Frature

Will Europe choose LaRouche's 'third way'?

by Susan Welsh

Since March 1-3, when the Schiller Institute sponsored a conference in Berlin on the theme of Lyndon LaRouche's proposed Paris-Vienna-Berlin "Productive Triangle" for European development, the issue of an alternative to the failed economics of both Karl Marx and Adam Smith has come under intense debate, particularly in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe. As *EIR* reported in our issue of March 15, over 100 economists and political activists, many of them from the East, participated in that conference, seeking a solution to the economic collapse that is growing worse with every passing day. They signed a declaration endorsing LaRouche's "grand design" for high-technology development in the "Triangle" region, as the cornerstone of a just, new economic order worldwide.

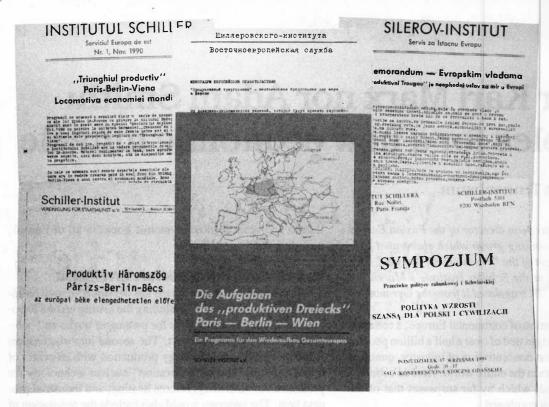
As the participants in that conference returned to their home countries, the spread of LaRouche's "Triangle" and his concept of "the science of Christian economics" intersected a debate launched by Pope John Paul II, on the centennial of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum novarum*, over the issue of such a "third way" in economic policy.

The implementation of this program is a matter of the utmost urgency. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, emphasized to the conference, the adoption of "free market" economics by the newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe, their acceptance of such evil Western economic advisers as Harvard's Jeffrey Sachs, has created a situation which is not only economically disastrous, but which also heightens the danger of war.

In the Soviet Union, she said, "the lack of actual economic development is the chief reason for the resurgent threat of Stalinist repression. Vitaly Korotich, publisher of Ogonyok, one of the Soviet Union's biggest weekly journals, put it this way: 'Last year we spoke optimistically of a Marshall Plan, but this year we speak of martial law.'. . . If we are to preserve peace in Europe, then the development of infrastructure in Germany's new states, in Eastern Europe, and in the Soviet Union, is our indispensable prerequisite."

30 Feature

EIR April 19, 1991



Lyndon LaRouche's program for a "Productive Triangle" of European development has been translated into the principal Eastern European languages, including Russian, and is circulating widely.

In the Feature package that follows, based on speeches from the Berlin conference, you will see how this message, and the issue of freedom for Eastern Europe, was elaborated and debated by the participants.

Freedom and economic morality

The growing interest in LaRouche's program can be gauged from the attack launched against it by Czechoslovakia's leading monetarist enforcer, Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, in a speech to the Institute of Economic Affairs in London on March 25. "We are sticking to the full-fledged free market economy," he said, denouncing "third way notions" which he attempted to misidentify with "market socialism" and even with Soviet perestroika.

The advocates of perestroika, Klaus charged, "want to organize sophisticated government programs, build infrastructure and dominant industries, pick winners and losers, ask for massive Western financial assistance (and especially distribute it), help firms in distress, dictate prices, interest rates and exchange rates. . . . Simply, they want to centrally plan." But since perestroika is already a dead letter in Moscow, and no one is proposing it for Czechoslovakia, it is apparent that the "third way" of LaRouche is what is actually being criticized here.

Klaus is under growing domestic pressure because of the failure of his policies. Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel sent greetings to the Schiller Institute's conference, and representatives of ministries other than Klaus's attended

it. Prime Minister Marian Calfa told Parliament on March 27 that the nation's GNP fell by 5.8% in the first two months of the year; production in the construction industry fell 33%; exports to the Soviet Union are running at half the level of last year; and unemployment, which was almost nil a year ago, is expected to reach 7% by the end of the year.

In each of the countries of Eastern Europe, the situation is comparable:

In eastern Germany, production figures have sunk below 1929 levels, to less than 50% of what they were before the collapse of the communist system.

In Hungary, the free marketeers are going with a "tourism-based economy," legalizing casino gambling.

In Poland, the government of Lech Walesa is bending over backwards to implement the austerity policies demanded by Jeffrey Sachs and the International Monetary Fund, with the result that living standards have fallen by 30%.

Lyndon LaRouche, in a comment on April 2, issued a warning to the leaders of Poland: "As long as Walesa et al. continue to fail to realize that the enemy is this Anglo-American 'structures of sin,' which they have decided to embrace, they will lose Poland, either to reconquest by Moscow, or something like that, or to chaos. The morality of freedom is not something you can counterpose to economic morality. Without economic morality, support for the morality of freedom will turn out, in the end, to be an empty gesture. You cannot support the economics of slavery, and be fighting for political freedom at the same time."

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