

Italian Senators Demand New Bretton Woods

On October 19, one-fourth of the Italian Senate introduced a motion to bind their government to seek a summit to save the world from the “devastating effects” of today’s speculation-driven global economic system. The 25 Senators, led by Sen. Riccardo Pedrizzi of the Alleanza Nazionale, mostly represent Christian and conservative opposition parties, but include Senators from two parties in the governing coalition as well.

The Senate move came one week after Lyndon LaRouche had visited Rome. In his meetings with Senators and other influential people, and in testimony before an informal hearing of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, LaRouche elaborated the concepts embraced in the Senate motion.

Excerpts from the motion follow.

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It is the view of the Italian Senate:

That, the financial crises of the 1990’s which have hit Asia, Latin America, and Russia . . . do not represent isolated or fortuitous cases, but are manifestations of a systemic crisis;

That, the financial globalization has

led to a complete deregulation of the markets, above all of the most aggressive and speculative sectors, like the “derivatives” financial products;

That, in the past ten years in particular, there has been a split between the real and the financial economy, which gave birth to a gigantic speculative bubble . . . ;

That, this process has provoked devastating effects not only for the economies, but also for the levels of life and the quality of life particularly of the populations of the countries of the developing sector, and extremely negative effects on the levels of production and employment, with social consequences which are very worrisome also in the industrialized countries;

Considered:

That, we could deal with this situation only by convening a new conference at the level of heads of state and government, like that which took place in Bretton Woods in 1944, with the aim to create a new international monetary system, and to take all the necessary measures to eliminate the “speculative bubble,” such as: rules for the control of the currencies’ exchange

rates, by introducing fixed parities, which could be modified only through the decisions of the sovereign governments, and analysis of the exchange-rate conditions of the economies of the emerging countries; analysis of the emerging market crises; forms of control of the capital movements; the introduction of measures like the Tobin Tax, aiming to limit the speculative operations like the derivative transactions; the creation of new credit lines explicitly oriented towards investments in the sectors of the real economy; the definition of great infrastructure projects of continental dimension;

Binds the Government:

To undertake in particular the initiative to propose the convocation of a new international conference at the level of heads of states and governments, similar to the one organized at Bretton Woods in 1944, with the aim of creating a new international monetary system and of taking all necessary measures to eliminate the mechanisms which led to the formation of the speculative bubble, and of promoting programs to restart the real economy. . . .

Colombian Patriots Launch Call for New Bretton Woods



Former Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo

An Ad Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods, inspired by Lyndon LaRouche’s proposal for forging a new international monetary system based on a global industrialization effort, great infrastructure projects, and full respect for the sovereign nation-state, was founded in the Colombian capital of Bogota on August 17. The meeting was convened by former Colombian Labor Minister Jorge Carrillo, and included participants ranging from university deans and labor leaders, to politicians and clerics, economists and journalists, and

students. It was held at the University Gran Colombia.

The event was organized through a combination of invitations mailed to a broad spectrum of political figures, and radio interviews conducted by Bogota City Councilwoman Elsa Valbuena, one of the founding members of the Ad Hoc Committee. Unable to attend the meeting was Colombian Roman Catholic Primate and Archbishop Pedro Rubiano Saenz, who did send a letter praising the Committee’s efforts to formulate new economic policies that would benefit the poor.