

## Editorial

### *Free LaRouche by March 23rd*

In a tragic irony, it was ruling circles within the Soviet Union, led by then-President Mikhail Gorbachov, which demanded Lyndon LaRouche's head as the price for their participation in the Reagan-Thatcher-Gorbachov condominium. The tragedy lies not in political prisoner LaRouche's misfortune, bad as that is, but in the steady pace now being travelled toward World War III, as a result of the repudiation of his policies.

From as early as 1989, the stage was being set in former Yugoslavia by the British and U.S. governments, which not only supported, but helped to direct, the aggression of the Serbian fascists around Slobodan Milosevic, to commit genocidal crimes, first against Croats and then against the Bosnians. Now, they are preparing to go against Kosova and Makedonija.

This is a renewal of the same "New Yalta" arrangement between the Anglo-Americans and the Soviets which set into motion the imprisonment of LaRouche, starting with the Reagan-Gorbachov summit in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1986. The situation is far more dangerous now than it was then, because of the combination of global economic crisis and war.

The roots of this tragedy go back to the period right after March 23, 1983, when President Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and offered a collaborative deal to the Soviets, to develop a global anti-missile defense shield based upon advanced technologies. Key to this was the rapid development of the X-ray laser and related directed-energy technologies.

This was LaRouche's policy. LaRouche recognized that the backwardness of the Soviets culturally, as well as economically, meant that they would be unable to easily assimilate these technologies into their civilian economy, in order to make the kind of leaps in productivity which the United States had made during the Apollo Moon landing project. He therefore urged upon the Soviet leadership and the Reagan administration a course of joint development of such technologies, so that the Soviets would not be destroyed by the economic burden of the SDI, and the threat of nuclear war could be averted.

The Soviet leadership rejected this offer, because they recognized that if they accepted, the same social forces which ultimately did unseat Mikhail Gorbachov, would be brought to the fore. Instead they attacked LaRouche, whom they recognized as the person who had shaped the SDI policy as it was first articulated by Ronald Reagan.

As it became increasingly clear to the Kremlin that LaRouche had been correct in his estimate—that refusal by the Soviets to accept the Reagan offer for collaborative development of the SDI would beggar their economy—they became more and more hysterical. This was clear in 1986, when scores of articles attacking LaRouche appeared in Soviet newspapers and magazines.

They were determined to kill the SDI in the West at any cost, even the cost of attacking the leading American who had offered them a safe road to peace and prosperity: the man who had proposed, and to this day continues to propose, a true peace policy, based upon global economic development.

As a prelude to the Reykjavik summit, an agreement was reached between the Gorbachov government and the Reagan-Bush administration, with full British assent, that LaRouche's growing influence would be checked.

This is not to deny that George Bush conducted a personal vendetta against LaRouche, so that LaRouche has been kept in prison, despite the shift in power relations which at least temporarily consigned the Russians to a position of junior partnership.

Had events taken a different course, the one proposed by LaRouche, then prosperity rather than depression would be the global reality, due to the enormous technological spinoffs which would have boosted productivity. The precipitous economic decline which is quickening the pace toward war would not exist.

March 23 will be upon us shortly. What better occasion for the new U.S. President to avert the tragedy of a third world war, by freeing Lyndon LaRouche, and allowing him to concentrate his full effort on repairing the blunders of the past decade.