

Begin Now on a Mission to Mars

Lyndon LaRouche gave this answer to a question at a diplomatic luncheon Aug. 19, on his Aug. 1 webcast call for a 50-year program for a manned mission to Mars.

First of all, you have to re-educate people in economics, because most of our economists don't understand how to run an economy. That's why they call them economists. I have some good friends who are economists, but they are not of this evil type, not the Wall Street type.

But the problem here is that people don't understand the space program. Now, there is a long-term human reason for the space program. One, is simply because it's necessary to do that. We can not sit on one planet, like prisoners on the planet, and wait for the catastrophes that are likely to happen to this planet to occur. Now, all of that is in the distant future. But sometimes you've to think about the distant future.

Secondly, in order to maintain an economy, you must have a high rate of technological and related progress, scientific and technological progress. To do that you need a driver program. Since the 1920s, the indicated driver program—which was started actually in Germany, but other people were involved, Goddard, for example, in the United States—was the idea of going to the Moon. For it was understood by any astronomer or any competent person, that if you want to go into space, beyond Earth, the first thing you have to do is go to the Moon, to our Moon, and establish a base on the Moon from which you enter space—economically. And to do that you

have to build industries on the Moon which enable you to build the equipment which you will go into space with.

You have about ten nations that now are committed to going to the Moon. Why? Because they have intelligent people in those nations. Those nations realize that if you aren't on the Moon, you're not going to get beyond Earth. And therefore you won't be able to get beyond Earth. And therefore, in order to deal with some of the problems on Earth, you're going to have to go to the Moon.

Now, the next place you have to go to is Mars. Now we can go to Mars.

But this involves relativistic science. The way you go to Mars, is you have a nuclear-powered system, which is the source of power for continuous 1-gravity acceleration/deceleration between the Earth and Mars. Which means you can go from the Moon to the moon of Mars in the vicinity of Phobos within a period of several days. But you have to have a 1-gravity field, or a magnetic field. You can not put a human being in space for 200 days or more in zero gravity. You're going to get a vegetable, a mass of soup, at the end, not a human being. So, you have to have gravitation in order to maintain a human being in flight between Moon orbit and Mars moon orbit. This requires constant acceleration or



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Since the 1920s, it was understood that, to go into space, the first thing you have to do is go to the Moon, and establish a base, and build industries, to provide the means for further space exploration. Here, an artist's conception of a Moon colony.

deceleration, in order to ensure that the human being actually arrives there.

Developing Industries on the Moon

With this kind of system you can get to the Mars orbit in a matter of days, not months, not 200 [days]. We know that humanity requires freeing us from the limits of Earth. But we're not going to do it all at once. We're going to go through certain steps.

The first step is go the Moon. Develop certain industries on the Moon. And the plan for industries on the Moon was developed years ago, decades ago. You develop the industries on the Moon, for scientific purposes, but also for industrial purposes. We will use probably as a fuel, Helium-3, an isotope. And the isotope of Helium-3 is abundant on the Moon. It's the best fuel for interplanetary power, for flight. And therefore, we have to get up there and start learning how to deal with this Helium-3 process. Because we're going to power ships, that go in significant numbers, with people in them, to Mars orbit with Helium-3-powered systems.

Now we're talking about a 50-year cycle, approximately, in terms of a scientific cycle, to be sure that we can safely get to putting people on Mars in an experimental colony, and returning. Within a 50-year period, we can do that. And that's the beginning of man's entry into space, more generally. Man rising above being limited to planet Earth, to participating more broadly in the Solar System.

And when you think about what 1-gravity acceleration, constant acceleration, means, other parts of the Galaxy are not so different. Suddenly, with this technique, you have brought science a giant leap beyond anything conceived beforehand. You now point to where human beings, living human beings, can operate within the Galaxy, maybe not this century, maybe not the next century, but in a couple of centuries, human beings will be able to operate, not merely in the Earth's orbit, not merely in the Solar System, but in the Galaxy. And then we'll find out what's out there, what human beings are going to do.

At the same time, we have children. Fifty years is two generations of children coming to adulthood. Some have graduated from the university. And we have to think about that. We have to think about the future of mankind. Because what is it we have to do? We've got to inspire little children today, in the educational system and so forth, inspire them with the idea

of doing this. You're going to have children saying, "Mummy, can I go to Mars?" "Will I be able to go to Mars before I'm old, like you, Mummy?" And it's that kind of thinking, cultural thinking which you embed in the culture of the nation and its policies, which inspires people to think of their own lives as meaning something.

An Inspired Culture

See, every human being naturally thinks of immortality. They think of immortality not as living in the flesh, but they think the immortality of what they are doing for mankind. We are going to do this. "Grandpa's dead, Great-Grandpa's dead, why did he live?" "Mummy, you're going to die. Why are you living?" "Mummy, I'm going to die. Why am I living?"

And when you pose these kinds of proposals, these kinds of conceptions, then, suddenly, you have a different culture. You have an inspired culture, rather than a culture of slave-like mentalities. And the future of mankind depends upon now eliminating the slave-like mentality that goes with the so-called green culture, the anti-progress culture. We have to restore mankind's sense of a human mission, in existence, as distinct from that of animals.

What is wrong with Obama? Obama's health-care program says human beings are only animals. And we have to manage the herd, we have to cull the herd. People too young, don't give them health care. If they're over 50, don't give them health care. You've to manage the population as a farmer manages a herd of cattle. That's Obama's program. The sense of the value of human beings doesn't exist to that fascist.

But we have to think differently. We have to think of culture. We have to give people a sense of the culture from which they come. We have to give them a sense of the culture that is coming. We have to give them a sense of participating in the future of humanity, even if they're not going to live to see it. A sense of immortality of the mind, immortality of the soul.

That's what makes a great culture. It's the sense that we are doing something for the future of humanity; that even if we shall not see it, we shall know it's coming. And the demand for them is: Let us be sure that our lives are not a waste. Let us be sure that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will actually live in a good society because we have lived and done this today. And that's the secret of culture, it's thinking like a human being. Not like an animal.