

Filipinos Rally To ‘Save the Nation’

by Michael Billington

May 1—On April 20, the international LaRouche movement emerged as a significant political force in the Philippines, with the first national conference of the Save the Nation movement, organized by Philippines LaRouche Society chairman Butch Valdes, in conjunction with a number of institutions representing scientists, engineers, journalists, and others. Nearly 200 people, including representatives of organizations who spoke for thousands more, gathered in Manila; 20 of them made brief presentations.

The Save the Nation institution was built largely through a weekly two-hour radio show hosted by Valdes on the nationwide Radio Mindanao, DZXL 558, on Sunday evenings (also heard over the Internet by the Philippine worldwide diaspora). Valdes focused on his Three Urgent Steps:

- Nuclear power, including opening the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, closed on the eve of its opening in 1986 by the coup carried out against nationalist President Ferdinand Marcos led by George Shultz and the then-emerging neoconservative forces in the U.S.;
- A science-driven agricultural revival to attain food self-sufficiency;
- A moratorium on payment of the foreign debt, based on the clear evidence that the debt is illegitimate.

This program represents an all-out rejection of the current government’s insistence on prioritizing debt repayment above the welfare of a population which is becoming increasingly stricken by poverty and hunger.

But Valdes also insisted, repeatedly, that there was no solution to the problem within the Philippines itself, since the entire world was careening into economic

chaos and a threat of global thermonuclear war. He educated his rapidly expanding audience that only a global solution, beginning in the U.S., based on the three-point program proposed by Lyndon LaRouche would work: Glass-Steagall separation of commercial and investment banking; restoration of a credit system through the establishment of a Third National Bank; and large-scale infrastructure projects.

Valdes has regularly hosted LaRouche spokesmen on his program, often including Michael Billington, *EIR* Asia correspondent, for briefings on the interna-



EIRNS

Butch Valdes, chairman of the Philippines LaRouche Society, addresses the April 20 conference, which was organized to “Save the Nation.”

tional crisis and the LaRouche movement’s campaigns.

A Call to Action

Valdes opened the conference by introducing Billington, who spoke on behalf of the international LaRouche movement.

In his keynote address, Billington presented an overview of the onrushing collapse of the trans-Atlantic nations and their bankrupt financial system, and a discussion of the history of empire, and the leaders who arose throughout history to combat the collapses brought on by those empires. He reviewed the three points of the LaRouche Plan, using historical examples to show that human advances only come from defeating the system of empire itself, and noting that that any world war today would be thermonuclear, and thus, the imperial principle must be abolished for good.

Valdes then invited the spokespersons for the other participating organizations in the Save the Nation movement to speak for a few minutes each. What ensued was an outpouring of praise for the work of Valdes and the international LaRouche movement, and a call to action, not only from the participating organizations, but from others who were attending the conference. Many of these people had been unknown to Valdes, but they had been listening to his weekly radio show for months, or even years, and at this point, felt compelled to attend, join, and speak out as participants in this battle.

These included: the head of the national engineers' association; the head of a national farmers' association; the head of a nurses' organization which is fielding candidates for the Congressional elections this month; two community organizers from provinces outside Manila; two retired military officers—one a general who is a Muslim, who spoke about the Jews, Christians, and Muslims fighting together against the Roman Empire; the other a colonel who, in his own words, presented an idea often promoted by LaRouche, that development must come first, as the basis upon which to end wars and establish true peace based on the benefit of both sides; the head of a government workers organization from another province; former Sen. Kit Tatad, who praised LaRouche as the only person who had known all along what was happening, and what was going to happen, and told the truth; and numerous other professionals and representatives of labor organizations.

Elaborating the Program

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the former head of the Bishops Conference, and the most outspoken of the leading clerics in the Philippines, spoke next about how Valdes had opened his eyes to the scope of the global crisis and the necessary solutions. He described the “three monkey” problem (see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil), and that he could see that those who attended had decided not to be monkeys. He reviewed the “three urgent steps” of the Save the Nation movement, giving his full support for the program. Such an endorsement in the heavily Catholic Philippines carries significant weight.

The afternoon session focused on the scientific issues, beginning with a doctor of nuclear medicine,



Valdes, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, and author Michael Billington, at the Manila conference.

EIRNS

followed by Mohd Peter Davis, the representative of the LaRouche movement in Malaysia. Davis reviewed the role of empires throughout history in destroying food capacity, as a weapon in restricting population growth, and the British Empire's current effort to reduce the world's population to a billion inhabitants. He countered with the role of science, focused on his “Deep Tropical” discoveries for animal production in the tropics, as covered in [EIR](#) over the years.

The nuclear engineer who had overseen the building of the Bataan nuclear power plant then gave a stirring presentation on its history, its safety, and the urgency of finally opening the plant today, 17 years after it was sabotaged by the Washington coup which removed Marcos, and placed Cory Aquino in power. Aquino's son Noynoy is the current President, and a vacuous figure with no credentials other than his mother's name and a subservience to the insane President in Washington, Barack Obama.

In the final presentation, Valdes reviewed the “three vital steps,” describing how “politics, ignorance, and ill-will” had destroyed the promise of the Philippines that had existed under Marcos, and insisting that no one could consider this conference to be a “normal seminar,” but rather a meeting of those self-selected to prevent the nation from dying, as part of the fight to save civilization worldwide. He reviewed LaRouche's [Triple Curve](#) and the “[bankers' arithmetic](#)” which had seen the nation pay its debts twice over, but end up with more debt than it began with.

The discussion period concluded with the question: “Where do we go from here?” Valdes answered: “Where do *you* go from here?” He called on each member of the audience to take the message of the conference back to their friends, their political representatives, and others. Time is short, but the opportunity great, he said. The emotion and enthusiasm with which the Philippine National Anthem was sung by the audience at the end, captured the sense of mission and intention of the event.

The American System Tradition

The Save the Nation movement has intersected two interrelated phenomena in the Philippines—the MacArthur/Roosevelt tradition, and the legacy of President Marcos.

The U.S. victory in the 1898 Spanish-American war ended the imperial power which had controlled the country for over 300 years. American control was problematic, as Anglophiles in the U.S. flirted with colonialism, but in 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that the Philippines would be granted full independence in ten years time, and appointed

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whose father had been Governor-General of the Philippines, to be Field Marshall in Manila, to build a Philippine Army and prepare the nation for independence.

The MacArthurs’ commitment to the core American anti-imperial values of progress, education, and national sovereignty, built tremendous support for them and for the United States, among Filipinos.

World War II intervened, during which MacArthur led the military liberation of the Philippines from Japanese imperial control. The pledge of independence was upheld in 1946, although Roosevelt’s death in 1945 allowed a partial subversion of that independence.

The second phenomenon which helped to shape the Save the Nation movement is the legacy of Ferdinand Marcos, who was President of the Philippines from 1965 to 1986. In that time, Marcos built Southeast Asia’s first nuclear power plant, made the Philippines self-sufficient in rice production for the first time in modern history, established a broad-based heavy industrial development plan, implemented water-control policies to end the deadly annual flooding, and established scientific and cultural centers, not only for the Philippines, but for all of Southeast Asia. For these “crimes,” and not for the alleged crimes of corruption, Marcos was deposed in one of the first regime-change exercises orchestrated by the emerging British-dominated neoconservative interests in the U.S.

Billington, in his keynote address, reported that he had just visited South Korea, and that flying in from the beautiful, modern city of Seoul to the decaying, poverty-stricken city of Manila was “heartbreaking.” South Korea and the Philippines were in a very similar condition in the 1950s—impoverished, devastated by war, and totally dependent on outside support. Korean President Park Chung-hee and Philippine President Marcos, who admired each other, had similar plans—nuclear power, heavy industrial development, rural development, infrastructural transformation—but Park was able to carry out his plans, while Marcos was ousted by Washington, which wanted to “make a horrible example” of the Philippines: that in the future, Third World nations would not be allowed to break free of their chains, and especially that they would be forbidden to have access to nuclear power.

It is time to reverse that legacy.

mobair@aol.com

THE EURASIAN LAND-BRIDGE
 ‘The New Silk Road’—Locomotive For Worldwide Economic Development
 An EIR Special Report

(1997) 260 pages \$100 (EIR 96-007)

Available from
EIR News Service
 P.O. Box 17390 Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
 Phone: 1-800-278-3135 or www.larouchepub.com