

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt spoke to a Madrid conference marking eight years of the Mideast "peace process," and called for deeper understanding of the ecumenical roots of the great monotheistic religions.

religion clash. Therefore, the current European civilization, from an historical perspective, was not solely an outcrop of European innovation alone, but also a complementary addition to oriental cultural and civilization heritage running down for thousands of years.

In the same logic, ongoing pursuit by Arabs and Muslims to bridge the huge gap that keeps them apart from scientific and technological achievements of current European civilization, should deeply grasp elements of progress entailed in European civilization, as well as the spirit of creativity and innovation, the ability to harness nature in the interest of man, and the substantial contributions in many spheres to humanity at large.

Thus, the cycles of civilizations' continuum are completed and the right significance of relationships between civilizations over ages is entrenched. This would undoubtedly create an air of optimism among us all as regards both Arab-European relations, in general, and future prospects of Euro-Mediterranean partnership, in particular. The Mediterranean countries have always been at the heart of creative cultural interactions witnessed in East-West relations.

Hence, it is no exaggeration to say that inter-civilization dialogue has been a common practice by Mediterranean countries throughout their different historic epochs....

'LaRouche Is *The* Star In The Arab Countries'

by Hussein Al-Nadeem

This pungent phrase from an Arab diplomat in Europe summed up the extraordinary discussion and debate among intellectual and political circles in the Middle East, increasingly reflected in the region's press, over the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche about the present crisis. Since Sept. 11 in particular, U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche has emerged in the eyes of leading Arab and Muslim commentators, analysts, and the mass media as "America's voice of reason." However, as the crisis has gotten deeper and the horrifying military retaliation was being prepared, other features have been recognized in LaRouche: courage and truthfulness, two features which Arabs see as missing even in leading Arab and Muslim politicians, not to speak of Americans and Europeans.

This has even prompted some Arab journalists, among the many following LaRouche's activity, to express concern for his personal security, due to what Qatar-based Al-Jazeera Satellite news channel called "his daring statements, which undoubtedly are annoying people in powerful positions in the United States."

Widespread And Growing Coverage

The views of LaRouche, regarding the significance of the Sept. 11 events, as well as broader strategic and economic perspectives, have been increasingly covered in leading media in the Arab world. Internet searches now show dozens of articles, reports, and discussion groups' debates on LaRouche's ideas, in many Arab countries, since the Iranian Persian daily *Keyhan* and Syrian television on Sept. 16 reported that "the famous American economist and former Presidential candidate had pointed to the domestic security and intelligence agencies of the [American] state" as responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

On Nov. 4, the Egyptian national TV Channel 2 and the international Egyptian Satellite Channel, both state owned, broadcast an interview with LaRouche on the "Red Shadow" program, hosted by the chairwoman of the Egyptian television Sanaa Mansour, a *grande dame* of Egyptian journalism. She presented LaRouche as "the American politician who foresaw the terror attacks in the United States," and a Democratic Presidential pre-candidate in the next elections. He was asked about his forecasts of the terrorist attacks, and his explanation of them. Regarding prospects for the war in Afghanistan, and capturing Osama bin Laden, LaRouche said, this



Al-Jazeera Satellite television news has more than once reported the widespread discussion in the Arab world since Sept. 11, of the ideas and analyses of Lyndon LaRouche on the crisis; as in the United Arab Emirates paper Al-Bayan, which published an interview with LaRouche on Nov. 23 (above).

was "a piece of folly from the beginning. It was actually a response, by the United States government, to a provocation from inside the United States, by people, obviously, who intended that the United States should join with Israel, in launching war against Israel's Arab neighbors. And by those who, like Zbigniew Brzezinski, are committed to what is called a clash of civilizations, as a geopolitical operation in Asia."

On Nov.7, the well-known Egyptian historian, Dr. Abduladhim Ramadan, echoed LaRouche's views in an article published in *Al Gumhoriya*. The greatest tragedy for the American administration today, he wrote, "is that nobody in the world believes its allegations that bin Laden is the culprit behind the Sept. 11 attacks, for the simple reason that the crime, from the standpoint of planning and preparation, was on a level which is beyond the capabilities of a terrorist like bin Laden." He continued: "The crime, as it was conducted, looks more like a well-prepared war plan, planned by military professionals with a high degree of knowledge, competence and experience." Furthermore, he stressed that "by pointing to bin Laden from the onset, the United States administration has covered up the real perpetrators of the crime forever."

On Nov. 8, the Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel website, which claims 41 million visits per day, ran a review of

LaRouche's ideas, based on a report in the Kuwaiti weekly magazine *Al-Mujtamaa*. It cited "major American politician Lyndon LaRouche," who said at the end of July, that due to the worldwide economic crisis, "there are forces inside the United States and Britain (including Brzezinski) that want to trigger a world war to prevent the new, current shifts in Asia." In the face of what would be a "war between Islam and the West," LaRouche was cited as saying, "We have to stop such a war before it breaks out. Therefore, we have to stop Sharon in Israel first. And we have to secure peace in the Middle East."

The magazine continued with LaRouche's post-Sept. 11 comments, saying the attacks had been "set up, created in a period of overwhelming financial and monetary crisis in many countries. This operation was not conducted by any force from outside the United States....It is possible that individuals from other countries were used in this. But those who conducted this operation are forces from inside the United States. Their aim is to create a coup in the administration, and to drive the United States into war. These forces are prepared to run new operations to reach their objectives."

Courage Of An American Opposition Leader

According to Al-Jazeera, Al-Mujtamaa warned: "All that one fears is that this political personality could be targetted with assassination, because he possesses such a level of daring which, without any doubt, is annoying many forces in the United States of America." This aspect of "courage" was emphasized in the Saudi daily Al-Rivadh by columnist Nora Al-Saad, who dedicated two articles to LaRouche's views on the crisis, on Sept. 25 and Oct. 4. She contrasted LaRouche's courage, although an American, to the "cowardice" of Arab writers and politicians who took an apologetic, defensive stance after the attacks. "These are the statements of the defeatists among our writers, while, on the other hand, we find American economist Lyndon LaRouche who stresses in his article, 'Shoot The Neighbor's Cat,' that history has shown that wars fought for 'vengeance' and 'retaliation' are the most stupid types of wars."

Al-Saad used LaRouche's stance to challenge Arabs to rise to the level of the crisis and realize that "we are heading into a catastrophe and should act accordingly."

Similar expressions of respect and admiration appeared in articles and commentaries by prominent political and military analysts in national dailies and television broadcasts in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other places. LaRouche's campaign statements, translated into Arabic, have been circulating widely on the Internet, especially among political "discussion groups" on the web.

The hope in the Arab and Muslim countries is that the American people and leadership "would listen" to this courageous American voice of reason to avoid the "clash of civilizations" with reasonable and humane alternatives.