

# López Obrador Inaugurated as Mexico's 'Legitimate President'

by Cynthia R. Rush

Before a crowd estimated at between 1.2 and 1.5 million in Mexico City's downtown Zócolo plaza, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the former candidate of the Alliance for the Good of All in the July 2 Presidential elections, was inaugurated as the country's "legitimate President" on Nov. 20. AMLO, as he is known, vowed to his supporters that he will never negotiate or surrender to the "neo-fascist oligarchy" that stands behind Felipe Calderón of the synarchist National Action Party (PAN), whose claim to the Mexican Presidency is based on blatant vote fraud.

"We won't enter into the mold," López Obrador said in his speech, and that's why the oligarchical elites fear us. "The fundamental goal of the legitimate government, I repeat, will be to protect the rights of the people, defend the patrimony of all Mexicans and national sovereignty," he affirmed.

Moreover, he explained, those who have mobilized in his support must continue to do so, and form part of a nationwide political structure to support the "legitimate government," such that when the right-wing attempts to impose something contrary to the general interest, "we will call a national mobilization. . .this is our capability to bring about profound true change. Let us not rely on anything from those above; we will do our duty as citizens."

López Obrador's remarks are useful and appropriate, as far as they go. His firm stance in defense of the general welfare of the Mexican people, and identification of the oligarchical enemy, have certainly rattled the international financial elites who seek to impose "the usurper" Calderón on Mexico against the popular will. He has mobilized mass forces against the PAN "coup d'état," and the free-trade looting and privatization policies that Calderón's synarchist sponsors expect him to impose from the very second he is scheduled to take office on Dec. 1.

## LaRouche's Role

But it was left to the spirited 40-person LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) contingent to communicate to the huge crowd the vital concepts that AMLO didn't address. Holding high two large banners that read "LaRouche, Author of the Defeat of Calderón's Masters," and "Don't Allow a Great Moment to Find a Little People: Build a New Economic System Now!" the LYM distributed 1,500 newspapers and 3,000

leaflets with excerpts from Lyndon LaRouche's Nov. 16 webcast, to deliver a clear message.

First, there is no escaping the reality that the global monetary system is already blowing apart. This requires that heads of state and other leaders muster the political will and courage to act as statesman LaRouche has proposed to create a new international monetary system, modelled on the old Bretton Woods system. Any idea of accommodation with globalization is a dangerous illusion, because the system is dead beyond repair. This is a revolutionary moment which calls for courage, not littleness.

Secondly, the LYM and LaRouche movement mobilization of the U.S. population, especially university youth, was responsible for the overwhelming Democratic Party victory in the November 7 midterm elections. The LYM raised the issues that cowardly Democrats were too afraid, or too corrupt, to touch, and remoralized and uplifted people by providing them with a sense of mission orientation—especially the decisive youth vote.

Those election results give the Mexican resistance forces political leverage they didn't previously have. The synarchist apparatus controlling George Bush and Dick Cheney—the same one that pulls Felipe Calderón's and the PAN's strings—has taken a hit. But there is no time to waste. They are insanely contemplating a war against Iran or some other international atrocity that would plunge the world into irreversible chaos and permanent warfare.

LaRouche was the "author of the defeat of Calderón's masters," the LYM reminded Mexicans. Now patriots must seize the advantage created by the U.S. electoral result to move decisively in the direction that LaRouche has outlined, while supporting his battle to restore sanity to the U.S. government by impeaching both Bush and Cheney immediately.

## Ibero-America Watches

This is not just a Mexican issue either. The outcome of this battle will have profound effects on the rest of Ibero-America. Leaders such as Brazil's President Lula da Silva and Argentina's Néstor Kirchner know how important it is that López Obrador has identified himself as the opponent of the international financial oligarchy, having suffered themselves at the hands of those same forces.



Andrés Manuel López Obrador website

*Andrés Manuel López Obrador addresses over a million people in Mexico City's Zócalo on Nov. 20, the day of his inauguration as the country's "legitimate President."*

These two Presidents, along with the governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, and the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), have so far been cooperating as an informal "Presidents' Club," to forge an alternative to the International Monetary Fund's deadly free-trade agenda and stymie Cheneyac efforts to sow regional discord, or even war. A conspicuous absence in the group has been Mexico, which in 1982—after a virtual IMF coup in that country—abandoned its historic role as a continental leader in the fight for economic development and defense of national sovereignty, and sided instead with the financial oligarchy that seeks the destruction of sovereign nation-states.

The limitation of the Presidents' Club is that its members are united largely on the basis of what they oppose, rather than a positive development perspective that starts from the standpoint of the global monetary collapse. They have all seen their nations' economies wrecked by synarchist bankers, and their populations degraded to the level of beasts. Yet with the exception of Néstor Kirchner, none has yet found the courage to stand up to the financiers forcefully. And even Kirchner still talks about "intelligently" inserting his nation into globalization, as if this were a possibility.

This is why the LaRouche forces are intervening continentally to hammer home

the reality of the onrushing financial crash, and present the programmatic alternative that these governments are afraid to discuss publicly. It is this factor that, in the new and revolutionary environment created by the U.S. electoral outcome, can help Ibero-American leaders find the courage to act decisively.

The changing environment is reflected in the Nov. 13 speech by President Lula da Silva in Caracas, during which he departed from his prepared text to uncharacteristically attack predatory bankers. Having just been elected to a second term in office, during which he was violently attacked by financier factions, Lula accused bankers of preferring governments like those "which ruled for centuries, and didn't take care of the people."

The Brazilian President also warned that "there is no solution for any Latin American country by itself. . . . In our second term, all of us Presidents of South

American and Latin American countries must work for integration as we never have before."

## Act Now

The Mexican situation is very fluid. Calderón's own De-



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*Mexico City "LaRouchistas" march in a parade honoring Andrés Manuel López Obrador on Nov. 20. These members of the LaRouche Youth Movement organized around the need for a new global financial-economic system, to prevent a plunge into a dark age.*

cember 1 inauguration is itself in question, as López Obrador's forces have vowed to prevent it by peaceful means. There is no telling what will happen on December 1, as both sides are lining up their forces over the issue of who will govern. Should Calderón manage to actually take office, he will find himself in the unenviable position of trying to follow Wall Street's orders to impose deeper austerity on a people who will not accept it. The only possible outcome of such action will be what the newly-elected head of the National Peasant Federation warned would be "social revolution."

But Calderón's controllers are insanely planning to go ahead with their plans, as indicated in the choice of the first six cabinet members, announced Nov. 21. With responsibility for economic policy, all six are rabid proponents of free-trade, deregulation, structural reforms, and privatized infrastructure.

As Secretary of Finance, Agustín Carstens, the "Chicago Boy" whiz-kid who was number three at the IMF until a month ago, will run the government for the international financiers. His entire career has run between the University of Chicago, Mexico's Central Bank, and the IMF. Carstens' mentor at Chicago was Michael Mussa, later IMF Chief Economist for 10 years, whose view of the role of government, Carstens reports, is that "the fundamental tenets of statist economics are as dead as the Russian monk Rasputin—whom you may recall was poisoned, strangled, stabbed, shot, cut into pieces, burned to ashes, and fired through a cannon."

Carstens announced Nov. 20 that the financial sector will be the motor of growth under Calderón, which "should be the six years of infrastructure," he added.

According to Luis Téllez, Calderón's nominee for Secretary of Transportation and Communications, this means that infrastructure will be handed over to private capital. Close to hardcore synarchist and former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Téllez also served as co-director of the Carlyle Group in Mexico, and was on the board of Sempra Energy and the Spanish-owned Bancomer, among other multinationals.

The nominee for Economics Secretary, Eduardo Sojo, is a former World Bank and Fox government official, who boasts that he will turn Mexico into one of the "best destinations" for foreign capital, by deregulating energy, financial, telecommunications, and labor markets.

Georgina Kessel, named Secretary of Energy, headed deregulation programs at the state oil company, Pemex, and announced that she intends to make it "modern and efficient." Calderón's people have already sent a team to study Brazil's Petrobras, the state-owned oil company which, as was just demonstrated in Bolivia, is only state-owned in name, and run as a private multinational, with private capital.

The Labor and Social Welfare Secretary nominee Javier Lozano announced his top priority will be to reform labor laws, along the lines of what was done in Chile under the Pinochet dictatorship, so as to make Mexico attractive to private capital.