

LaRouche Youth Movement Organizes Continentwide for Nuclear Power

by Liza Niño (LaRouche Youth Movement) and Valerie Rush

The First International Forum on Nuclear Energy, keynoted by videoconference by U.S. statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche, and held on June 15 simultaneously in Mexico City and Buenos Aires, was the opening salvo in an escalating campaign by the LaRouche movement and friends across the Americas to bring about the urgently needed industrialization of the continent, spearheaded by nuclear power.

Approximately 120 people came to the Mexico City event, and nearly 30 attended the forum in Buenos Aires, while another score of contacts gathered in Lima to listen to LaRouche's webcast, which was entitled "The Future Is Now: The LaRouche Plan for a Transition to a New World Economic Order with Advanced Technology." Other speakers included *EIR*'s Paul Gallagher, who spoke on the crisis in the U.S. auto sector, Argentine Congressional advisor and energy expert Ricardo De Dicco, and LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) leaders Emiliano Andino in Buenos Aires, and Jonás Velasco in Mexico City (See below for the question and answer period with LaRouche. His speech appeared in last week's *EIR*). Among those attending the events were youth and trade union layers, which led to very lively dialogue following the presentations.

Oil for Nuclear

Organizing for the First International Forum on nuclear energy posed an exciting challenge for the LYM in Ibero-America, and has provided an excellent opportunity for continent-wide collaboration, as well. In Mexico, the campaign began in March, with the idea of providing urgently needed programmatic content to the Presidential electioneering then under way. The first phase involved the printing and distribution of a leaflet on the need to move to a nuclear-based economy, and the construction of a model of a nuclear plant cooling tower, with which the LYM organized across Mexico City. The impact of the campaign was felt immediately, and garnered early coverage in the national daily *El Universal*.

But the real organization and coordination of the campaign and the Forum began with Lyndon LaRouche's visit to Monterrey, Mexico in April. LaRouche emphasized during his numerous interviews and presentations in Monterrey, the strategic necessity of developing the Mexican economy with

advanced technology, especially nuclear.

To transmit this plan effectively to the population, LYM organizers decided that a visit to a nuclear plant was in order, and a group of LaRouche youth conducted an exciting tour of Mexico's sole nuclear plant, Laguna Verde. There they encountered engineers who were thrilled to discover that there are youth in Mexico who are both politically active and pro-nuclear power, and were able to address many of the questions and concerns about nuclear power that come up during organizing.

Upon their return from that tour, the LYM campaign escalated. A special edition of the LaRouche newspaper *Solidaridad de las Américas* was printed, dedicated to the idea that rebuilding the economy will require nuclear power. A trade union supporter printed 2,500 color posters for the campaign, some of which were sent to Argentina, and others to Sonora in northwestern Mexico, for parallel campaigns there. Traveling pedagogical mini-museums were prepared, accompanied by explanatory diagrams and graphics, along with more posters and banners, and even a new model of a cooling tower.

Some organizers went to university classrooms and plazas, while others visited metro stations, and still others set up at busy streetcorners, where they excited drivers and pedestrians alike with their proposals for a modern industrialized nation, with adequate water, energy, and transportation infrastructure driven by the latest nuclear power designs.

As more energy was put into organizing for the Forum itself, it was decided to pull as many of the country's institutions as possible into the event. Invitations went out to the Congress, the Senate, the news media, the Mexican Petroleum Institute (IMP), the offices of the state oil company Pemex, as well as to the trade union of Pemex workers, the director of Pemex Refineries, the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), the National Federation of Popular Organizations (CNOP), the National Telephone Workers Union, the National Workers Union (UNT), the National Institute of Nuclear Research (ININ), the trade union of nuclear industry workers (SUTIN), numerous university research centers, and of course, to many academic and student contacts, as well as to subscribers to LaRouche publications and people met in street organizing. Invitations were sent out by telephone, e-



The Mexico City audience at the First International Forum on Nuclear Energy on June 15, organized by the LaRouche Youth Movement and keynoted by Lyndon LaRouche.

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mail, and by leafletting selected sites.

Finally, the original pamphlet on the campaign was re-printed, with an invitation to the Forum included.

On the eve of the “oil-for-nuclear” forum, Mexico’s nationwide “Radio Formula” network interviewed LYM leader Ingrid Torres on the work of the Movement. Questions ranged from how the LYM was founded in Mexico and what LaRouche proposes, to how the LYM organizes and why it promotes nuclear power. These allowed Torres to discuss LaRouche’s programmatic ideas, including his emphasis on the need to challenge the corruption of the Baby Boomer generation, so that today’s youth “does not make the same mistakes that the generation of the 1960s did.” Torres emphasized that “LaRouche’s philosophy is based on applying new technologies for the benefit of society . . . to create better living conditions for the population,” with a special emphasis on transportation, water, and energy infrastructure. She explained how nuclear power, for example, could be used to desalinate water currently unavailable for human and animal consumption.

Nuclear Organizing Expands

In Argentina, breakthrough levels of activity were achieved around the campaign. LYM members distributed leaflets on the subway, visited municipal workers trade unions, and deployed at nerve centers of Buenos Aires. Through contacts inside the Congress, particularly in the Energy Committee, invitations to the June 15 event were circulated to all Congressmen. They went as well to engineering departments at the University of Buenos Aires and the National Technological University. Posters were put up on these campuses as well.

The LaRouche youth in Buenos Aires arranged to be interviewed by a news radio station, and also on a television program which broadcast the details of the Forum invitation and

a discussion of the ideas behind the LaRouche movement, regarding integration of the continent through advanced technology. The television program had also invited the president of the Chamber of Industry and Trade of the South American trade bloc Mercosur, who agreed on the need for a new financial system worldwide that would permit the rebuilding and integration of infrastructure.

On the day of the event, 22 contacts attended the Buenos Aires forum, in addition to five LYM members. Attendees included an energy-science professor from the National Technical University (UTN) who also works at the Argentine Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEA), a Congressional advisor who is an expert on foreign debt, and Prof. Ricardo De Dicco, who gave the presentation on energy. De Dicco, from a research institute based at Salvador University, is an advisor to the Energy Commission in the Lower House and has written extensively on the need to develop nuclear power.

Three UTN students also attended. One engineering student, in particular, readily acknowledged the importance of nuclear power and, anxious to transmit what he had learned to others, asked to be able to go out on the streets and organize with the LaRouche Youth Movement.

And in Peru, the live transmission of the forum was attended by 15 youth from the La Molina Agrarian University, along with their professor, as well as three young professors from the National Engineering University (UNI), and a UNI student. So enthusiastic was the La Molina crowd, that by the end of the event, they had already begun planning a conference at their school and were asking how to link their event up with the LaRouche movement in other countries.

The successful First International Forum was but the first phase of the campaign. The next immediate goal will be to convince the next President of Mexico, who will be elected on July 2, to announce a nuclear program for that country, as the LaRouche movement is urging.