Department, and to embark upon major infrastructure development projects at home and abroad, are the only alternative to catastrophe. Their acceptance within the United States will depend upon widespread recognition that the debacle of the Bush administration is a consequence of the failure of Democratic and Republican administrations alike, over the 25 years since Kennedy's assassination, to act to stop the drift toward increasing deregulation and emphasis on short-term monetary considerations rather than medium to long-term economic considerations.

Such a shift in U.S. policy domestically would take the United States out of the orbit of the British who are trying to recolonize the world, by diplomacy, usury, and failing that, war. It would mean that the U.S. administration would support, rather than keep opposing, German efforts to offer an economic aid package for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, centered on infrastructure development and high-technology investment. It would mean a reversal of the U.S. trade-war stance in the GATT talks.

It is therefore in every nation's interest that the United States move back quickly to traditional American methods of fostering medium-to-long-term investment in higher productivity and relative volumes of employment in high-technology basic economic infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, and distribution. It is in their interest that Lyndon LaRouche be freed from jail and allowed to take his rightful place as a major world leader.