

Ibero-American leaders demand OAS investigation of LaRouche case in U.S.

by Dennis Small

Letters continue to pour into the office of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador João Baena Soares, demanding that that international body conduct a full investigation of the U.S. government's scandalous violations of human rights in the case of jailed U.S. economist and statesman, Lyndon H. LaRouche. As of this writing, the office of Ambassador Baena Soares has not yet rectified last month's decision by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to reject consideration of the LaRouche filing on spurious technical grounds.

Among the more notable of the letters sent to the OAS, are the following:

From Brazil

Dear Ambassador:

The ideas of freedom and the affirmation of human rights constitute the basis upon which the National Spirit of the great republic of the United States of America was founded; this spirit was the motor force of its people and of the immigrants from around the world who made this nation their home, and which was capable of consummating the greatest economic, cultural and political development in the history of humanity.

Moved by these ideas, which also inspire the great admiration we Brazilians feel for the United States, I take this opportunity to appeal to Your Excellency to take steps to ensure that a competent investigation is initiated on the complaint regarding violation of human rights presented to your organization by the economist, journalist and politician, Lyndon H. LaRouche and five of his closest collaborators.

I do not personally know Mr. LaRouche, but for the past ten years, I have read and followed with interest his opinions and proposals published in the magazine he directs. Although I don't always agree with their content, I can comment on them as follows:

1) His judgments and formulations are both serious and profound, and have merited my attention, along with that of many U.S., Central and South American citizens concerned with the future of the continent; 2) they are opinions and

proposals which confront, head-on, the policies which have been applied by the government of the United States, and strongly oppose the international financial system's interests.

The hypothesis that Mr. LaRouche has been politically persecuted in his country and victimized by powerful interests because of his ideas, is one which profoundly disturbs all those admirers of American ideas; it also heightens our desire to see this shocking and barely plausible suspicion clarified, through a careful investigation by an organization with the credibility and respectability of the Organization of American States.

I am convinced that this is the aspiration of all Americans from the three parts of the continent, and it is on the basis of that conviction, that I take the initiative of presenting this appeal for Your Excellency's consideration, with the certainty of it being understood and deserving of your attention.

With my admiration and respect,

Roberto Saturnino Braga

Former Senator, Former Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

August 26, 1991

Dear Sir:

The case of Lyndon H. LaRouche, because of the peculiarities it presents, is causing concern among all persons and social layers that struggle for the defense and guarantee of human rights.

For us Brazilians, this case demands energetic and essential action in light of the known problems that affect our society, in particular, and Latin America in general.

We fear that, should there not be a just and humanitarian decision, this case will serve as a precedent for other, more grave ones.

For this reason, as a citizen and as a former President of the Brazilian Lawyers Association, I entrust to Your Excellency's efforts the presentation of this matter before U.S. authorities so that the case be reexamined.

I believe that the fact that a 69-year-old citizen has been

sentenced to 15 years in jail, for supposedly committing financial crimes, constitutes an affront to Human Rights, especially the rights of an older citizen in the twilight of his life, because it is established that the tendency of contemporary Criminal Law is to abolish sentences that permanently deprive one of freedom, except in highly exceptional circumstances, which, everything indicates, do not apply in the case of LaRouche, a U.S. citizen, as it presents political connotations.

It is necessary, in my view, to review the process which led to the sentence, and to adopt, ahead of time, measures which such a revision might require, eliminating the barrier [to a fair trial] posed by alleging that certain documents are secret.

It is necessary, on the other hand, that we fight for a universal new legal order so that truly democratic world legality be created, founded on the inalienable rights of man, which place him on the highest level.

With the certainty that Your Excellency will pay special attention to the LaRouche case, thus contributing to his freedom, I am respectfully yours,

Hermann Assis Baeta
Former President, Brazilian Lawyers Association
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
August 29, 1991

From Barbados

I write in support of the complaint filed with the [OAS Human Rights] Commission on July 30, 1991 by Mr. Lyndon LaRouche and a number of his associates. I have followed very closely the cases and their background and am deeply disturbed by the outcomes. On three counts:

Firstly, at the apparent jettisoning of elementary principles of natural justice.

Secondly, that it should have happened in the United States, held up both by its Constitution and its public pronouncements to be the exemplar of fundamental freedoms.

Thirdly, recent events in Tiananmen Square, Tbilisi, Panama, and Iraq indicate a regression into savagery on the part of governments of diverse persuasions which are quite frightening.

What hope is there for the peoples of the world if the conduct of their role model—the United States of America—lays itself open to charges of violations of human rights?

I urge the Commission to act swiftly in this case to restore the faith of mankind in the possibility of justice, freedom and respect for the individual as a spark of God.

I write a weekly column for *The Nation* newspaper in Barbados, on topics varying from local and international politics, education, and language.

Yours faithfully,
Gladstone Holder
Barbados, West Indies

Rao's visit improves Indo-German ties

by Ramtanu and Susan Maitra in Delhi and Mary Burdman in Bonn

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's three-day (Sept. 5-7) visit to Germany, which concluded with the opening of the six-month long Festival of India in Bonn, has, according to official reports, helped to generate "a climate conducive to the flow of more investment and high technology to India." Although the German government pledged economic aid of DM 400 million for the current year which, in total amount, is about the same as that of last year's, Chancellor Helmut Kohl categorically stated that his country would "remain fully committed to our development cooperation with India" despite Germany's heavy financial commitments elsewhere. India receives the largest portion of German development aid.

At his Bonn press conference Sept. 7, Prime Minister Rao emphasized that at this "very important moment," with "momentous changes" taking place in Europe, he could not confine his attention just to the Festival of India. India has just come out of a very "traumatic experience," the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. India also had to face, he said, a "very grave economic situation" in the first two to three weeks after his minority Congress Party government took office after being out of power for almost two years. India, for the first time in its independent history, was in danger of defaulting on its foreign debt.

German-Indian bridge

But now, India's leaders want "to assure our friends abroad" that India is now back on a "normal course of development and back to playing her rightful role in international affairs. . . . Definite and clear-headed decisions have seen us through these very anxious days." His visit to Germany, the prime minister said, was to ensure that India's friends abroad understand the breadth of the "sea change" made in opening up India's economy and dismantling its bureaucracy, and that these changes are "irreversible." To communicate this with authority, he said "is the duty of the prime minister of India." The developments mean, he said, that "in two to three years, India will be able to play a very important role."

Prime Minister Rao's trip was a logical followup to the