At the end of the visit, the Schiller Institute delegation participated in the Second Nigerian Economic Summit (May 3-6) in Abuja, which was opened by General Abacha.

After six ministers of the Federal government gave presentations, Lawrence Freeman gave a fifteen-minute speech entitled, “An Economic and Moral Alternative to the Present Monetary System,” in which he reviewed Lyndon LaRouche’s plan for global bankruptcy reorganization and a New Just World Economic Order. The World Bank representative, visibly shaken by the applause Freeman received, was barely able to complete his prepared speech.

After hearing speeches by representatives of Mobil Oil and Michelin, the audience directed all questions to Freeman, with the majority applauding his harsh criticisms of I.M.F./World Bank policies. Freeman concluded by identifying “free trade” as “a fraud concocted by Adam Smith to help the British loot their African colonies during the Nineteenth century.” At that point, a few American and British representatives of multinational companies walked out, while most of the Nigerians cheered enthusiastically.

The privatization law which had been presented to the Ukrainian legislature as part of the package with the I.M.F. budget and a corresponding billion-dollar I.M.F. loan, was debated, put to a vote and defeated. Among the bill’s primary opponents was Prof. Natalya Vitrenko, head of a subcommittee of the Economics Committee; she and MP Vladimir Marchenko had visited the U.S. in March at the invitation of the Schiller Institute.

Economics and Creativity
Halle Hosts Cantor Seminar

Lyndon LaRouche and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche were featured speakers at a special event on May 6 in the central German city of Halle, where the Nineteenth-century mathematician and philosopher Georg Cantor lived and taught. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Cantor’s birth.

Delivering opening greetings from the city government, City Councilman Gaertner reported that Halle is the secret “cultural capital” of the state of Sachsen-Anhalt, in former East Germany, and that the Georg Cantor Gymnasium (High School) in Halle is working to educate a scientific elite.

Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche introduced her husband as the keynote speaker, noting that today there is, in this old university town, no “expert” on Cantor. “An expert obviously can only be somebody who has helped to further develop Cantor’s ideas and freed them from the purely mathematical domain, and this is what Lyndon LaRouche has done,” she said.

LaRouche focussed his remarks on Cantor’s concept of the Transfinite, which was formative in LaRouche’s own creative discovery—involving the application of Cantor’s concept to economic measurement in physical economic theory.

The Transfinite

LaRouche said he had begun his study of Cantor’s work starting from the standpoint of the mathematician Bernhard Riemann’s 1854 habilitation thesis. LaRouche used this study of Cantor and Riemann to attack what he called the “naive imagination,” which considers extension infinitely divisible.

He discussed the relevance of this to the development of the modern nation-state and the breakthrough made by the founder of physical economy, G.W. Leibniz, who made a “revolution in cameralism through the idea of power, in the sense of energy and new forms of technology increasing the power of labor.”
What, then, is the real meaning of science? LaRouche asked. “Science differentiates between bad and good imagination,” he answered. In formal science, if you change an axiom, there is no continuity, there is a gap, he continued. “Whereas in Leibniz’s Monadology, we have an infinite continuity, because, as in all real science, existing objects are not objects of sense-perception, but ideas.”

Ideas Are Metaphors

How does one measure that? “All ideas are metaphors—not numbers or bits of information,” he said. And a metaphor signals the existence of a paradox. This, he said, is how we measure progress. “Every time you have scientific progress, you have a discontinuity. Therefore, economic science is the ordering of discontinuities in the sense of Cantor’s concept of power.”

LaRouche’s remarks fell on fertile ground, as this region of eastern Germany has been wrecked during the last five years with the advent of “free enterprise.” Asked how to convince the German people to continue fighting for solutions, LaRouche said that the enormous courage the people in former East Germany had shown in rising up against the machine guns of the communists, was betrayed afterwards by the political-economic process of the I.M.F.-Treuhand regime. The question therefore is how to maintain and strengthen this quality of courage.

Leipzig Youth Choir

The only way to accomplish this, he said, is to expose people to the works of great art, great drama, and great music. He cited the example of the youth choir of the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where J.S. Bach was choir master and where the 1989 revolution was born. LaRouche heard the choir during his trip, and said the experience was among the most exciting in his life, because it showed how to consciously produce creativity in children.