LaRouche's development perspective for Israel and the Middle East

In December 1983, in the days preceding a fact-finding visit to Israel by his collaborators, presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. released a document entitled, A Proposal To Begin Development of a Long-Range Economic Development Policy for the State of Israel. *In the political-economic climate defined by Shimon Peres's "Marshall Plan" proposal for the Middle East,* EIR *has chosen to republish excerpts from that policy document in which LaRouche outlined a general science of development for nations and regions. In what follows, we reprint those portions that deal more specifically with the problems of development of Israel and the Middle East.*

Since April 1975, my associates and I have had intermittent discussions of the strategic significance of Israel's economic development both for Israel's long-range security and as an essential lever for securing durable peace in that region of the world. I believe that the time has come for *EIR* to undertake an in-depth study of possible outlines of a "crash program" for economic development of Israel.

The study should include an overview of high-impact economic development projects and policies for neighboring countries and regions of Asia and Africa. This should seek to identify points of direct cooperation (such as are implicit in the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal as an agro-industrial-energy development project), and efforts which Israel and other nations should encourage politically whether or not direct Israeli involvement were included. Of the nations of the region, only Israel and Egypt command the resources of competence to contribute a leading part in defining practical approaches. . . .

The Israeli economy as such

The principal problems of the Israeli economy are the high per-capita indebtedness and the spill-over of the "post-industrial society" policy from the United States and Western Europe. The debt-ratio is not an insoluble problem, provided the United States considers the viability of the Israeli economy a matter of the vital strategic interest of the United States and Western Europe. Mere agreements on the restructuring of Israel's foreign debt could make that aspect of the combined problems manageable. The erosive effects of Israel's drift into becoming a "post-industrial society" is immediately the fundamental problem. . . .

It were desirable that Israel's labor-force be apportioned in approximately the following ranges: a) 55-60% for combined production-costs plus national-defense, b) 5% or more for research and development, c) of production costs, less than 10% needed to produce required agricultural domestic needs plus a significant agricultural export-volume, and d) less than 40% in various categories of administrative, sales and services other than research and development. Israel should have relatively the highest level of per-capita energy production-consumption in the world for both industrial and agricultural production. . . . The emphasis in Israel's economy should be to foster agro-industrial employment of the labor-force of a small nation in the most advanced agro-industrial technologies in the world, with heavy emphasis upon research and development and advanced categories of machine-tool production of high-value per unit-weight in export-markets.

Consistent with this, Israel's technology-policy should be that of leap-frogging the advanced level of technologies in other nations, selecting those aspects of leap-frogging potentials which are adapted to a nation with a relatively tiny national labor-force. . . .

Israel's emphasis must be on utilizing the advantages of the Jewish diaspora, to utilize the diaspora's deep penetration of Western European culture, respecting mastery of the most advanced technologies, while extending the adaptive powers obtained through the diaspora to make Israel a most effective mediator of technology into developing nations. Israel has a natural potential for becoming a leading force in technology-transfer to and among developing nations. . . .

For example, Egypt is the reservoir of technological potential of the Arab world. It is not necessary, in this location, to detail the difficulties of realizing that potential. If the Qattara Depression project were implemented, to develop an agro-industrial energy-producing center in that location, and if the opening of an "old-new" branch of the Nile into the Qattara exit were developed, this would represent a fundamental leap forward in Egypt's development. Integral to this undertaking is the case of Sudan, whose underdeveloped agricultural potential represents the future breadbasket of northern Africa. The rational development of Egypt and Sudan implies upstream agreements on regional water-manage-

ment and related measures of development with African states on the headwaters of the Nile system.

If biomass-growth is fostered adequately over a region including Egypt-Sudan and the Middle East into the Euphrates-Tigris valleys, the vapor transpiration regulated by adequate biomass-growth over such an area means the production of new auxiliary weather-rainfall systems. This benefit is secured by promoting developments to the west of the Nile, including: a) a central sub-Saharan water-management project pivoted around the creation of a lake in Zaire to supply water into the vicinity of Lake Chad, and water-management projects in the western sub-Saharan region, supplemented by development of a brush-barrier along the Sahel-Sahara boundary. To facilitate this development, France should develop the "logistical spine" of a main-trunk, high-speed rail-system from Dakar to Djibouti.

For this entire region, the medium-term policy should be the utilization of fission-power, steering India to produce thorium-cycle heat-temperature gas-cooled reactor units as part of its role in the international division of labor. Israel's leading included concern should be the development of qualitative improvement of methods of desalination of water through aid of advanced physical principles—the strategic key to North Africa and the Middle East. Abundant energy-supplies based on high energy-flux density sources, made economical by application of advanced physical principles for desalination, is a strategic economic-political factor of the highest importance. Agro-industrial complexes based upon these and complementary technologies, are the key export-potential for Israel.

In practice, Israel has the political leverage to tilt U.S. policy in this direction, and thus to make Israel's role in such directions practicable. It is feasible, if a consistent, coherent effort to such effect is mobilized.

Israel is in fact a "garrison state," a condition imposed by circumstances not readily nor quickly altered. Military-security considerations and economic-security considerations must be efficiently integrated in this small nation. The resolution of this requirement is accomplished by a military general-staff policy and practice modeled upon the precedent of Lazare Carnot's work for France. This implies the required, coherent approach to the logistics of Israel, its development as an anti-"post-industrial society," a very advanced high-technology exporting agro-industrial nation, preferably with the highest ratios of employment of the labor-force among nations in the directions indicated. . . .

Science policy

. . . Today, as we have emphasized in an earlier location, Israeli policy, and Jewish outlooks more generally, are divided between emphasis upon the Holocaust of 1938-45 and emphasis upon approximately 2,000 years of Jewish survival under conditions of diaspora. It is our view and proposal that the Jewish state must employ the proven genius of the diaspora. As the Jew survived through all the persectutions into 1938-45, through contributions to the cultures of the nations among which Jews were dispersed, so the Jewish state as a state among nations may employ the "Jewish genius" for contributing to civilization as a whole upon the premise of Israeli strategy. This power on which we focus our attention here is the power obtained by mobilizing a commitment to development of the powers of the human mind, to produce thus something good needed by nations. . . .

What we propose for Israel is the implementation of a "knowledge-export" policy: the restructuring of the composition of employment of the Israeli labor-force needed to make Israel in net effect a "knowledge-exporting" economy.

This means, first, a shift away from the drift into a "post-industrial society," to become emphatically an industrial society emphasizing capital-intensive employment of its labor-force, steering this development with "crash program" efforts on educational reforms and scientific institutions, to the effect the industrialization of Israel's economy leads into the "knowledge export" role of the economy in world-markets.

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. . . This implies a research-training institution modeled upon the Carnot-Monge Ecole Polytechnique precedent as the "science-driver" element of the effort. The three indicated areas of scientific breakthroughs (plasma regimes, directed-energy regimes, biological-medical research), should be application task-oriented for: 1) agronomy; 2) energy; 3) new industrial technologies based on new physical principles; 4) integrated agro-industrial nuplex designs. . . .

Technology as such

. . . In Israel and adjoining areas, including Egypt and Sudan, the emphasis must clearly be on development of agro-industrial complexes associated with nodes of large-scale energy and water-management infrastructural projects. Some of these, including an amplified Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal-project, are within Israel's physical means. For other cases, Israel's potential role is that of a participating vendor. In both kinds of instances, this sort of development is the world-market setting for Israel's foreseeable potentials—on condition that the world comes back to its senses on monetary and economic policy-issues.