

LaRouches Lose a Friend; I've Lost an Advisor

by Ramtanu Maitra

On Jan. 2, 2004, Shri K.R. Ganesh, former Minister of State for Finance in the late Indira Gandhi's 1972 Cabinet, passed into history. Suffering for years with complications of the lungs, he embraced death quietly in the early hours of the day, at 81.

K.R. Ganesh, known widely in the Indian political circles as "KR," had a long association with *EIR* and Lyndon and Helga LaRouche. The association goes back to the early 1980s, when the world was caught up in the insane Cold War. India, a non-aligned nation under the feisty leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, had come out of the turbulent 1970s very much suspect in the eyes of Western political leaders. India's 1974 test of nuclear explosives, its close scientific and military relationship with the then-Soviet Union, and its leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement, had drawn the wrath of the "free world" leaders.

In this milieu, *EIR* produced *40 Years to Make India an Agro-Industrial Superpower*. The document drew enormous support from among political circles around Prime Minister Gandhi. One of the leading admirers and promoters of this document was Shri K.R. Ganesh. It made KR, and a large

section of followers of Mrs. Gandhi, once more believe that all is not rotten in the West. KR held on to the document closely, and made it a point in every forum that he attended, that the way to India's future greatness had been laid down in the document produced by American economist and politician Lyndon H. LaRouche. That was the beginning of their friendship, which went through various phases but never lost its mooring.

In later years, when I came to know KR well, at every political forum where KR spoke or attended, he would make a point to seek me out and announce, brandishing the *EIR* program, in his usual dramatic fashion: "I am proud to be associated with this document and producer of this document, because no other individual has come close to visualizing what India can be." There were a number of occasions when I had to stand up and defend what KR said.

Selfless and Determined

Shri K.R. Ganesh was a quintessential old-fashioned Indian politician. Selfless and determined, KR could never think about himself, or separating himself from the people. He looked at the *EIR* document as a way for the people of India to become literate and happy, and for the country to become a major player in the world scene. He respected nations such as the United States and Russia for their eagerness to intervene in the troubled world scene, and he wanted India to become such a nation.

In essence, KR believed in two things: developments that positively help each and every individual; and, that any effort by any nation to dominate another must be fought to the bitter end, if it comes to that.

To understand these two basic traits of his unblemished character, one has to look from whence he came. Arguably one of the brightest stars of the pre-1942 community in the wholly underdeveloped Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, K.R. Ganesh started off as member of the Communist Party. In 1954, deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, KR joined the Indian National Congress party. He was already known for his pioneering work on the trade union front in the Islands, particularly among forest workers, who were spread far and wide throughout the Islands. Reaching forest camps in those days was a Herculean task, as they used to be miles inside deep and dense forests, reachable by just a foot path. The Islands were full of mosquitoes, leeches, and snakes. "Ganesh Babu" ("Respected Ganesh") to his friends and admirers, he was focused, determined, and with a vision for the entire country in his pursuits.



(Left to right) Ramtanu Maitra, K.R. Ganesh, Dr. Arjun Sengupta, and Helga and Lyndon LaRouche, during the LaRouches' visit to India, Nov. 30, 2001.

He was the first elected Member of Parliament from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1967. He became a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance, and then Minister of State for Finance (Revenue and Expenditure). He won his second term in 1971 and joined Mrs. Gandhi's Cabinet. His campaign against smugglers in 1975-76 made him a household name.

During the last few years, K.R. Ganesh's bad health had confined him to his home most of the time. But he was always reading and letting his views be known to his politician friends. During the last two visits of the LaRouches, the first evenings were spent having dinner with KR and his family at his home just outside of Delhi. It was necessary for me to arrange that dinner. KR would know what the trip was meant for; and whom we intended to meet with and discuss matters at hand. KR always had inputs to make and advice to offer.

I surely will miss that very much.

A Memory of K.R. Ganesh

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

January 6, 2004, Concord, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

K.R. Ganesh was of my generation in more ways than one. Although we first became associated in the late 1970s, and first met directly in 1982, our personal association in a common cause began during late Winter and early Spring of 1946, when I had recently come out of northern Burma, and was on duty in Calcutta, awaiting my assignment to return to the U.S.A. for discharge from military service.

Although, in those months, I had no firm knowledge of the late President Franklin Roosevelt's actual anti-colonialist intentions for the post-war world, my prescience was that Roosevelt had precisely such an intention, an intention which coincided with my own. Therefore, in that time, I became deeply involved with the prospect of the immediate freedom and economic development of India. When KR and I met in Delhi in 1982, it was as old comrades from among the battalions of India's struggle for independence—Spring of 1946—meeting, after an absence of decades.

We were and are of a breed of veterans of shared missions, who, in later years, are still acting in our seasoned cause, the future of humanity. We are, and will remain that, long after we have passed on. He lives still with me, and with all of those, now departed and living alike, of that generation of those who, in the Autumn of life, shared in common the now-matured intention we shared in our youth, during those Spring days in India, 1946.

Those rarer ones like KR, have accumulated the subtly efficient power to strike a blow for humanity even long after they have departed this life. I am assured that he will.