World mobilization to free LaRouche

Taking the opportunity presented by the inauguration of a new U.S. administration, an international coalition has launched a drive to free U.S. political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Jailed in January 1989 on trumped-up "conspiracy" charges, LaRouche, age 70, is serving a 15-year sentence in federal prison in Rochester, Minnesota.

The coalition is circulating, for signatures by prominent persons, an appeal to President Clinton to deliver on his election campaign pledge to bring about a change in American policy. "We call upon you, to take a first step in this direction: to end a crying injustice, see to it that Lyndon LaRouche is immediately set free and exonerated," the letter says.

Two highly respected leaders of the U.S. civil rights movement, Amelia Boynton Robinson and the Rev. Richard Boone, are on tour in Europe, focusing attention on the LaRouche case and mobilizing support for the creation of a new international movement for civil rights and economic development.

Members of the "free LaRouche" coalition are also appealing to the Organization of American States, which is scheduled to convene in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 14-15 for an extraordinary session to discuss revising the OAS charter in a way that would legitimize the doctrine of "limited sovereignty." Supporters of LaRouche plan to hold a demonstration at the OAS meeting.

An open letter sent to OAS Secretary General João Baena Soares castigates the attempts of the United States to use the "human rights" issue in order to violate national sovereignty, at the same time that it violates the human rights of LaRouche. Among those who have signed the letter are Arturo Frondizi, former President of Argentina; Elmo Martínez Blanco, the Panamanian minister of commerce and industry at the time of the 1989 U.S. invasion; Colombian Congressman Melquisidec Marin López; two retired Peruvian military officers; four members of the Congress of Mexico, including one from the ruling PRI; and three former members of the Congress of Peru, who met with Baena Soares last February and were told by him that he would personally bring up the LaRouche case with the OAS Human Rights Commission.

Amelia Boynton Robinson in Poland

Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was a close associate of Dr. Martin Luther King and a leader of the voter registration

drive in Alabama during the 1960s, visited Warsaw, Poland in early December, heading a delegation from the Schiller Institute. She spoke before universities and political groups, and met privately with representatives of churches and human rights organizations.

On Dec. 1, Mrs. Robinson addressed students, farmers, and others at a university in Warsaw, outlining the world strategic crisis and the necessity to intervene to reverse it. This means first of all, she said, freeing LaRouche.

On Dec. 3, she spoke to students in Poznan on her experience in the civil rights movement in the United States, underlining that the American civil rights movement, which fell apart after the death of Dr. King, is now being revived by LaRouche and the Schiller Institute.

On Dec. 5, she addressed a national conference of the Solidarnosc 80 trade union in Warsaw. The theme of the meeting was the economic austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, versus the Christian economics of LaRouche and the Schiller Institute. Mrs. Robinson warned the delegates not to fall for the glittery image of the United States that is generally presented in Poland, but to look at the harsh reality: social and racial discrimination, the "might makes right" policy of the Thornburgh Doctrine, the war against Iraq, and the imprisonment of LaRouche and his associates.

The alternative to this dismal situation, she said, is the Christian economics which LaRouche has elaborated. (A Polish translation of LaRouche's textbook, So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics? has recently been completed, and will be published as soon as possible.)

Reverend Boone tours Scandinavia

The Rev. Richard Boone, another veteran of the U.S. civil rights struggle who was the campaign co-director of the Selma Project of the Southern Christian Leadership Congress, took the mobilization for a new international movement for civil rights and economic justice to Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

In Sweden, he addressed an audience of high school students, describing the battles of the civil rights movement in America to bring the walls of racism tumbling down. He characterized the current tragedy in Bosnia as an example of the wrong policies that have prevailed in the United States since the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. He called upon the students to launch a new civil rights movement, using the same methods as were used in the United States during the 1960s. "You are the government," he told them. "As long as any other human being is suffering on earth, you cannot be free." He led the group in singing "We Shall Overcome."

Reverend Boone also conducted radio interviews and private meetings with parliamentarians and others in the Scandinavian countries, urging them to mobilize for LaRouche's freedom.