

Colombian VIP rejects threat from AIFLD

Colombia's former Minister of Labor Jorge Carrillo said on April 22 that he was forwarding to authorities a threatening letter he had received from William C. Doherty, head of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). In his letter, written in Spanish, Doherty said that he viewed as a "hostile gesture" the fact that Carrillo was part of an international delegation that visited Washington, D.C. March 15-20 to discuss the case of jailed American political dissident Lyndon LaRouche, with members of the U.S. Congress and other officials.

The AIFLD is an arm of "Project Democracy," the network of agencies that function under the umbrella of the National Endowment for Democracy. Much of the funding for the activities of the AIFLD comes from the U.S. government, and the organization, which functions primarily in Ibero-America, has long-standing and well-publicized official ties to the U.S. intelligence community.

Following are the English translations of the full texts of Doherty's letter and Carrillo's reply.

Doherty: 'a hostile gesture'

April 2, 1993

Mr. Jorge Carrillo
Adviser to the Presidential Peace Council
Calle 7, No. 6-60, 2nd floor
Bogotá, Colombia

Dear Mr. Carrillo:

I have just been informed that last March you were part of an "international delegation of congressmen and human rights activists" which visited Washington for the purpose of asking President Clinton to intervene in the case of Mr. Lyndon H. LaRouche, who is currently serving a jail sentence for fraud and tax evasion.

As you are aware, Mr. LaRouche has been a strident and constant critic of the organized labor movement of the United States, and of the AFL-CIO in particular. I am sorry to tell you that your intervention on behalf of Mr. LaRouche simply confirms that you support his programs and policies, which I personally consider an unbrotherly and hostile gesture towards the AFL-CIO and American workers.

Sincerely,
William C. Doherty

Executive Director

cc: Mr. Orlando Obregon, President—CUT
Mr. Luis Anderson, Secretary General—ORIT

Carrillo rejects 'veiled threat'

Santafé de Bogotá, April 22, 1993
Mr. William C. Doherty
Executive Director
American Institute for Free Labor Development
1015 Twentieth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Doherty:

I learned today of your communication dated April 2 of this year, which I view as containing a veiled threat, for which reason I have considered it appropriate that my country's authorities be apprised of it.

It would be important to know the reasons why you would be upset by the fact that it is requested that the human rights of a citizen of the United States, over 70 years old, be respected, specifically, Mr. Lyndon LaRouche. In that regard, just as I have done, concerns have been raised by such persons as the former President of Argentina, Mr. Arturo Frondizi; Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), former head of German intelligence and counter-intelligence, and one of the founders of the German postwar army; Italian parliamentarian Mr. Carlo Palermo, a judge famous for his legal actions against the Mafia; Mr. Flaminio Piccoli, a member of the Italian Parliament and former secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party of Italy; and by more than 2,000 political figures, members of parliament, former ministers of state, church representatives, writers and scientists from around the world. It may be that our petition will be answered by President Clinton and that Mr. LaRouche will be freed.

Finally, I regret that you, in the name of "American workers," are opposed to the struggle against drug trafficking, the campaign against AIDS, the program known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, and are opposed in principle to the fight we Latin American workers are waging against the policies of the International Monetary Fund. All of these are proposals which are found within the programs and policies of Mr. LaRouche.

I energetically reject your assertion regarding American workers, for whom I profess the greatest respect and admiration, as well as my unshakable friendship.

Jorge Carrillo
Former Minister of Labor of Colombia

cc: Mr. President Clinton
World personalities and labor organizations