

EIR Special Report

India is vital to reversing the world depression

by Daniel Sneider, Asia Editor

Speaking before the Indian Council on World Affairs in New Delhi last month, the well-known economist and American political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued a major new policy proposal on "North-South relations." In the midst of world economic and strategic crises, Mr. LaRouche told his audience, it is imperative that "the nations of the so-called South, or some of them, make a unilateral statement on the nature of the crisis and what must be done to stop the world depression and to stop war."

"If you of the developing sector begin to give leadership," Mr. LaRouche concluded, "perhaps we can stop World War III—perhaps your intervention will succeed where previous paths of negotiation have failed."

Mr. LaRouche's choice of India as the location for this policy address, which we present in full below, was deliberate. India is the most strategic location from which to address the leadership of the developing nations, whose populations make up two-thirds of humanity. In every respect—economically, politically, and from the viewpoint of culture and historical understanding—India is the most important single nation among those of the so-called South. Without India, even the best-led among those nations will not be able to move forward in a decisive fashion, nor be able to effectively intervene into the crisis gripping world affairs at this moment.

India's decisive leadership role is even more critical now at a time when other leading developing nations are under sustained attack in the form of economic destabilization and warfare. Mexico, one of the most important nations in the developing sector, has been subjected to all-out economic warfare by the International Monetary Fund, which has set back Mexico's ambitious plans for industrial growth and quieted Mexico's leaders in their usual role as spokesmen for the entire developing sector. Iraq, another important case, has been hit with sustained, draining military attack, carried out by the fanatics of Khomeini's Iran acting with the military backing and encouragement of the Anglo-American circles, the Israelis, and even the Soviet Union. Once situated through its large-scale commitment to economic development to play the key leadership role among the Arab nations, Iraq is



Paul Zykoſky/NSIPS

Indira Gandhi campaigning in December 1979. Her return to power has restored leadership to the nation and the Non-Aligned.

now facing possible dismemberment.

There is nothing new in the pattern of such attacks. In this century, every attempt by nations and individual statesmen from among the developing nations to step into the arena of world affairs has been met with unremitting hostility by the oligarchic financial forces who created the current world economic order. The developing sector demand for a new world economic order, best expressed in the resolutions of the Non-Aligned Nations heads of state summit held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in August 1976 was met with a wave of destabilization operations piloted by the likes of Henry Kissinger, aimed at developing sector governments and leaders. Ultimately, the goal is to destroy economic development itself, to impose Malthusian genocide upon those populations to maintain the power of the financial interests who control the present world order.

India, precisely because of its size, development, and historic tradition is no stranger to such attacks. Because of these qualities, however, it has shown a strength and staying power under attack that few other developing countries can match. India's leadership, steeled in the crucible of a mass struggle for freedom against the British Empire, has a healthy understanding of the enemy they face. Almost 200 years of British colonialism provided a bitter lesson on that subject.

The key to India's strength and confidence in itself as a nation, is that it is the product of 6,000 years of a great civilization, the historic mother of what we know as Western civilization. The Sanskrit language, the basis of the modern Indian languages, is the oldest written lan-

guage, and the most advanced in conceptual terms, in the world. The development of profound ideas, of science and philosophy, first reached heights in Indian civilization. This is not a dead past. Such traditions were evoked and understood by the leaders of the independence struggle, men like Tillak, Gandhi, and Nehru, as the weapon they wielded to defeat their imperial oppressors.

Contrary to the widespread U.S. view that India is a land of poverty, cows, and Hindu mystics, India today has capabilities and achievements in the field of economic development—both industry and agriculture—and in scientific and technological development that are unmatched in their breadth in the non-industrial world. With the third largest number of scientists and engineers in the world, India can do things—from putting a satellite into space to producing nuclear power plants—that only a few “advanced” nations can do. Its economic development, which we update in this Special Report, puts India on the verge of an economic takeoff that could make it an economic superpower by the beginning of the next century.

In late July, Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi will visit the United States at the invitation of the Reagan administration. In September, she will visit the Soviet Union. There is a clear possibility, and desire, that she and India play a crucial role in bringing about an East-West/North-South understanding, the kind of “new agenda” which Mr. LaRouche called for in his New Delhi speech. Mrs. Gandhi will be making her visit in good faith, desirous of better world economic and political relations. We urge that she be well received.