

U.N. reports on the LaRouche rights case

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland has issued its summary record of the 46th meeting of the Commission on Human Rights, dated March 11. It includes the following section:

221. **Mr. Hamerman** (International Progress Organization) said that, in the United States, there was an increasing pattern of prosecution and harassment of individuals and associations because of their political and philosophical beliefs. That infringement of human dignity violated both the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While the United States Constitution and laws set forth model protection provisions, the United States and State Governments had in practice singled out individuals and associations whose philosophical and political beliefs placed them in opposition to government policies. Those policies had included operations against Martin Luther King and his followers and against minority elected officials who raised hopes of economic and social justice at a time when the Government was obsessed with austerity; action against anyone who challenged neo-colonialist adventures such as those in Viet Nam, Panama and the Gulf; prosecution of people opposed to wholesale euthanasia and abortion; and massive judicial abuse against the movement associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the philosopher, politician and economist, who had been a political prisoner for over two years.

222. Lyndon LaRouche was the founder and leader of a philosophical and political association whose beliefs centered on the right of all peoples to development and economic justice. In his efforts to introduce those beliefs into the political process, he had met with furious opposition from people in government who were promoting genocide, economic injustice, disproportionate misery and social disadvantage for the developing sector and the poor. Government action against Mr. LaRouche and his associates had included the closing down of publications, banning of a free political action committee, large-scale police raids, seizure of bank accounts and records and the imposition of virtual life sentences on a number of people. Specific violations included violations of the right of an individual to produce publications according to his beliefs; of the right to collect and receive

voluntary financial and other contributions from individuals and institutions; of the freedom of an individual to manifest his belief and to enjoy and propagate that belief in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life; of the right to establish and maintain appropriate charitable or humanitarian institutions; of the right to maintain communication with individuals and communities at the national and international level.

223. Nearly 1,000 prominent American jurists and human rights scholars have publicly condemned the abuses by the U.S. Government in the LaRouche case. In 1990, his organization had endorsed a complaint of human rights violations in the United States of America which was filed on 26 January 1990 by the International Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations and, at the CSCE conference on the Human Dimension, Ramsey Clark, the former United States Attorney General, had declared that the indictment of Lyndon LaRouche, following years of press vilification for his beliefs, had been an attempt on the part of the Government to use its power of prosecution to manipulate the political process, since his indictment had taken place three weeks before a presidential election, in which he would have had a right to run.

224. In a memorandum submitted by his organization in connection with the complaint made in the LaRouche case under the procedure provided for in Council Resolution 1503 (XLVIII) reference had been made to the rush to trial within 38 days after indictment, the appointment of jurors, selected from government employees of the FBI, the Department of Justice, CIA and the secret emergency government apparatus which Mr. LaRouche had criticized; and the exclusion of evidence at trial that could prove that there had been a frame-up and harassment on the part of the Government; and the passing of excessive sentences for crimes usually regarded as minor civil or administrative infractions. Such a pattern of basic human rights violations is characteristic of the retaliatory justice which governments reserve for those whom they deem politically or philosophically dangerous.

225. The non-conventional "dissident" idea could often solve problems more humanely and efficiently than done by state policy. For example, in 1975, Mr. LaRouche had visited Baghdad, and proposed a program for the greening of the desert through a large-scale regional project based upon cooperation between the Iraqi, Israeli and Palestinian people and others in the area. Following the initial favorable reaction among Arabs, Israelis, and Palestinians, the persons in the United States Government who had later indicted Mr. LaRouche had opposed the proposal.

226. The International Peace [Progress] Organization called upon the Commission and the Special Rapporteur to investigate these matters thoroughly and speedily and to make a full investigation into the increasing infringements of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and belief and of the principle of equality before the law.