

NEWS

Death Penalty, LaRouche Case Presented To U.N. Human Rights Commission

On August 19, Dr. Hans Köchler, president of the Vienna-based International Progress Organization (I.P.O.), and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, wife of the jailed American political figure Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. addressed the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva.

Dr. Köchler expressed dismay that, in spite of specific allegations made to the same sub-commission in August 1991, no steps had been taken by the U.S. government:

"When the International Progress Organization warned of serious abuses in the judicial system in the United States of America, it did so in the earnest hope, that steps would be taken to promptly remedy these abuses.

"A year has now gone by, and one must unfortunately conclude that not only have no remedial steps been taken, but developments show that the warnings uttered by the I.P.O. must be reiterated today.

"(1) The practice of the *death penalty* in the U.S. So far this year, twenty-two persons have been executed, more than in any other year since the death penalty was re-introduced to the United States in 1976. The turning point for world public opinion was the case of Roger K. Coleman, who was almost certainly innocent. A hearing to examine new evidence was denied, on the formal grounds that his defense had filed the motion one day late. In spite of appeals by the Pope, by high officials of nations closely allied to the United States, by thousands of individuals and Civil Rights organizations, Coleman was executed on May 20, 1992.

"Flying in the face of the international outcry, the death penalty contin-



Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses U.N. Human Rights Commission. At the right is Dr. Hans Köchler, president of the International Progress Organization.

ues to be carried out. The I.P.O. takes this opportunity to support the European Parliament's resolution of June 11, 1992, most especially the appeal to candidates for high office in the United States to set an example by opposing the death penalty.

"(2) On June 15, 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that **kidnapping foreign citizens** abroad (*U.S. vs. Alvarez-Machain*), to bring them to trial in the United States, does not contradict the U.S. Constitution. This decision by the Supreme Court under William Rehnquist, a decision strongly criticized by the minority of the Court, seeks to place U.S. law above all principles of international law. Both the Mexican and Canadian governments intervened as *amici curiae* against the U.S. in this instance, and a storm of protest broke out in Latin America when the decision was announced. Were this and other, similar decisions to be allowed to stand, we may expect

a complete breakdown of the rule of law in the relations among nations.

"(3) The case of U.S. political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche, which the I.P.O. has repeatedly brought to the attention of this body and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, is of great concern to a growing circle of international observers."

The LaRouche Case

Dr. Köchler then gave the floor to Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who testified as follows:

"For more than three years and eight months, my husband, Lyndon LaRouche, presently an independent presidential candidate in the United States, has been jailed, though innocent, in an American prison in Rochester, Minnesota.

"In a railroad trial, which trampled on all principles of the Rule of Law of a civilized nation, my husband was
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falsely charged and in reality condemned as a political dissident against the currently ruling American establishment, to fifteen years in prison. The intent was to sink along with him, the political movement he inspired. Yet, despite the banning—through a Federally ordered bankruptcy ruling—of a scientific magazine spreading LaRouche's ideas, of a publishing company, and of a weekly newspaper, as well as criminal proceedings against fifty additional collaborators of my husband (with sentences of up to seventy-seven years), the American prosecuting authorities have not succeeded in wiping out this political movement.

"Nonetheless, my husband, innocent, remains in prison, because massive injustice was committed in the trial. All appeals have upheld the verdict of Judge Albert V. Bryan. The same Judge Bryan (on May 18, 1992) rejected the last legal recourse, a motion for a new trial, and confirmed

his own unjust verdict. The defense, under former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, documented the massive trial illegalities in sixteen single points backed up by six massive files of evidence—none of which was seriously taken into consideration by Judge Bryan. One leading obstacle to a fair trial for my husband is the refusal on the part of President Bush and the prosecution, to release any exculpatory material, under the pretext of 'national security reasons.'

"I have known my husband for over twenty years, and have been happily married to him for fourteen of these; and I must say that I find him the most noble and selfless person I have ever met. He has devoted all his energies and his life's work to bring about a just New World Economic Order, which is coherent with the divine order of Creation, and which can guarantee the inalienable and human rights of each person living on this planet.

"Indelibly printed in my memory is the impression left on me by our two discussions with Indira Gandhi regarding a forty-year development plan for India, designed by my husband, which she wanted to implement, before she was assassinated shortly thereafter. In 1982, President López Portillo of Mexico began to implement a program designed by my husband, named 'Operation Juárez,' which could have turned the Ibero-American continent into a prospering part of the world. From these and many other similar experiences over the last two decades, I know that literally millions of people look to my husband and his fight for a global reconstruction plan as the only hope and alternative to a worldwide Thirty Years' War, famine, and depopulation. The same is true for the re-emerging Civil Rights movement in the U.S., which sees in my husband the person who is taking up the fight of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a moment when civil and human rights in the U.S. are trampled upon as never before.

"These are the real reasons why, on orders of Dr. Kissinger among others,

an unimaginable array of lies has been fabricated by the prosecution.

"I still have the sound of the low-flying helicopters in my ears, which in the early dawn of October 6, 1986, buzzed our residence in Leesburg, while an armed 'combat force' comprising four hundred military and police agents was deployed to raid our home—during which my husband, and possibly myself, were to be shot by storming agents. It was only a telegram to President Reagan and a worldwide mobilization which prevented a bloodbath. Documents today confirm the existence of this plan. The same documents confirm the suspicion I had at the time, that special units of the American military participated in the action, and that the Pentagon collaborated fully in the operation! What a monstrous event, that the military should be deployed against a political opposition movement in the United States!

"In my own activity as President of the Schiller Institute in Germany, I have had to experience time and again, how the same slanders and lies, spread in the judicial apparatus and 'anti-LaRouche task force' against my husband, have been retailed through American outfits, embassies, and other international American organizations, against my work in Germany and that of my Institute worldwide. Hundreds of documents, which have come into my hands through the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), prove this to be the case.

"I know that my husband is innocent. I too have personally experienced the machinations of his enemies in their attempt to 'eliminate' him. Up until the present, the American judicial apparatus has obsequiously ratified an act of injustice which cries out to heaven for redress.

"Next month my husband will have to spend his seventieth birthday behind prison walls. I appeal to you to do everything in your power, to liberate my innocent, jailed husband, and to render justice to him, who has taken the cross for the millions, who are poor and have no voice in this world."

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