

D.C. conference shapes worldwide fight for rights

by Marianna Wertz

The Third International Martin Luther King Tribunal, held in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of Jan. 13-15, brought together, in representative numbers, almost all the forces in the world today who are fighting to realize the dream of the slain civil rights leader—to unify all people of the world in freedom's cause. Speakers, 40 in all, ranged from Amelia Robinson, one of the foremost leaders of the American civil rights movement, to eyewitnesses of Beijing's Tiananmen Square massacre; from Mimi Bull, aide to Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Cal.), to John Aquilino, former Director of Public Education for the National Rifle Association; and from Prof. Dr. Kurt Ebert, an Austrian professor of law, to Dr. Fred Wills, former national minister of justice of Guyana.

The 500-plus participants spent three days engaged in carefully defining the issues confronting mankind in the manifold freedom fights internationally, and conducted two candlelight vigils in front of the White House. It became clear that while U.S. ruling institutions have criminally abdicated the principles of justice and freedom both at home and abroad, the United States must still play a crucial role in reversing tyranny around the world. Veterans of the U.S. civil rights struggle stepped forward to take on the responsibility for such leadership, born of the struggle once led by Dr. Martin Luther King.

Lyndon LaRouche, leader of the political movement which organized the Tribunal, addressed the gathering via tape recording from his prison cell in Rochester, Minnesota (see below).

Speaker after speaker referred to LaRouche as a "philosopher," who is not only the heir to Martin Luther King, Jr., but the focus for hope of people around the world, fighting for their freedom, and for their economic and political rights. It was, in fact, the appeal of LaRouche's ideas to reason across a broad political spectrum, which shaped the unique

alliance represented at this Tribunal.

The breadth of this alliance showed that reason can unify people who were in the past divided into competing, even antagonistic groups. For example, the movement in defense of the unborn and the National Rifle Association, the so-called "gun lobby," are often lumped into the "right wing," while people fighting for the homeless and starving in the inner cities would usually be called "liberal"; defenders of Panama are "left" and defenders of Eastern European ethnic citizens are categorized as "right." As the speakers struggled to bring their case to an audience that cut straight across the boundaries of their usual constituencies, the mental powers of both themselves and listeners expanded, almost palpably.

The implicit question was, can this power be harnessed to a mass movement that will actually force *change* out of the policies that have brought the world to the brink of disaster? Participants at the conference pledged themselves to a positive answer to that, by unanimously voting for a resolution proposed by John McGee, leader of the People's Association to the Memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. He called for a mass march on Fellowship Day, Aug. 28, 1990, commemorating the March on Washington 27 years ago, where Dr. King delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

McGee, who headed the successful campaign to get Dr. King's birthday declared a federal holiday, proposed to the gathering that the Martin Luther King Tribunal and all the forces represented there organize to bring 250,000 people to the same spot where Dr. King delivered his address on Aug. 28, 1963, and that the principal speaker in 1990 be Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the man who has inherited the mantle of Dr. King's leadership, but who is today unjustly incarcerated by the forces of tyranny and corruption.

Human rights in Panama, Lebanon

The conference was highlighted by presentations of those who experienced tyranny first-hand. Speakers came from Panama, Lebanon, and Communist China, where overpowering force has been applied to crush nationalism and the aspiration to liberty particularly over the past year.

A strongly-worded message was sent to the Tribunal by Nils Castro, Foreign Affairs Secretary of the formerly-ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party of Panama. "The U. S. military occupation of Panama has unleashed an ever-worsening climate of harassment and human rights violations against Panamanian nationalists. Thousands of Panamanians remain in concentration camps, victims of health problems and bad treatment" (see p. 38).

The Social Democratic Party of Lebanon sent the Tribunal a message of support, stating, "You represent for us the honor of the American people, which is presently being betrayed by the Bush administration itself." Speaking at the Tribunal were Msgr. Elias El-Hayek, Chor-Bishop of the Maronite Diocese of Canada; and André Medawar of the Action Committee for Lebanon in France. Both men noted that the Syrians, given a free hand by the Bush administration, have killed 150,000 and maimed 350,000 Lebanese over the past 12 months.

Resolutions were voted up, denouncing the genocidal actions in both Panama and Lebanon.

Anti-communist fighters

Refugees from the People's Republic of China brought the audience to its feet in outrage, with their vivid accounts of the brutal tyranny of the Chinese Communists. Ying Tsui of the National Committee of the Chinese Democratic Party pleaded with the audience: "We cry so loud. No one hears. They turn us away. It is terrible to live under Communists. I can not describe it. If you tried to live there for a half of a year you would go crazy." He concluded, "We want to live in dignity. Let our souls be free and our minds be free. We want the opportunity for our minds to function and to create. If humanity can be strong, something beautiful will come out."

Wen Bin Chen, former art director of the Beijing Fine Arts Institute and an eyewitness to the massacre at Tiananmen Square, called President Bush a "paper tiger," who "says a lot of nice things about freedom, but he does nothing." He declared his support for the "spirit and the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche. . . . His contributions are significant contributions to the whole world. But now this man is in jail. I would like to ask all the people of the world to ask the U.S. government to release Lyndon LaRouche from jail."

From the ongoing revolution in East Germany, Klaus Grasslaub, a worker and participant in the anti-government demonstrations, spoke to the audience of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and its significance for freedom fights around the world. "I belong to the generation which has experienced imprisonment, continual surveillance, and repression. Now

the people have raised their voices. Dear friends, that was no easy road, and the journey is far from over. . . .

"The wall which was built in 1961 around the entire G.D.R. [German Democratic Republic] and around West Berlin had to fall. The Socialist Unity Party . . . which has unjustly claimed for itself the right to decide everything . . . this party and its leaders have fallen. The people demanded it. You can't imagine what a feeling that is!"

He concluded, "I am very moved by the fact that also in the U. S. and elsewhere in the world, civil rights activists are fighting for the rights of all men." He presented the Tribunal with a chunk of the Berlin Wall, stating, "This is the symbol of an overthrown regime. I have brought it as a memorial to the conference and as a gift. There are, of course, more beautiful gifts, but hardly more valuable ones."

Perhaps more shocking to the audience than the reports of tyranny *inside* the communist-ruled states was the speech by Ed Nishnic, son-in-law and attorney for John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian-born Cleveland autoworker who was framed up on charges of being the Nazi war criminal "Ivan the Terrible" and sentenced to death in Israel. Mr. Nishnic showed how the Soviet KGB joined forces with "justice" personnel in two democratic nations, the United States and Israel, to suppress the evidence of Demjanjuk's innocence, and systematically deny him the right to a defense.

'There is a higher law'

West German leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the chairman of the international advisory board of the Schiller Institute which helped to sponsor the meeting, spoke by pre-recorded video and later by direct phone hookup to the conference on Sunday. She called for the defeat of the tyranny which had been described. "You've all seen the Chinese students, and the Statue of Liberty and Ode to Joy, spreading to Eastern Europe—Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Throughout the world there are pictures of the Berlin Wall coming down, people dancing on the wall.

"Therefore, you can be sure there is a force stronger than tyranny, represented by the symbol of Schiller's Ode to Joy in the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven. . . . There is a higher law. We can't defy the laws of creation and of the universe without ensuring our own destruction. . . . You've been wondering, won't these political persecutions and horrors ever end, how much more will there be? But be confident. Revolution will come to the United States. But not without Lyndon LaRouche's program and Lyndon LaRouche himself. Everything will fail without this. . . . I don't believe God created the world to unleash evil. Let us be the instruments of divine providence."

Many of the other speakers, particularly those from religious institutions, echoed her words, warning of the danger inherent in mocking God's law. Rev. Fr. Viorel Dumitrescu of the Descent of Holy Spirit Romanian Church in New York pointed to the terrible oppression of the Ceausescu regime,

Martin Luther King Freedom Day Tribunal

Under the overall title, "The International Fight for the Inalienable Rights of Man," the following panels were presented at the Jan. 13-15 conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington (speakers are from the U.S. unless otherwise indicated):

Panel I: Violations of Human Rights and International Law: The Cases of Panama and Lebanon.

Speakers: *Mel Klenetsky*, opening remarks on the injustices perpetrated against Lyndon LaRouche. *Msgr. Elias El-Hayak*, Chor-Bishop of the Maronite Diocese of Canada, "The Struggle for the Independence and Sovereignty of Lebanon." *André Medawar*, France, Action Committee for Lebanon. *Hon. Edwin Vieira*, "The Thornburgh Doctrine: Spiritual Heir of Brezhnev and Ceausescu, Harbinger of the Coming American Secret-police State." *Carlos Wesley*, *EIR*, on U.S. lawlessness in Panama. *Don Eret*, farmer, former state legislator, Nebraska

and *Rabbi Gerald Kaplan*, New York, on their fact-finding trip to Panama in December.

Panel II: The International and Philosophical Significance of Lyndon LaRouche and His Political Movement—Why the Witchhunt.

Speakers: *Prof. Kurt Ebert*, Innsbruck, Austria, "The Trial Against Lyndon LaRouche Judged from the European Point of View." *Dr. Frederick Wills*, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Justice, Guyana. *Helga Zepp-LaRouche*, chairman, Schiller Institute, West Germany (video). *Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.* (audiotape).

Panel III: The Fight for Freedom in Eastern Europe and China: the Economic and Political Implications.

Speakers: *Christopher White*, Economics editor, *EIR*, "LaRouche's Proposal for the Triangle of Development in Europe to End the World Depression, and Bring Freedom to Eastern Europe and the Rest of the World." *Klaus Grasslaub*, worker, East Germany. *William Nezowy*, president, American-Ukrainian Political Action Committee of U.S., Philadelphia. *Ying Tsui*, National Committee Chinese Democratic Party. *Wen Bin Chen*, former art director, Beijing Fine Arts Institute. *Ye Ning*, Committee of Chinese Correspondents, Philadelphia. *Rev. Jürgen*

and warned, "Gorbachov intends to occupy Western Europe. The American people must wake up." Most Rev. Bertrand Blanchet of the Canadian Bishops Conference, speaking against abortion, charged that "our society does not welcome life. . . . Respect of life is the essential condition of a just society." On the same panel, Joseph Scheidler, Director of Pro-Life Action League of Chicago, who marched with Dr. King in the 1960s, warned, "God is not mocked! He will not bless this nation for killing its children."

Rev. Jürgen Bless, Bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in California, who also recalled being at the Lincoln Memorial with Dr. King 27 years ago, told the assembly, "Our freedom doesn't mean anything unless everyone is free." He called on everyone to "light a candle for freedom," and become part of the vigil movement to "keep this flame of freedom alive."

A major theme of the three-day Tribunal was Lyndon LaRouche himself, the persecution against him, and his policies for solving the dire economic depression confronting this nation and the world. *EIR* Economics Editor Christopher White outlined LaRouche's proposals for reversing this collapse. A panel of six speakers was devoted on Monday morning to outlining the wide-ranging federal and state witchhunt against LaRouche, who has already served one year of the 15-year sentence handed him as the result of the government's

railroad conviction against him and six co-defendants in 1988.

A panel on "Economic, Social, and Political Injustice" on Sunday evening featured six speakers who gave detailed accounts of the plight of the poor, minorities, and farmers in the United States. It was begun by Rev. Wade Watts, past president of the Oklahoma State NAACP, who posed the question, "What is it that keeps us in this movement?" and led the audience through humor and reminiscences of Dr. King to find in themselves, too, that "something" inside the human soul that won't give up until freedom is won. Ann Raad, Washington, D.C.-based director of an independent network of food organizations, summed up the impact of the panel: "The common theme of this conference is that there are too many Americans still in bondage. I hope you're as uplifted as I am, and prepared to continue the fight."

LaRouche discusses freedom and economy

Lyndon LaRouche, statesman, economist, and candidate for the U.S. Congress from the 10th District of Virginia, elaborated the connection between freedom and the economy in an address to the Martin Luther King Tribunal meeting in