attended the semi-annual conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees and the Schiller Institute, titled, “The World at a Turning Point.” The event was held simultaneously in Burbank, Calif., and Reston, Va.—the two locations reflecting the key battlegrounds, Washington, D.C. and California, in the war to defeat the Synarchist enemy, as elaborated in LaRouche’s keynote address. The more than 400 people attending on the West Coast, and 600-plus on the East Coast, were united, in a technological tour de force, by video teleconference, allowing the full participation, including visual connection, on both coasts, for all phases of the conference. In addition, an international audience participated through the websites of the Schiller Institute, the LaRouche in 2004 campaign, and the EIR homepage.

Overcoming Fears

Highlights of the conference, in addition to LaRouche’s keynote, were an address by Helga Zepp LaRouche, challenging the audience to give up their fears by increasing their Geistesmasen, or intellectual and moral capacities; a special address on the role of young people in building the future, by Chandrachit Yadav, leader of India’s Center for Social Justice; and brief remarks by California State Legislator Mervyn Dymally. A tribute to historian H. Graham Lowry, who passed away earlier this year, was presented by Nancy Spannaus, and demonstrated that Lowry’s approach to history—truth-seeking—must be the basis for continuing history work. There was a panel on music, conducted primarily by members of the Youth Movement.

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‘Dialogue of Civilizations’

Some 350 delegates from 36 countries came together for four days in early September 2003 on the history-laden island of Rhodes, in order to investigate the philosophical, spiritual, and moral foundations for a new and humane world order.

The World Public Forum’s “Dialogue of Civilizations” was organized by the Center of National Glory of Russia; the Titan Capital Corporation (Greece); and the Kapur Surya Foundation (India). The conference’s chairman, Vladimir Yakunin (Deputy Transport Minister of the Russian Federation), and co-chairman Yagdish Kapur (president of the Surya Foundation), along with Titan Corporation president N. Papanicolaou, acted as a well-coordinated team, and had laid the groundwork for the conference in a series of dialogues held earlier in India, Iran, and Russia.

The conference was addressed during the first plenary session by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche, who spoke on “Schiller’s Concept of the Beautiful Soul—A Contribution from German Classicism Toward a New Humane World Order.”

Among the participants were several former heads of government, for example, Inder Kumer Gujral from India, Milosz Zeman from the Czech Republic, and Valdas Adamkus from Lithuania. Leaders of the Russian and Greek Orthodox Churches were present with large delegations, as well as high-ranking religious leaders from Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, and Serbia.

Considering the great diversity in the speakers’ points of view, and the wide spectrum of topics, the draft text of the “Declaration of Rhodes” managed to represent the spirit uniting all participants: a deep distrust of the current world order’s scale of values, according to which the one side seeks to maintain a “consumer society by means of armed force,” while the other side believes it must seek its solution in terrorism. All participants were likewise united in their finding that the present world order is already inflicting intolerable damage upon humanity, plunging the absolute majority of the world’s inhabitants into awful poverty, while at the same time causing the accumulation of absurdly huge quantities of wealth into the hands of a relatively small group of the super-rich.

In order to counter the boundless and senseless appetite for material goods, and its allied counterculture glorifying dominance by force, the World Public Forum will henceforth work to unite the human being’s material side with his spiritual side. On the one hand, the idea of universal human rights—i.e., the right to food, housing, health care, education, clean air, and pure water—must be guaranteed for all people on this planet. But these material prerequisites must be developed alongside the human being’s spiritual side, into a unified and harmonious whole.