

LaRouche's 'Triangle' plan for Europe reaches Prague

by Nora Hamerman

This article was based on reporting from Prague by Angelika Beyreuther-Raimondi and Paolo Raimondi.

"Project for a New Europe," "The Europe of the Triangle," "Against the IMF," read the headlines of the Prague daily papers, following two meetings and a press conference on Lyndon LaRouche's European Productive Triangle plan of economic recovery, keyed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche on May 23 and 25.

Fifty representatives of government circles, various ministries, economic think tanks and political institutions, universities, political parties, media, and industry, gathered on May 25 for the first public conference of the Schiller Institute in Prague. The theme of the day-long seminar was the concept of a Productive Triangle, in which Czechoslovakia would play an absolutely central role. The western half of the country lies within the curvilinear triangle encompassed by the three corners, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, to be connected by a dense network of high-speed rail links.

It was held at the Charitas Palace, headquarters of the People's Party, a Christian Democratic type of party.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, a guest from Germany where she is president of the Schiller Institute, developed in her address an alternative to George Bush's new world order: a new world economic order based on the scientific principles of Christian economics. She condemned the policy of Washington and London as genocidal in intent and result, as is revealed in detail by a 1974 document of the U.S. National Security Council (see *EIR*, May 3, 1991). She warned of the pressing urgency of a Christian economic policy, based upon the two papal encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Centesimus Annus*, and on the programmatic proposals of her husband Lyndon LaRouche, to stop the apocalyptic crisis in the so-called Third World.

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche referred back to the 1891 encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*; Leo was the first Pope to forecast that world wars could be prevented only if all nations could take part in the production of human livelihood in a way corresponding to the dignity and scientific achievements of man.

"This has been on the table for 100 years," she said. "Two world wars have happened because it was not realized at the

time." Pointing out that one of the evils attacked by Pope Leo in 1891 has collapsed—socialism—Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche came to the core of LaRouche's approach to European recovery. "Now, where socialism is dead as a theory," so-called free market liberalism represents "as big a danger to mankind as socialism did before." Zepp-LaRouche called on her listeners to defeat liberalism in the same way the people of Eastern Europe caused the defeat of socialism in 1989.

Details of the Triangle

The Schiller Institute's organizing for the LaRouche plan to make Central Europe the engine of a worldwide recovery from economic depression, has had a powerful impact in Europe. Invited by freedom fighters and ex-political prisoners, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche traveled to lead conferences on the Triangle in Gdansk, Poland last September, and in Budapest, Hungary in February, culminating in a major gathering in Berlin in March which was attended by economists from the liberated East bloc countries, the Baltic states, and even the U.S.S.R. The economists in Berlin issued a declaration demanding implementation of the LaRouche concept (see *EIR*, March 15).

At the Prague meeting, Jonathan Tennenbaum, director of the Fusion Energy Forum, unfolded the details of the LaRouche Productive Triangle plan for new, high-speed rail networks, canals, and new power and communications infrastructure to relink Eastern and Western Europe, using the most modern technologies such as magnetically levitated trains and nuclear high-temperature gas-cooled reactors. This plan, elaborated by a team guided by Dr. Tennenbaum, has circulated all over Europe for 18 months, by now translated into all the major languages, but this was the first time it had been presented to such a high-level audience in a capitals of Eastern Europe.

Tennenbaum presented shocking statistics and facts about the collapse of the American economy to an audience which, thanks to the monetarist finance minister of Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Klaus (a fervid disciple of the Chicago School of economics of Milton Friedman) is constantly hearing the Anglo-American way peddled to them as the best solution for Czechoslovakia.

Schiller Institute speaker Paolo Raimondi presented the

ideas of German-American economist Friedrich List (1789-1846), the father of the German railways and indeed of the modern concept of a national economy. From the standpoint of List's pointed dissection of the errors of Adam Smith, Raimondi criticized Finance Minister Klaus, the "IMF's man" who is behind the current failing economic policy in Czechoslovakia. "The economic and global crisis is so advanced and explosive, that we are not allowed to make such a mistake or even to lose more time," said Raimondi. After showing how the Klaus-IMF "free market" ideology is blocking the needed construction of new economic infrastructure and high-technology industry, Raimondi charged, "I believe that the plan of the free market proponents is to transform Czechoslovakia into the European Mexico."

Median income like Chad's

The discussion centered heavily on the question of what the best way is to achieve future development. Who would Prague's partners be in the West, should they choose to strike out on the path of the Productive Triangle? How can the West European countries learn to better understand the hardships faced by their new partners in the East? How can the "good idea" of the Productive Triangle actually be financed? What criteria should be used to fix the right valuation of the national currency, the krone, so that on the one hand exports would not fall apart, but on the other hand it would correspond to real purchasing power?

One participant in the debate compared the average monthly wage in the Czechoslovak Federal Socialist Republic with Chad in Africa. In both countries, monthly income stands at around \$120. The difference is that Czechoslovakia is a highly industrialized, thickly populated country, with a well-trained work force, which before the grim years of captivity behind the Iron Curtain had been one of Europe's top industrial nations. One burning question was how to keep young, qualified workers in Czechoslovakia when the lure of emigration is tugging on them: A nurse, for example, gets the minimum wage of 2,000 kronas inside Czechoslovakia—less than \$100 a month.

The executive director of EIR Nachrichtenagentur in Wiesbaden, Germany, Michael Liebig, laid out the security policy requirements of the Productive Triangle in his talk on "Security for Europe—The Name of Peace Is Development." Arguing for a European Defense Union, he stressed the timeliness for the new united Europe of today of the strategic principles put forward three decades ago by General de Gaulle and his aide, General Beaufre.

Angelika Bayreuther-Raimondi, the last speaker, painted a stark picture of the fearsome consequences of the policy of the International Monetary Fund. IMF "conditionalities" are always the same and in not one single case, have they ever led to the healthy development of a national economy, she said. The social impact of IMF policies in Central and Eastern European lands are catastrophic and will badly undermine

the young democracies. The only party which today in the Czechoslovakia is loudly attacking the IMF is, unhappily, the Communist Party—with around 400,000 members, still the strongest single political force.

One participant in the discussion described the problem as follows. If a person comes out against the IMF, he or she is immediately labeled as a communist, and the communists are the ones who want to profit from an ever-worsening economic situation. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche emphasized over and over, as she intervened into the debate, that there is only one positive alternative, the implementation of the industrial-capitalist concept of the Productive Triangle.

Schiller Institute at the Castle

On May 23 the George of Podebrady Foundation for European Cooperation invited speakers from the Schiller Institute to their quarters in the Castle of Prague (where the President has his office), to address nearly two dozen experts from ministries, research institutes, and universities during a half-day seminar on the pivotal role of Central Europe in the implementation of the Productive Triangle. The affair was chaired by the editor in chief of the magazine *Mezinarodni Politika (International Politics)*, Dobroslav Matejka, who welcomed the two speakers, Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche and Dr. Tennenbaum.

The foundation was founded after the spring 1990 revolution as an independent umbrella group for various organizations, including the Helsinki Committee of Czechoslovakia, the Organization for the European Homeland, and the Committee for European Security and Cooperation. These organizations have links to the Charter 77 group. The chairman of the foundation is ex-Foreign Minister Prof. Jiri Hajek. The foundation took its name from King George of Podebrady, who had drafted a plan in 1462-64, for a union of European sovereigns against the Turkish onslaught in the Balkans. Several participants said they saw the seminar as only the starting point for more intense study of the Productive Triangle by several economic groups associated with the foundation.

'Against the IMF'

On May 27, the Czech People's Party paper *Lidova Democracie* reported that the Schiller Institute was promoting an infrastructure program of rail transportation, power, communications and waterways, to set off a new expansion in Europe's most concentrated industrial area, the Paris-Berlin-Vienna triangle, projecting a "corridor of development" into the Soviet Union as well. *Lidova Democracie* added that the Schiller Institute is very critical of the International Monetary Fund, whose policies may expose 120 million Latin Americans to cholera.

Prague's major daily, *Obcansky Denik*, published by the Civic Forum, which played a key role in the 1989 anti-communist revolution, stressed Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's criticism of the economic policies of the International Monetary Fund and mentioned that Lyndon LaRouche was a Democratic presidential candidate in 1988.