

‘Listen to the Wise Words Of Lyndon LaRouche’

The following excerpts are taken from the remarks made by José López Portillo after the keynote address given by Helga Zepp-LaRouche at the Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics, in Mexico City on Dec. 1, 1998.

. . . I congratulate Doña Helga for these words, which impressed me, especially because first they trapped me in the Apocalypse, but then she showed me the staircase by which we can get to a promised land. Many thanks, Doña Helga.

Doña Helga—and here I wish to congratulate her husband, Lyndon LaRouche. . . . And it is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche. Now it is through the voice of his wife, as we have had the privilege of hearing.

How important, that they enlighten us as to what is happening in the world, as to what will happen, and as to what can be corrected. How important, that someone dedicates their time, their generosity, and their enthusiasm to that endeavor.

For my part, I fulfilled a period of responsibility, and I

can report, in a somewhat dramatic way, what happens to national economies in an international financial order such as that which has ordered our affairs since Bretton Woods. . . . But at the same time, for geopolitical reasons, we had to insert ourselves into the international world, into the environment which surrounded us, and enter, somehow, into the international bodies which ruled the world.

But, what happened when the Mexican Revolution clashes with those powerful bodies, expressions of powerful countries, which have no reason to take into account the revolution of a developing country, which had lived through such a turbulent 19th Century and which has so many social conflicts? Because we should recall that Mexico is a country of profound inequalities, as was observed since the 19th Century by Baron von Humboldt himself. This is a country of inequalities, and as such, could be left neither to free competition, nor free trade, nor the values of liberalism, today called neoliberalism.

As a result, when we would go to the international bodies, they disdainfully did not take into account either our political problems or our social problems, and, by dint of their rejection of the values of our Revolution, we became accustomed to disdain it, and even to forget it. . . .

And thus Mexico has forgotten its Revolution and, as a result, the national economy which we had somehow wanted to establish.

And so, I have heard, with special interest and even enthusiasm, that those who can do it, in this world, are thinking of reforming the Bretton Woods agreements, in the right way, such that the world economy might function to resolve human problems, with humanism, and not to benefit capital, while forgetting or sacrificing the value of labor.

I remember that in the time of my responsibility, all of the prescriptions which the international bodies gave us, tended to depress demand—not to foster production, but to depress demand: “Pay less to your workers, your peasants; sacrifice employment.” When, in our country, to govern is to create jobs.

When we tried, for example, to establish regional justice—this is also a form of inequality in Mexico, the different regions which also need to be developed, but for this, you need, for example, subsidies, privileges—and they threatened us: “Watch out! That’s encouraging dumping.” And we held back. Little by little, in this way, we lost the spirit of the Mexican Revolution.



López Portillo with Helga Zepp-LaRouche at a meeting of the Mexican Society for Geography and Statistics, Dec. 1, 1998. “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. . . .”

This, briefly, is the experience of our national economy, and thus the importance that someone in the world is thinking on behalf of everyone, and is opening doors. 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 each people can express its uniqueness in the cultural realm, and in every possible aspect. Thank you.

From the question period

After his speech, the first question asked of López Portillo was what had happened after 1982, after he had implemented LaRouche's proposed Operation Juárez.

López Portillo: It was nothing specific, but simply circumstantial. The hard-headedness of the international bodies left us without any option, and as a consequence, we were trapped. We misbehaved with the international bodies, and we were punished. They accused us of being populists, etc. Other governments behaved themselves, and the result has been the same. This is what is dramatic: We push the rock to the top of the hill, and when we reach the top, it falls down on us. It is always the system, the environment which stubbornly refuses to understand revolutionary values, as I mentioned a moment ago. And perhaps the rejection has made us used to this, and we end up forgetting them; because we became used to this, to being disdained, to being put off, and we began to behave ourselves—and then “whammo,” we get hit again. This is simply the result of the fact that the international system isn't set up for countries like ours. This is a concrete example of a specific national economy not fitting into that financial order, and hence the necessity for [that order] to be reformed. That is why I am so happy to hear that many people have begun to talk about reform, from which I was shut out. Thank you.

‘Support LaRouche For President’

José López Portillo issued this letter on Nov. 18, 1999, calling for U.S. citizens to give Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. their “timely recognition and support.”

Over the years, I have unfortunately seen confirmation that, absent the introduction of a superior principle of Justice—for which I fought during my term as President of the Republic of Mexico—which reorders the current international, monetary, and financial system, civilization, and with it tens of nations

and millions of human beings are being flung into a vortex of calamities and chaos, which are in themselves unjustified and unnecessary, which not only insistently offend and trample on human dignity, but also continuously place international peace in danger.

Only the transformation of the current world order into one which places the inalienable rights of people as individuals, and of nations, at the center of fundamental decisions, can initiate a new era of prosperity, peace, and happiness—rights, such as to enjoy not only the freedom to create the material conditions of their existence, but, based on that, to fully develop their cultural, scientific, and human potential in general. Such a change can only be based on full confidence in that which is best in man, in reason, and the virtues which only the human species is capable of developing.

In the battle for such an order, I would like to recognize the tireless and generous efforts carried out by Lyndon H. LaRouche, for whom I hope for the best as a pre-candidate for the Presidency of the United States of America. I wish that his voice be listened to and followed by those in the world who have the grave responsibility of stopping this situation from continuing on its calamitous course, and I hope that his fellow U.S. citizens, who will elect their President in the coming elections, will give him their timely recognition and support.

—José López Portillo

Brazil's Choice in 2004 Is Mexico's of 1982

by Dennis Small

Will Brazil in 2004 have a crisis like Mexico's in 1982? Over the course of 2002 and 2003, *EIR* repeatedly warned that any one of a half dozen different triggers could lead, at any moment, to a debt explosion in Brazil—the Third World's largest debtor, with over \$500 billion in real foreign debt. But 2003 came and went without a major financial incident on the Brazil front: You could almost say that it was a charmed year for the country's creditors.

In 2003, the first year in office of the new government of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, everything seemed to work perfectly for the banks and the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1) *Interest rates on Brazil's public debt plummeted*, as the dissociated head of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, dropped U.S. rates in order to keep the \$400 trillion global speculative bubble afloat. That translated into unusually low interest rates that Brazil had to pay on its floating-rate public