

Zepp-LaRouche in Mexico opens new strategic flank

by EIR Editors

The visit to Mexico early in December by Schiller Institute president Helga Zepp-LaRouche opened what her husband, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., described as a new strategic flank against the Group of Seven “Club of Corpses,” “the giant with a head of clay.” By breaking the blackout in the Western Hemisphere concerning China’s recent initiatives to expand the Eurasian Land-Bridge program, Zepp-LaRouche has unleashed a storm of controversy in Mexico and beyond.

The Land-Bridge, an enormous project for infrastructure development, is indispensable for the recovery of the bankrupt world economy. In combination with the New Bretton Woods financial system which Lyndon LaRouche has proposed, it will destroy the power of the British-backed free-traders who are responsible for the financial breakdown crisis the world now faces.

From Nov. 28 to Dec. 7, Zepp-LaRouche visited Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey, addressing more than 1,000 Mexicans in five major public events, and meeting privately with representatives of the various institutions which form the backbone of the Mexican nation.

As *EIR* reported last week, she joined former Mexican President José López Portillo at a public forum in Mexico City on Dec. 1, at which the former President endorsed Lyndon LaRouche’s strategy for world recovery. “It is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche,” he said. “Let us hope, Doña Helga, that your husband can influence the government of the United States, so that the proposals which you so brilliantly have laid out to us, can, in some way, be realized, and with them, that peoples can express their uniqueness in the cultural realm, and in every possible aspect”

The next day, Mexico’s current President, Ernesto Zedillo, personally criticized López Portillo for suggesting that

Mexico has any alternative to IMF policies. Those who argue thus are just “those nostalgic for the past,” he said, in a speech in Querétaro. “In their day,” government spending “only served to subsidize an inefficient, corrupt, and shameful state sector. In exchange for this, when the population grew, the deficiencies in education, health, assistance to the countryside, increased . . . abundance never existed, and much less now. . . . Before, social justice was in speeches, not in deeds.”

Zedillo’s comments made banner headlines around the country. Several papers reported that the President was reacting to remarks made by López Portillo at “an address given by the economist Helga Zepp-LaRouche.”

Zepp-LaRouche responded, at a Guadalajara event, that it is very useful that a debate is now raging in Mexico, over what must be done. I did not come to Mexico to criticize the government of Mexico, she said, but to present a message of hope, to let Mexicans know that there is a new strategic configuration in the world, which opens the opportunity to defeat the globalization which is destroying nations. The crisis is so grave, I came to urge Mexicans to defend themselves, or their nation-state will disappear.

The Mexican-American connection

EIR Ibero-American Intelligence Director Dennis Small, asked in an “EIR Talks” radio interview on Dec. 10 for his evaluation of the significance of these developments, underlined the fact that López Portillo was President of Mexico from 1976 to 1982, “the last period in which Mexico actually experienced significant economic growth,” and that his policies were for oil-for-technology exchanges with the United States and other countries, to build a partnership for economic development. Not surprisingly, he got into a huge fight with

the International Monetary Fund, and in 1982, was one of the very few heads of state who had the courage to meet with Lyndon LaRouche while in office.

“He met with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche in 1982 in Mexico,” said Small, “and that reflected the quality of statesmanship which he demonstrated then, and which he demonstrated again in his joint appearance with Helga at a meeting on the Eurasian Land-Bridge at which Helga spoke—the keynote speaker at the Mexican Society for Geographics and Statistics—and after hearing her presentation, López Portillo not only shocked his audience, but set off a political earthquake in Mexico and around the world by announcing there that the world must listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche, vis-à-vis the economic crisis.”

The attention given in Mexico to Zepp-LaRouche’s intervention, said Small, “is important far beyond Mexico. This is not simply that a country was listening to, and very seriously considering, the LaRouche option. I think this is of great importance for President Clinton, because Mexico has a famous expression: Mexicans always refer to the great difficulties of their acting in a fully sovereign fashion, because of what they call ‘problems of geography and history.’ Now, what that means is that they are next-door neighbors to the United States.

“And, although Mexico can, and must, adopt what measures it has to to defend its existence as a nation-state—and this is what Helga again told her interlocutors—by so defending itself, but by addressing this issue also to President Clinton, Mexico is in a privileged position of sorts, to help pull the President of the United States in the necessary direction, to save the world, and to save the United States. Clinton must come on board, must back up the China-Russia-India emerging alliance, because it is in the strategic interest of the United States. . . .

“So, for Clinton to see that a nation such as Mexico is actively considering the LaRouche option with that name, sends a very clear message to Washington, that there is another direction that the entire world can go in, and that it’s not hostile to the United States, but the U.S. must take the necessary steps itself in the direction indicated by Lyndon LaRouche, and by nobody else.

“So, the idea that Lyndon LaRouche must be named economic adviser to Clinton, also was taken with the utmost seriousness by the Mexican audiences. It comes as something perfectly natural; this is exactly what he should do.”

Documentation

Here is a selection of press coverage in Mexico and abroad, of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s visit and the intervention of former President José López Portillo.

Hussein Al-Nadeem, “The New Silk Road: Economic Bridge Links Asia and Europe and Provokes American Concerns,” *Al-Arab International*, London, Dec. 9, 1998:

This Arabic daily published a press release from EIR News Service, titled “Silk Road Diplomacy Black-Out,” referring to President Jiang Zemin’s recent visit to Russia and Japan. The editors add the following characterization of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche, with a report on her visit to Mexico:

“Helga Zepp-LaRouche is known among certain Asians as the ‘Silk Road Lady’ . . .

“*EIR’s Special Report* on the Silk Road includes a detailed section on the location of the Middle East on the Silk Road and the proposed projects for linking the Arab World and Africa to Asia and Europe. . . .

“Mrs. LaRouche had recently announced, at the annual conference of the Schiller Institute, that the Institute is working on an international campaign to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq, and to rehabilitate Iraq’s industrial and human potentials to play its proper role in the development of the region on the basis of the Silk Road Plan. . . .

“Meanwhile, Mrs. LaRouche, in a press conference she held on Dec. 1 with the former President of Mexico José López Portillo, warned Europe and the United States that the next phase of the financial crisis will strike very soon. It will strike, not in Asia, Ibero-America, or Africa, but in Europe and the United States, in an historically unprecedented form. She demanded that China’s efforts be made use of in building a new world economic order based on cooperation between sovereign nation-states in building modern, productive economies, and to immediately abandon the current bankrupt system of manipulative speculation and gambling. President López Portillo, who was speaking in the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics, lauded Mrs. and Mr. LaRouche’s role in fostering the sense of the importance of the independence of nations in economic policy-making without resorting to the advice and conditionalities of the IMF and the international financial institutions that make the crisis in the developing nations only deeper and the poor nations poorer. López Portillo said: ‘It is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words. . . . Let us hope, Doña Helga, that your husband can influence the government of the United States, so that the proposals that you have laid out can be realized.’ ”

The *Al-Arab* report concluded: “President López Portillo, during his Presidency in the early 1980s supported ‘Operation Juárez,’ which was proposed by Lyndon LaRouche then, and is a similar plan to the New Silk Road in Ibero-America. Mr. López Portillo is also a supporter of the call for President Clinton to appoint Lyndon LaRouche as an economic adviser to the U.S. administration.”

Antonio Cerda Ardura, “Beast in Death Agony,” *Siempre, Mexico*, No. 2372, early December:

This widely read magazine published a two-page inter-

view with Helga Zepp-LaRouche, with its headline emphasizing the demise of the world economy. Opening with a lovely photograph of Zepp-LaRouche, the editors featured two blown-up, bold quotes: “This world financial crisis has no precedents in history, and is not a repeat of the crisis of 1929; but something far more severe,” read one, and the other: “William Clinton should call an emergency meeting of the major governments and declare that the current international financial system is unsalvageable and that it is necessary to create another. A new Bretton Woods is needed to put an end to this casino economy.”

Zepp-LaRouche is an “internationalist,” and “wife of U.S. politician Lyndon LaRouche (an ex-political prisoner in his country who argues that the British oligarchy is the principal cause of the current world economic chaos),” *Siempre* explains. She demands that President Clinton name her husband as his economic adviser, to assist in the reconstruction of the moribund world financial system, and she agrees with former Mexican President José López Portillo that a new Bretton Woods, a new, just economic order, is urgently needed.

The interview emphasizes the failure of the current monetary system, contrasting this to the hope offered by the Eurasian Land-Bridge and the new constellation of non-aligned sovereign nations.

In the concluding section, Zepp-LaRouche is asked what recommendations she can offer Mexico. Her answer is that, in the context of the reconstruction of the world economy, Mexico could have “an incredibly brilliant future,” and that it is “very sad what has occurred to Mexico with things like unemployment, which is very visible and manifest. One sees people in the streets cleaning windshields, and one realizes that poverty has taken a tremendous toll. Our economic experts have studied the effects of these neo-liberal policies on Mexico, and tell me that there is a de facto unemployment rate of 50% in real terms. What does one tell a child who is raised in this society? What future can he or she have? Therefore, I would wish for a new economic orientation and vision very soon, to transform Mexico into a prosperous nation.”

Jesús Castilleja, “Reject Scheme to Rescue the Banks,” *El Norte*, Mexico, Dec. 8, 1998:

Castilleja writes that “the German political figure” offered the case of Japan as the best example of why Mexico should not attempt to bail out its banks. Instead of sinking the economy into a depression as the Japanese government has done, by refusing to write off its unpayable debt, Zepp-LaRouche recommends that “the most reasonable thing to do would be what was attempted under the López Portillo government: join up with the Eurasian Land-Bridge, make oil-for-technology deals, and reactivate the real economy.”

El Norte continues: “The political leader said the only

way a government could have an improved budget would be by means of increasing the tax revenues of the government by investment in infrastructure, industry, and agriculture. ‘That is the only way,’ she stated.

“Zepp-LaRouche said that the reason for the fall in oil prices has to do with economic depression. World production is plummeting. . . . The world financial crisis is depressing the world’s physical economy, and there is no budget, including that of the Mexican government, which can succeed under such circumstances. She forecast that this situation would lead the country to the brink of ungovernability and eventually to what is happening in Russia, where the government had no money from taxes, and governments without money become irrelevant.

“Zepp-LaRouche said that the world financial system is on the verge of collapse, because the volume of purchases on the stock markets, above all in the United States, do not correspond to volumes in the real economy and are creating a bubble which is on the point of blowing.”

Julio Hernández López, *La Jornada*, Mexico City, Dec. 7, 1998. *Various Mexican newspapers, spanning the ideological gamut from right to left, published attacks on López Portillo after his presentation with Zepp-LaRouche. Exemplary of the hysteria, is the following note published by the political gossip columnist of this Zapatista-linked daily, under the subhead, “Another ‘LaRouchazo’ by JLP.”*

“José López Portillo has once again won a presence in the newspapers. . . . The former President . . . has received an unequivocal answer from the current President of Mexico, who reminded people of Don José’s failed dreams of abundance, in response to his previous criticisms of Zedillo’s economic management.

“Among the—many—peculiar circumstances that surround the former President, is his conversion to the doctrine of Lyndon LaRouche . . . a right-winger with a dark past, who has served on more than one occasion as an instrument of political destabilization and provocations. His representatives in Mexico lack political seriousness, and have frequently been described as agents of companies or of intelligence services.

“But Don José, at his advanced age, has become an assiduous promoter of LaRouchism. According to a press release from that movement’s offices, López Portillo was present at a conference in Mexico (City) addressed by Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, wife of the imprisoned [sic] leader. . . . In that meeting, López Portillo heard Doña Helga speak on the proposal of her husband Lyndon regarding the creation of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which supposedly will be the only way to save us from imminent economic chaos. An emotional Don José, who had been invited to comment on her presentation, said, ‘It is now necessary for the world to hear the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche. . . .’ ”