

# LaRouche's 25-Year 'Oasis Plan' Campaign

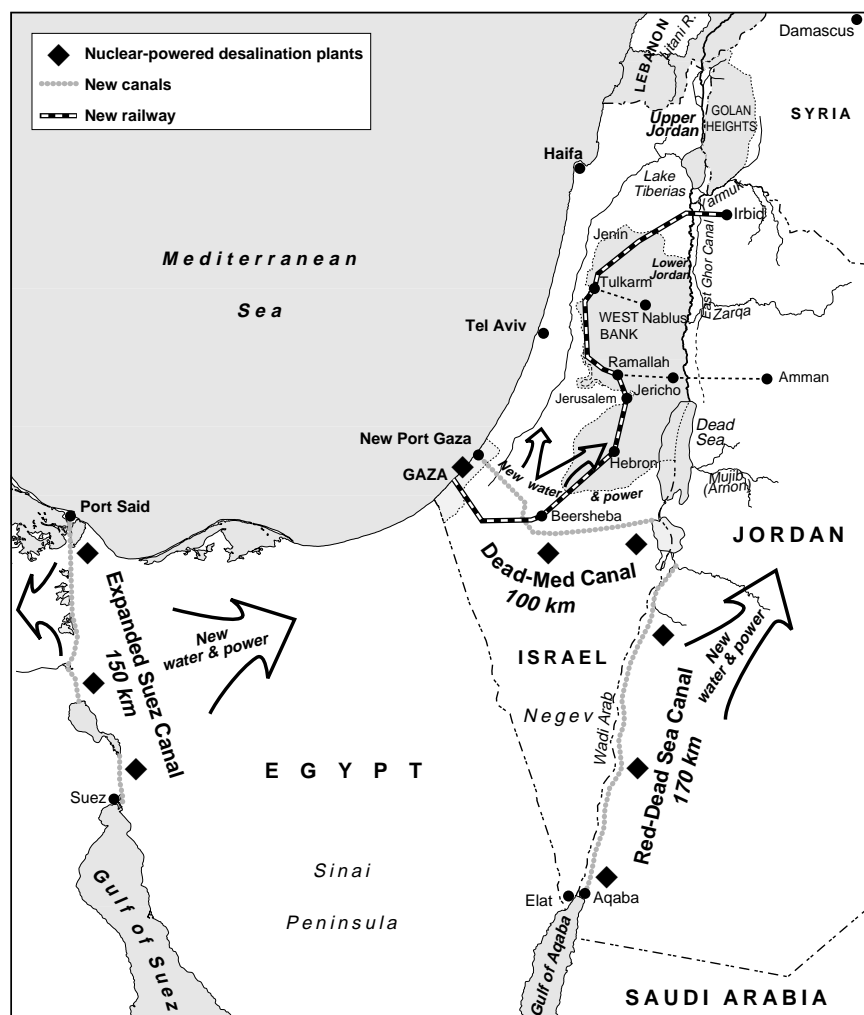
by Marcia Merry Baker

In 1975, Lyndon LaRouche issued a policy proposal in Berlin, for an International Development Bank (IDB) to back priority regional economic programs in the mutual interest of nations in key regions of the world. Foremost among these was the Middle East, which LaRouche had just visited. During the same period, he conferred in Europe with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The strategic elements of LaRouche's IDB involved providing, through high-technology means, ample water, power,

FIGURE 2

## Features of the LaRouche 'Oasis Plan'



and related infrastructure to meet the long-term needs of all in the region. Not simply a peace plan, LaRouche's proposal was a response to the fast-diminishing water resource base in these arid lands, which, since then, has reached the crisis stage. Throughout the 1980s, he was in active dialogue with policymakers in the region.

In July 1990, LaRouche spoke specifically of an "Oasis Plan" approach. He stated on July 12, 1990, "To avoid a conflict which would be ruinous for all peoples and nations of the Middle East, an effective series of common interest proposals must be made in accord with the rights of all parties. Debate around such proposals is inherently healthy and confidence-building. Although to some, an Oasis Plan seems an unlikely proposition under the present circumstances, the price of failing to implement such a program will be staggering. Therefore, there is no obstacle so great,

nor so difficult, that we should not seek to overcome it in order to further economic cooperation."

In September 1993, the signing of the historic Oslo Peace Accord, with its economic development protocols, including water provisions, seemed to provide the miracle opportunity—but the initiatives were thwarted.

In January 1997, elements of the kind of program LaRouche describes as the "Oasis Plan" were shown on a map—reproduced here, in an EIR Special Report, *The Eurasian Land-Bridge* (January 1997).

In July 2000, once again, an attempted peace summit was convened—with water included as a topic—between President Clinton, Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Arafat, and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, but it broke down. On Aug. 6, 2000, LaRouche wrote a policy document, "Water As a Strategic Flank: Wherein Clinton Failed," on the necessity of a "desalination-based economic development program we first presented to relevant Arabs, Israelis, and others a quarter-century ago"—the "Oasis Plan." He warned, "In most of the region, and especially for the largest portions of the area, there simply do not exist sources of supply of usable water sufficient to meet the elementary needs of the population. Hence, without large-scale desalination programs being put immediately into operation, there is no hope for durable peaceful relations

among the populations of this region."

Again visiting the region, LaRouche gave a presentation on May 26, 2002, "The Middle East as A Strategic Crossroad," at the Zayed Center in Dubai, stressing the scientific potential we have for geo-engineering to create new environments. "The characteristic of that portion of a predominantly Islamic civilization, which extends from Asia's "roof of the world," westward, through the Middle East, and across northern Africa, is the continuing struggle against the aridization which has continued during approximately the past 6-8,000 years. . . . The development of fresh-water production and management, which is interlinked with the role of petroleum, is the indispensable foundation for all other optimistic prospects for a peaceful and politically stable internal development of the Middle East region. . . . There will be no peace without adequate provision of water."