

LaRouche on dialogue with PLO

The following statement was released on Dec. 16 by 1988 Democratic presidential pre-candidate Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr.:

I am obliged, and also greatly pleased to have this occasion to congratulate the U.S. government and PLO Chairman Arafat on the actions which have led into the official discussions between the two parties.

This is a development for which I have hoped, and sought to bring about since my 1975 meetings with both leading Arabs and Israelis on this subject. All who have worked to bring this present development about, should consider themselves recipients of my personal gratitude on that account.

None of us familiar with the complexities of Israeli and Arab politics would dare to suggest that the long-sought goal of Middle East peace is assuredly in sight. However, until the dialogue between the U.S.A. and the

PLO began, the injustices and bloodshed in the Middle East would continue indefinitely.

Although I will respect any argument Israel submits to me respecting the security of Israel within its recognized borders, there is no rational basis for Israeli objections to U.S. official dialogue with representatives of the PLO.

There is never a need for peace negotiations except between forces which have been engaged in killing one another; the mere fact that PLO members have killed Israelis, and that Israelis have been killing and oppressing Palestinian Arabs, is not a rational argument against a peace process, but is rather the best possible argument for one to begin.

The fact that Israel's government lacks presently the political will and capacity to enter into such discussions, is no grounds for objecting to the U.S. entry into the talks. It has probably been the case all along, that just peace between Israel and the PLO would never occur without first steps in that direction by the nation which has spent the most to subsidize Israel's economy and existence, the United States.

We are tired of this bloodshed in the Middle East. Since the PLO has met all the preconditions for beginning the peace process, our government has rightly accepted its moral responsibility for taking the next logical step.