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Lyndon and Helga LaRouche meet with Dr. Mohamed al-Khalifa, President of Sudan's Transitional National Assembly.

## LaRouches Hold Discussions in Sudan

Lyndon and Helga LaRouche visited the embattled sub-Saharan nation of Sudan during the week of Dec. 17-23, 1994 as guests of the government, holding many meetings with ministers of government, including with President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, and with the religious leader Dr. Hassan Abdullah al-Turabi.

Mr. LaRouche identified the significance of the trip in two ways.

"First of all, President Clinton and his close advisers are attempting to prevent a crowd in London from, among other things, getting a general war going against Islam; and therefore, I was very happy to visit our friends in Sudan, with the thought that the facts I would be able to develop in my own way, would be helpful to furthering that process of seeking peace and stability around the world, in what the President's trying to do, as I see it."

Second, as Mr. LaRouche put it, "Today there are many people, especially in London, who are trying to influence certain people around our State Department, or Frank Wolf, the Congressman from Northern Virginia, into getting the United States into a fuss with Sudan.

"Well, there are two countries in Africa—Nigeria and Sudan—both

presently slated for destruction by London. If those two countries or either one of them goes, all of sub-Saharan Africa, Black Africa, goes into the pit irreparably. That has strategic implications which can affect the life and welfare of everybody on this planet, including some people in the United States who don't realize how important Africa is to them."

### In the Spotlight

The LaRouches' trip was a newsmaker in Sudan. Mr. LaRouche reported, "I met with many ministers of government. We had about three or four meetings a day of that sort, which were featured on television. At the beginning of each meeting, they had the TV camera there, and I would appear on the nightly TV, and so forth.

"I met also, of course, with the religious leader Dr. Hassan Abdullah al-Turabi. I had one meeting with him and another chance to run into him at an evening reception, which went on for some time, where we had some discussion there with others."

LaRouche and his wife stayed in Khartoum throughout their week's visit. LaRouche also addressed scholars and government officials at the university there.

## Washington, D.C.

More than 1,700 people jammed Howard University's Cramton Auditorium on January 14 for Washington, D.C.'s first full-length performance of the play *Through The Years*, by Schiller Institute vice-chairman Amelia Boynton Robinson.

The play's author, Mrs. Robinson, who catalyzed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s intervention into Selma, Alabama in 1964, became synonymous during 1965 with the campaign for the right to vote, which culminated in President Johnson's introduction, and Congressional passage, of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

*Through the Years* was written in 1936, to raise money for the creation of a community center for the predominantly rural, and segregated, African-American population of Dallas County, one of the poorest counties in Alabama and the nation.

The play, which uses the African-American Spiritual as the *Motivführung* for its narrative action, spans the life of Joshua Terrell, a character based on historical models, including Mrs. Robinson's own ancestor, Congressman Robert Smalls, a slave who successfully commandeered a Confederate vessel and sailed it into Union waters during the Civil War. For many of the sixty-nine performers, especially those in their teens or younger, the play was their first exposure to the existence of such forebears, and the historical issues faced by them.

After an invocation given by the Rev. Wade Watts, former head of the Oklahoma NAACP, Mrs. Robinson was introduced to the audience as "the woman who asked Dr. Martin Luther King to fight side by side with her in Selma." In her remarks, Mrs. Robinson emphasized that "African-Americans have contributed to the United States its only original music, and that is the African-American Spiritual." She also commented that when she wrote the play, she had no idea that she would become part of the same history as that from which, and about which, the play was composed.

# Sees 'Through the Years' Performed



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**Right:** author Amelia Boynton Robinson, Institute vice-chairman. **Left:** scenes from "Through the Years": slave auction (top), Union Army (bottom).



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which the former slave Terrell is appointed commander of a regiment. Most of the soldier-actors in this scene were female members of the ROTC chapter of a Washington high school.

The 35-person chorus included soloists who punctuated the ensemble-sung Spirituals with single-voice performance. These Spirituals function to lift the action of the narrative, through the use of the dramatic chorus, from prose to sung poetry. The songs, in turn, center around the idea that all

men are created in the image of God.

Following the performance, director Lynne Speed highlighted the impact of the Spirituals on the young performers:

Various of the play's scenes riveted the audience. Two particularly noteworthy examples are the "slave auction scene" and the "Union Army scene," in

"As the legendary singer Roland Hayes once said, 'you may search the entire body of the work known as Afro-American Spirituals, but you will find not one word of malice in them.' This was a particularly important element for the elementary and high-school students in the play. They began by simply memorizing their parts. Then, they became familiar with the historical events that surrounded the specific action in the play. When we put their improved understanding together with the singing, they could often understand almost instantly ideas that we had been trying to work on for hours otherwise."

The office of newly elected Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry sent greetings to the performance. Barry stated, "It is indeed an honor to pay homage to Amelia Boynton Robinson, who played a vital role during the Civil Rights movement and is a living legacy and true inspiration to us all."

## Honor Dr. King by Keeping His Dream Alive

The Schiller Institute paid tribute to the life and work of slain Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a Martin Luther King Conference, held in the nation's capital on Jan. 18.

Keynote speaker Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. told the audience of 150 political, Civil Rights, religious, and embassy representatives that "what Martin said, and what is exemplified by his last address, is what needs to be done, not just for African-Americans, but for *everyone*, in order to have a nation and a world in which it's fit to live, in which these great injustices are no longer toler-

ated, in which the right and just conscience of mankind becomes more efficient, or less inefficient."

Institute vice-chairman Amelia Boynton Robinson, who has been a leading figure in the fight for Civil Rights for African-Americans for nearly sixty years, introduced the conference. Several other close associates of Dr. King endorsed the meeting, including the Rev. Hosea L. Williams, the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, and the Rev. James Bevel, who spoke on the evening panel.

In what was perhaps the most moving part of LaRouche's speech,

he took his audience inside King's mind, as King struggled with his own "cup of Gethsemane," as Jesus had done before the Crucifixion. Speaking of this *internal* struggle, LaRouche said: "In making the last public address of his life, in reflecting upon the cup of Gethsemane, King walked to the podium, before thousands of people, and said, 'I am drinking the cup. I wish to live, but I am drinking the cup.' And he laid forth a mission." That mission—how to bring social justice to the entire world—was the subject of the full conference discussion.