

EIR editor addresses patriots in Paraguay

by Cynthia R. Rush

Dennis Small, a collaborator of Lyndon LaRouche and Ibero-American editor of *EIR*, toured the South American nation of Paraguay May 23-28 at the invitation of the Paraguayan Association for Historical and Geopolitical Studies. The visit, whose primary purpose was to present the book *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*, which Small co-authored, found a particularly receptive audience in a nation which in the last century suffered—and heroically resisted—one of the most barbaric depopulation wars unleashed by the British Empire. (The book, already circulating in Spanish, will be released soon in English by *EIR*.)

The Triple Alliance War (1865-70), in which Britain's Lord Palmerston and his "zoo" of agents mobilized the governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay to wage war against Paraguay, is seared in the national memory. This is not only because it exterminated one-half of the population (85% of the males), but also because virtually every single person fought against incredible odds to defend the achievements of a mercantilist, protectionist system which, beginning with President Carlos Antonio López in 1840, and continuing under his son Marshall Francisco Solano López in 1859, had transformed that nation into one of the most economically advanced on the continent. Paraguayans are rightfully proud of their resistance to British genocide, a characteristic which worries the advocates of Palmérston's policies today.

Response among the military

In private meetings as well as a public presentation in Asunción, Small found considerable anger over today's British-inspired plot to destroy Ibero-America's armed forces and the sovereign nations they defend, in order to replace them with a U.N. world dictatorship. That anger is especially strong among Paraguay's military leaders, who have resisted demands to "restructure" themselves out of existence on behalf of the U.N. agenda. Gen. Lino César Oviedo, head of the Army, has taken a firm stand in defense of the institution.

One of three presentations Small made before military-related groups was to an audience of 500 officers held at the headquarters of the First Army Corps in Asunción. During a two-hour presentation and discussion, members of the audience expressed their concern over foreign-dictated demilitarization plans, as well as the hemispheric and world economic crises.

The *EIR* editor also spoke at Paraguay's National War College, which trains the nation's elites; only 22 civilians and 22 military officers are admitted each year for the one-year course. There, he detailed the world's economic crisis and its implications for national security. He told his audience that the world's financial and economic situation at this point is like that of the *Titanic* after it hit the iceberg—it is sinking and nothing can save it, and it must be replaced by a new system. He underscored the impact of the financial collapse on national security, with a detailed discussion of the contents of *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*.

This was followed by a lively discussion, with questions ranging from the water problem in the United States and its effects on agriculture, to the extent of LaRouche's political influence in the United States. Small explained LaRouche's concepts of physical economy and described his intellectual authorship of what became known as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). He elaborated on how the fight for those ideas had earned LaRouche the enmity of the oligarchy, which during the Bush administration jailed him for five years, along with several of his collaborators—including Small—some of whom are still incarcerated for long sentences.

Strategic location

Paraguay is not a large country. Its population is only 4 million people, of whom 800,000 live in the capital, Asunción, a port city on the Paraguay River. The Triple Alliance War reduced the population from 450,000 in 1864 to 230,000 after the war. After the ravages of that war and subsequent occupation by Brazil, the economy never significantly developed: Asunción didn't even have running water until 1954, and today the national economy is based largely on contraband.

Paraguay is strategically located at the crossroads of Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia, and has easy access to Uruguay. Its strategic location may explain the unusually large deployment of, reportedly, 1,500 officials at the U.S. embassy in Asunción.

There is also some nervousness at the State Department about President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, an engineer by profession who doesn't quite fit the mold of the type of leader desired by the U.N. crowd. Although an advocate of privatization and liberal free-trade economic policy, Wasmosy has thus far defended the nation's military from the plot to destroy it.

In a wide-ranging interview published in the May 26 issue of the Buenos Aires daily *Ambito Financiero*, Wasmosy charged that Fidel Castro's São Paulo Forum was behind attempts to destabilize Paraguay, blasted the industrialized nations' use of ecology to prevent development in the Third World, and underscored that the Catholic Church and the Armed Forces are the institutional pillars of Paraguayan nationalism.