

Russian Policymakers: LaRouche Was Right

Lyndon LaRouche's leadership in fighting for the solutions to the accelerating global financial-monetary calamity, are receiving wide attention in Russia. In addition to his two recent live interviews (Aug. 21 and Sept. 22) with Russia's English-language TV channel, Russia Today, here is further evidence that his ideas are being heeded, at the highest levels of Russian policymaking.

• **Russian Railways chief Vladimir Yakunin: LaRouche warned me about this crisis.**

In the Oct. 2 issue of the leading Russian business daily *Kommersant*, the CEO of Russian Railways (RZhD), Vladimir Yakunin, was interviewed under

the headline, “Liberal Capitalism Is Coming to an End in Russia.” At the outset of his interview, Yakunin states bluntly that Lyndon LaRouche, the “American alternative economist,” had warned him of the on-rushing global financial breakdown crisis a long time ago.

Yakunin heads the state-owned railway company, a huge enterprise whose high-speed rail and transcontinental expansion projects are a critical component of Russia’s economic development policy. He is a long-time associate of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, and the co-founder of the International Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations.”

Here is an excerpt from the interview:

Kommersant: When did you realize that there would be a financial crisis?

Yakunin: A year and a half ago. I am not making this up. I remember my first conversation with the American alternative economist, Professor LaRouche [Lyndon LaRouche—*Kommersant*]. He is someone who uses quite powerful algorithms for evaluating the state of the economy and its prospects. And he said to me, “Vladimir, I can tell you with certainty, that the economic crisis is already taking place.” He emphasized that the basis of the crisis is the transformation of the economy and, above all, finance, into a virtual economy and virtual finances. Out of the entire monetary circulation taking place in the world today, in his view, only about 15% of the paper money is backed by real value—industrial production, raw materials, etc. It seems to me that right now we are witnessing the accuracy of this formula. This Summer, I have been discussing the topic of the crisis both with other economists, and with my friends in the government, so the crisis itself was not unexpected. But I am not a professional financier. If the crisis was visible and obvious to me, it should have been visible and obvious to the people who are running financial policy.

• **LaRouche interviewed by Russian *Pole Star* on his “Four-Powers” proposal.**

The popular Russian patriotic webjournal *Polyarnaya Zvezda* (*Pole Star*), on Oct. 1, published an interview with LaRouche, under the headline, “The world financial system has entered the catastrophic phase of its collapse.” The *Pole Star*, founded in Yekaterinburg, Russia, is widely read throughout Russian-speaking areas of Eurasia.

Asked about the current financial crisis, LaRouche

replies: “The present international monetary-financial system is disintegrating, and has no future in its present form. The breakup could come as soon as within weeks. The attempts to rescue bankrupt enterprises at public expense, as are occurring, most notably in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A., threaten a general collapse of the entire world’s monetary-financial systems within a time as early as weeks, or somewhat longer. The crucial issue is posed as the question: ‘Is it possible, even now, for the U.S.A. to approach Russia, China, and India, with the proposal for using the lever of the same constitutional characteristic of the U.S.A., which Franklin Roosevelt employed, in 1944 at Bretton Woods, to replace the presently absolutely bankrupt present world monetary systems by an international credit-system using the potential advantage of the U.S. Federal Constitution, as Franklin Roosevelt had intended for the post-war world, had he lived to prevent Truman from becoming U.S. President?’”

“I believe that sheer necessity requires that this change must occur very soon. We are in the kind of general monetary-financial breakdown-crisis of the present world monetary systems, in which even simple desperation favors such a reform.”

In an editorial note, LaRouche is introduced as “the American public figure who has run for the Democratic Presidential nomination in the past, an original thinker, whose scientific interests embrace economics, politics, history, mathematics, physics, music theory, and many other areas.”

• **Prof. Stanislov Menshikov cites Medvedev, LaRouche on need for U.S.-Russian cooperation on financial system.**

In his column for the Sept. 26 Russian weekly *Slovo*, noted economist Prof. Stanislav Menshikov cited both President Dmitri Medvedev and Lyndon LaRouche, on the need for Russian-American cooperation in the face of the systemic world financial crisis.

“Counting on foreign speculators to create a favorable situation for Russia,” wrote Menshikov, “is a shaky basis for Russian financial policy. It would be more sensible to reach agreement on coordinating Russia’s actions with the U.S.A. and other financial centers, to combat the world crisis. President Medvedev advocated such cooperation, back in June at the Group of Eight meeting in Japan. The idea has also been supported by prominent American figures, particularly Lyndon LaRouche.”