

LaRouche Hails PLO-Israeli Accord: Development Needed To Stop Bloodshed

The economic development proposals contained within the draft agreement worked out by the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Israeli government, contain the seed for "overcoming the bitter harvest of bloodshed, anger, and rage which has been built up over the decades so far," in the Middle East, said Lyndon LaRouche in comments on the Yasser Arafat-Shimon Peres agreement to the Labor Day Weekend Schiller Institute Conference. LaRouche insisted on the importance of these accords, precisely because they contain the *economic* basis necessary to overcome decades of war. This approach, which LaRouche himself pioneered during the 1970's in correspondence with Israeli and Palestinian political layers, has become known as the "Oasis Plan" for Middle East development.

According to LaRouche, "Without an economic development agreement as the foundation of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, there is no possibility of a worthwhile agreement of any sort." He characterized as "stubborn folly" the attitude adopted by many on both sides of the conflict that a *political* settlement had to be reached *before* any talk about economics was possible, because "unless you establish a fundamental common interest between Israelis and Palestinians, a recognition of a common interest among two distinct, sovereign nations, you can have no durable basis for overcoming the bitter harvest of bloodshed, anger, and rage which has been built up over the decades so far. Only that kind of economic development which transforms the entire region and brings such strength of joy that it overwhelms the accumulated bitterness, can succeed."

"Besides," LaRouche added, "if you keep the Palestinians in poverty, and if you do not provide optimism among Israelis for the benefits to cooperation,

you will not have the spirit needed to maintain any kind of peace agreement."

LaRouche also warned that there would be forces opposing the accords. Former British foreign minister Lord Carrington, Henry Kissinger, and also "on the Russian side, those in the former KGB and related services, who were too close to the British intelligence services, will be very dangerous factors in trying to disrupt this. . . ." He also warned that terrorist "friends of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)" would attempt to spark bloodshed also.

LaRouche's Plan

LaRouche's advocacy of economic development as the only basis for peace in the Middle East region goes back to the 1970's. In August 1977, he published an article in the Paris newsletter *Israel & Palestine* under the headline "A Future For the Middle East," in which he stated: "The objective basis for a Middle East settlement is the economic-development package we have indicated. Any other approach will fail, will be quickly degraded into farce—and probable war. However, it is not mere material advantage in itself which provides

the basis for peace. It is the fact that a commitment of the governments to realize high rates of scientific and technological progress fosters humanist outlooks."

That article was one of a score of published writings, confidential policy papers, and detailed programs that LaRouche and his associates produced beginning 1975. In the 1986 period, when then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was promoting a new Marshall Plan for the region, LaRouche provided a series of detailed blueprints, which included many of the substantive economic programs now in the process of being forged between Israel and the P.L.O.

During his 1990 campaign for Virginia's 10th Congressional District seat, LaRouche issued a white paper entitled, "A Peace Plan in the True Interests of Arabs and Israelis," detailing his proposals, in particular for regional infrastructure (water, energy, and transportation) development projects, linking these to his call for a Paris-Berlin-Vienna "Triangle" of European economic expansion launched as a locomotive for world economic recovery.



Since the mid-1970's, Lyndon LaRouche has campaigned for Mideast peace based upon economic development of the region.