

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Malthusian Genocide Escalates Globally—The LaRouche Organization Supplies Political, Intellectual Weapon

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—A brief survey of the world today can but make any person of conscience weep—and commit to fight:

With scenes of Black men being rounded up on the southern U.S. border, herded into vehicles with hands and legs shackled, and transported abroad without being told their destination, the U.S. Special Envoy to Haiti Daniel Foote today resigned, countering in his statement: “I will not be associated with the United States’ inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants to Haiti, a country where American officials are confined to secure compounds because of the danger posed by armed gangs in control of daily life. [Haiti] simply cannot support the forced infusion of thousands of returned migrants lacking food, shelter, and money without additional, avoidable human tragedy. Surging migrants to our borders will only grow as we add to Haiti’s unacceptable misery.”

In Lebanon, the national power company announced that it was down to its last remaining stocks, that it can generate less than 500 MW of electricity with oil secured from Iraq. The notice read: “The network already experienced total blackouts across the country seven times and if this continues there is a high risk of reaching total and complete blackout by end September.”

From Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad told the press: “The sanctions imposed by the United States are suffocating the Syrian people. The level of poverty has increased, the lack of medicine has increased. Remarkably, we don’t find even the main medicine to treat people who are suffering from cancer, from other diseases, even the coronavirus.”

In Yemen, David Beasley, the head of the World Food Program, warned that “16 million Yemenis are marching toward starvation,” and rations will be further cut in October if emergency aid is not forthcoming. “We need the war to end, number one,” he said, “and if donors are getting fatigued, well, end the war! They don’t have any money left over to buy anything. It is a heartbreak, it really is.”

In Afghanistan, as the U.S. Treasury refuses to release \$8 billion belonging to the Afghani people, for claimed “humanitarian” reasons, Beasley has warned that 28 million people out of the 37 million population are facing starvation in a nation devastated by 20 years of NATO occupation and war.

Across Europe, due to the Green fanatics shutting down nuclear-, coal- and gas-powered facilities, gas and electricity prices have increased catastrophically, such that nearly 3 million working families cannot even afford to heat their homes.

The madness is not hidden. Everywhere outside of Asia, both in poor nations and in industrialized ones, it is impossible not to recognize that we are increasingly living in a dark age, where children are told they can take mind-destroying drugs and change their sex if it suits their manipulated fancy, but are denied any sense of a future as a productive and happy human being. Economies are being crushed by the fake science peddled as anthropogenic climate change and by an emerging hyperinflationary explosion in the Western financial system, as well as the failure to contain the coronavirus. Despite the wisdom of ending the “endless war” in Afghanistan, new wars against superpowers Russia and China are openly being planned by the Anglo-American military-industrial complex and their Wall Street and City of London financiers. Classical beauty has been discarded in favor of glorified ugliness.

And yet, the Schiller Institute and The LaRouche Organization see this as a moment of optimism, in which, as the English poet Percy Shelley wrote in *A Defence of Poetry*, the extreme danger forces people to drop their indifference to the rest of humanity, and become more capable of

comprehending “intense and impassioned conceptions respecting man and nature.” This is a revolutionary moment.

The LaRouche Organization today released a 56-page pamphlet for mass distribution aimed at arming the population, intellectually, for this revolution. Titled “The Coming U.S. Economic Miracle on the New Silk Road,” the Table of Contents is provided below. Copies can be obtained by contacting any member of the organization. Whether the human race will descend into Armageddon or create a new global Renaissance depends on how you choose to act at this pregnant moment of history.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday September 24, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

LaRouche Organization Releases Pamphlet, ‘The Coming U.S. Economic Miracle on the New Silk Road’

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—The LaRouche Organization today released a new, 56-page pamphlet under that title, to mobilize our citizens to bring about what can and must be the American future, requiring only that the population stop being small, and reach for the stars. The printed copies are expected from the printer early next week for mass distribution.

The Introduction begins:

“On January 20, 1961, in his inaugural address at the height of the Cold War, John F. Kennedy spoke these words to the nation:

“ ‘Let both sides [the U.S. and the Soviet Union] seek to invoke the wonders of science instead of its terrors. Together let us explore the stars, conquer the deserts, eradicate disease, tap the ocean depths, and encourage the arts and commerce. ...

“ ‘And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved. ...

“ ‘Now the trumpet summons us again—not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are—but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation”—a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself.

“ ‘Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?...

“ ‘And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.

“ ‘My fellow citizens of the world: Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.’ ”

That segment from his inaugural is then followed by a subhead asking: “With Kennedy’s Assassination, Has Something in Us Died as Well?”

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Mexican President López Obrador’s Government Says Belt and Road Initiative Off the Table

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—Mexico’s Ambassador to China Jesús Seade told *El Financiero* on Sept. 13 that China’s One Belt, One Road project (better known as the Belt and Road Initiative) “has yet to demonstrate that it is something which is necessary, and at this time it is not perceived as the step to take.” While he spoke of Mexico’s interest in increasing trade with China, and attracting Chinese investment into such money-makers as the tourism and hotel “industry,” Seade was delivering the message that Washington has demanded of the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO): to officially take joining the BRI off the agenda.

The announcement comes as part of the geopolitical package which AMLO has been mouthing, of turning Mexico into the replacement manufacturing center for U.S. corporations currently operating in China—“nearshoring” supply chains, as this game is labeled.

Here Citigroup has emerged as a key player. The day before Seade’s message was published, Manuel Romo, the head of Citibanamex, revealed to *El Economista* that the Mexican branch of Citibank is “coordinating” meetings between Mexican officials and directors of 25 U.S. companies which Citibanamex has identified as targets for a first wave of companies to pull out of China and head to Mexico. Those are companies which already operate in Mexico; the next phase of this operation, he said, will be to “attract” companies that are new to Mexico to leave China and go into Mexico. This will consolidate Mexico as an “exporting power,” he claimed.

Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser, the British citizen who took control of Citigroup last March, discussed these plans personally with López Obrador, during an Aug. 8-9 visit to Mexico. Fraser, Romo, and the Latin American director for Citigroup, Ernesto Torres Cantu, met privately with López Obrador, and then with Banco de México's Governor Alejandro Díaz de León. It was in the same period of August that Seade—the Oxford-trained former WTO and IMF official who led AMLO's negotiations for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada treaty which replaced NAFTA—assumed his post as Ambassador to China.

The turn has not been lost on some in AMLO's base. On Sept. 20, Antonio Villamil of Guacamole News, the pro-AMLO social media network, unhappily put together the Citibank story with the rejection of the Belt and Road, and the incredible pressure put on Mexico by the U.S. Southern Command, and Republicans and Democrats alike, not to work with China.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Britain Hit Hardest by Energy Price Increases?

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—All European countries are alarmed by the drastic increase of natural gas prices over past weeks, with no relief on the horizon. As gas reserves in storage sites are low everywhere, shortages of heating fuel for the winter are feared—as well as mounting public protests against high energy prices, which have also increased.

Against the backdrop of protests, the Spanish government has sent a letter to the EU Commission warning that “the situation may provoke a backlash for initiatives for the reduction of CO₂, as we have seen already in France with the crisis of the Yellow Vests.”

The gas-price crisis seems to be most precarious in Britain, where two more energy suppliers stopped trading yesterday, leaving some 800,000 customers facing higher bills, after a jump in natural gas prices pushed the sector to the brink. Avro Energy and Green Supplier Ltd. became the latest

providers to say they would cease trading, following a handful of others that have exited the market this year. Between them, Avro and Green held 2.9% of the market's domestic customers.

The *Financial Times* now reports that meat producers have already suffered, as high energy prices forced a fertilizer producer to halt production, thus denying the abattoirs the CO2 byproduct used to stun animals for slaughtering and packing food. Some 40% of Britain's energy mix depends on natural gas, which is now mostly imported. According to *The Economist*, British dependency on gas is twice the European average; 22 million of 27.8 million households use gas for heat and cooking. With Britain out of the EU, it is feared it the last of the countries to which continental Europe will export gas, in a shortage of winter gas supplies.

3 Million Workers in EU Cannot Afford Heating

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) reported yesterday that 15% of the EU working poor cannot afford to turn on heating now that autumn has begun. The ETUC cites as reasons, combined low wages and rising electricity and gas prices, which have become worse in 10 EU member states over the last decade. And now soaring electricity prices may plunge even more EU workers into energy poverty. ETUC quotes its Deputy General Secretary Esther Lynch that: “There are millions of low-paid workers in Europe who have to choose between heating their home or feeding their family properly or paying the rent despite working full time. That is unacceptable and defeats the whole point of a minimum wage.”

MALTHUSIAN GENOCIDE

China at G20 Insists West Must End Sanctions vs. Afghanistan!

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the G20 today that unilateral sanctions on Afghanistan should be lifted as one of his six recommendations, according to the Foreign Ministry briefing. First, he said “humanitarian assistance is of utmost urgency,” and

China will provide RMB200 million in supplies to Afghanistan, including an initial batch of 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. “Second, economic sanctions must stop. Various unilateral sanctions or restrictions on Afghanistan should be lifted.” Afghanistan’s foreign reserves are national assets that should not be used to exert political pressure. China called on G20 members to take action to ease Afghanistan’s liquidity pressure. Third, he said, interactions and engagement must be inclusive.

Fourth, counter-terrorism cooperation should be deepened, and the international community should “oppose double standards and selective counter-terrorism, and prevent Afghanistan from becoming a hotbed ... for terrorism again.” Fifth, he said, the U.S. and NATO bear primary responsibility for resolving Afghanistan’s refugee and migrant issue, and the international community should help speed up the country’s economic reconstruction to ease the refugee numbers. Finally, he stressed that China supports the role of the UN as the main channel for upholding peace and stability and promoting humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

USAF Official Claims U.S. in ‘Real Peril’ of Losing War with China without Air Superiority

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Air Force’s obsession with war against China was on display for the third day yesterday at the Air Force Association conference in Maryland. Gen. Mark D. Kelly, commander of Air Combat Command, claimed that the U.S. is in “real peril” of losing a potential war with China if the Air Force cannot shed obsolete gear and rapidly regain a solid advantage in control of the air. “We have to focus our fighter force to the basic realities of a new threat environment,” he said, reported *Air Force Magazine*. “And that requires the fighter force to change.” Kelly said the joint force “requires air superiority” and cannot fight or function without it, and so, this mission area should get priority for resources.

China’s force structure and systems are “designed to inflict more casualties in the first 30 hours of combat than we’ve endured over the last

30 years in the Middle East,” Kelly said. As the Air Force inventory has aged and diminished, the balance with China has tilted more toward Beijing, he argued. Kelly said Russia was able to annex Crimea and China has claimed parts of the South China Sea “without firing a shot,” because contesting those situations has become harder, thanks to adversary air defenses.

As for future deployments under the AUKUS agreement, Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach told reporters that he is keeping open for deploying combat aircraft to Australia. “F-22s, F-35s, F-16s, F-15s, B-52, B-1s — what we have available to us, we will [send], as long as Australia is OK with that,” he said. He stated that the two countries have been sending aircraft to each other’s bases for exercises.

***Global Times* Warns Asians Not To Give In to War Party at Sept. 24 Quad Summit**

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—The *Global Times* editorial today previews the first summit of the Quad heads of state and government in Washington, which is scheduled for Sept. 24. Titled [“Quad Mechanism Turning into ‘Sinister Gang of Indo-Pacific,’ ”](#) it states: “Despite claims of ‘maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region,’ the Quad mechanism is engaged in splitting the region and inciting various forces to oppose China.” It describes the memes used by the Quad—“opposing challenges to the maritime rules-based order” and “creating a safe supply chain,” as based on false premises and aimed at containing China’s development.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga comes in for special treatment, with *Global Times* refuting his claim that China “could present a risk to our country’s peace and prosperity.”

The editors write: “The Quad mechanism itself can do no harm to China. This is because it may form a siege of China, but will never block China’s long-lasting development and rise, or Chinese people’s diligence and resolve to make progress. This also applies to AUKUS. Nonetheless, these new alliances have declared the start of the era of conflicts and

confrontations. They will bring about macro and profound changes to spheres from global structure to codes of conduct.”

They conclude: “We must warn solemnly Japan, India and Australia not to follow the U.S. too far in confronting China. Once they step on the red line of China’s core interests, China will not care about their relations with the U.S., and China will not hesitate to punish them.”

U.S. and Israel Reported To Be Discussing ‘Plan B’ against Iran

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—Israeli journalist Barak Ravid, citing two unnamed Israeli officials, reported in Axios yesterday that the U.S. and Israel held secret talks on Iran last week, to discuss a “plan B” in case nuclear talks are not resumed. That meeting took place via a secure video conference, led by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and his Israeli counterpart, Eyal Hulata.

The Israelis stressed the need to move ahead with a “plan B,” due to the stalemate in diplomatic talks and Iran’s nuclear acceleration, Ravid reported. The U.S. side stressed its concern about the stalemate, and that it would impose additional sanctions on Iran if talks don’t resume soon, an Israeli official said. A White House spokesperson told Axios that the U.S. “remains engaged in ongoing consultations with the Israeli government on a range of issues related to the challenge posed by Iran.”

Officials in both Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s government and in the Defense Ministry, have publicly stated that Israel intends to employ military strikes if Iran’s nuclear program is not sufficiently restrained by diplomatic efforts.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Xi Jinping’s Decision Not To Build Coal Plants Overseas Was a Process Already in Motion

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—The one-line comment by China’s President Xi Jinping in his UN General Assembly address Sept. 21, that Beijing would no longer build coal plants abroad, was a complete surprise. The motives may have

been varied: to avoid Anglo-American attacks on China's "environmentalist commitments"; hoping to fend off the attacks from the same characters on the Belt and Road as based on "dirty energy." In general, China feels that its stance on environmentalist issues keeps them in some association with the Europeans, which the Anglo-Americans would like to distance them from. In order to prevent political containment, China hopes to become more prominently involved economically in the world community.

But there are also nasty elements within the Chinese bureaucracy (some of whom are not really Chinese at all), who are pushing for a more radical "green" initiative. One of these is Christoph Nedopil Wang, who is the Founding Director of the Green Belt and Road Initiative Center and a Senior Research Fellow at the International Institute of Green Finance of the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing. Born in Bavaria and educated at the Technical University in Berlin and at Harvard, Wang heads an outfit called the "[Green Belt and Road Initiative Center](#)," that pushes for eliminating the existing, or planned coal plants in the BRI—and with considerable success.

Between the late 2014 and the end of last year, 52 coal-fired power projects with Chinese financial participation, outside China, had been announced. Of these announced, only 1 has gone into operation: the 1.3 GW Payra Patuakhali power station in Kalapara, Bangladesh, in early 2020. However, 25 projects announced since 2014 were shelved, and 8 cancelled.

Several coal-fired projects were announced prior to 2014, and accordingly, 40 power plants with Chinese participation were in pre-approval between 2014 and 2020: 4 went into operation, 9 were shelved, and 5 were cancelled. Of 34 coal-fired power plant projects that had been under construction since 2014, only 19 went into operation; 4 were shelved. Of the 32 shelved projects since 2014, altogether 9 were cancelled. No new Chinese-backed coal-fired power plants were announced in 2020.

Some projects were mothballed during construction: one in Kenya was cancelled by protests. Another in Egypt was cancelled when Cairo replaced

it with a solar plant. Several coal projects in Zimbabwe and Russia were canceled.

The ball was already rolling when Xi announced the decision. How China will deal with Africa's growing energy needs remains to be seen. Obviously China has a capability of building solar arrays, but it represents a tiny amount of energy compared to coal. China also plans to build and export the small pebble-bed nuclear reactor type that has recently gone online in Shandong. In his UNGA speech, President Xi also proposed a Global Development Initiative. What that entails over and above the Belt and Road Initiative is not yet clear. A key element is to use high technology for development needs. Obviously something new is in the works.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

China Cracks Down on Speculation, Stressing Innovation as the Driver of the Economy

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—A contingent of Wall Street's most powerful speculative investment houses, including BlackRock (personally led by CEO Larry Fink), and Goldman Sachs, held Sept. 17 a three-hour meeting in China with the Securities Regulatory Commission and the People's Bank of China, the central bank. These investment bankers are unnerved by China's increasingly tough crackdown on speculative activities, which the U.S. and British bankers view as a lucrative source of income.

Other U.S. investment banks that rushed to attend the meeting included Fidelity Investments; Citadel; and the private equity firm Blackstone. They met with Fang Xinghai, Vice Chairman of Securities Regulatory Commission, and Governor Yi Gang of the People's Bank of China. On Sept. 18 Bloomberg reported the story, "[China Defends Tech Crackdown in Meeting with Wall Street Chiefs](#)": "Global investors have been unnerved by the regulatory onslaught from Beijing targeting its biggest technology companies and other industries as well as a push by President Xi Jinping to create 'common prosperity.'" Further, "Chinese policy makers are also

considering tougher scrutiny over a legally gray corporate structure that is commonly used by Chinese tech companies to seek offshore listings, with some policy adjustment already underway.” And still, Bloomberg writes, “Billions of dollars in potential profits are at stake for Wall Street.”

The media did not mention whether the bankers raised the case of troubled Evergrande property developer, although they likely did. Evergrande has \$300 billion in debt. British, American, Swiss, and other banks could lose billions on Evergrande. But Evergrande is framed by the Chinese policy over the last 18 months of shutting down trillions in speculative investments, shutting down offshore sinkholes, closing down “gray areas,” and distancing themselves from British-American financial shackles and the emerging blowout of their financial institutions. China’s success in that policy may have brought the Evergrande instability to a head.

We consider a timeline showing a few pivotal steps in this process.

- For nearly three years, anti-China forces threatened to delist Chinese companies from the New York and other U.S. stock exchanges. In the United States, one cannot buy a Chinese stock, or most foreign countries’ stock, directly. Instead, one buys an American Depositary Receipt (ADR), which is a negotiable certificate issued by a U.S. bank representing one or more shares of a foreign firm’s stock. Chinese companies have associated ADRs with a market valuation of \$2.1 trillion on U.S. stock exchanges. During the last two years of the Trump administration, as the anti-China diatribes ramped up, various Senators introduced legislation threatening that unless China agreed to be audited by U.S. accounting firms—Chinese companies are audited by Chinese accounting firms—and by U.S. regulators, Chinese stocks would be delisted from New York stock exchanges. It culminated in a violently anti-China bill, the Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act, which requires that foreign companies publicly listed on U.S. stock exchanges declare they are not owned or controlled by any foreign governments. Congress passed the act by a wide margin, and President Trump signed it on Dec. 18, 2020. Much rhetoric

against the Communist Party of China accompanied it, saying the CPC controlled most Chinese companies. They would have to open their books to accounting firms (and intelligence agencies) to prove the CPC did not own them.

Beijing apparently decided that it would try to comply with the legislation, but thence, it would no longer depend on the U.S. as a principal source of funds.

- In November 2020, Chinese regulators stepped in to suspend the \$37 billion initial public offering (IPO) of Ant Group, owned by high-flying Jack Ma (Ma also owns Alibaba, the internet retails sales company). The Ant Group, between June 2019 and June 2020, transacted \$17 trillion in credit card debt, outstripping Mastercard and Visa. Apparently, the Chinese government viewed the Ant Group's and Jack Ma's growing power and financial transactions as overstepping acceptable bounds. The Shanghai Stock Exchange said that Mr. Ma had been called in for "supervisory interviews," and "other major issues," including changes in "the financial technology regulatory environment" that needed to be examined. Ma's IPO, that would have been the world's largest, was postponed. It never went through.

- On June 30, DiDi Global, a successful ride-hailing service (like Uber) issued an IPO for \$4.4 billion in New York City. It appears from Chinese and other press accounts, that DiDi, like other flashy Chinese firms, only cursorily consulted Chinese regulatory agencies, high-stepping it to the United States to get its pot of gold. Two days after the IPO, a Chinese cybersecurity regulator ordered the removal of DiDi's app from China's smartphone app stores. It is a little difficult to carry on a ride-sharing company without an app.

The July 4, issue of *Forbes* reported: "Didi's not alone in facing the wrath of Chinese regulators, who've been cracking down on the nation's big-tech leaders—Tencent, Alibaba, JD.com—with new actions aimed at curbing risk and unfair labor practices."

- In a May 31, article, “China Wrecks IPO for High-Flying Education Startups,” [Bloomberg](#) reports on the crackdown of private education and tutoring firms. In March, President Xi Jinping suggested the surge in “after-school tutoring was putting immense pressure on China’s kids, signaling a personal interest in curbing excesses.” Some companies, which were only in existence six months to two years, were already trying to issue IPOs, frequently managed by Wall Street investment banks, pitching themselves especially to Chinese families: “You don’t want to ruin your child’s chance to pass exams.” Bloomberg stated, China’s regulation is “forcing once high-flying start-ups to moth-ball” IPOs.

- On Aug. 23, Reuters heralded, “[China Halts Over 40 IPOs as It Investigates Law Firm and Broker](#),” revealing that the Shenzhen Stock Exchange had suspended more than 30 IPOs, and the Shanghai Stock Exchange, 8. Each of the exchanges is investigating “shady firms.” On Aug. 23, China’s cabinet announced that it would tighten scrutiny over accounting firms in a fight against financial forgery, vowing “zero tolerance” toward misconduct.

In order to have full sovereignty, in the last 18 months, China has greatly lessened its dependence on highly speculative British, U.S. and other financial markets, and has begun to crush in the outset hundreds of financial and service company IPOs, which contribute nothing to the physical economy or to scientific and technological innovation. On March 11, Premier Li Keqiang unveiled the new Five Year Plan, which focuses on scientific self-reliance and innovation as the economy’s driver, with 7-10% of state investment to go to innovation. Around that March, perhaps not accidentally, the crackdown on speculation and IPOs greatly intensified.

Chinese Analyst Considers Evergrande Not Too Big To Fail

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—“Evergrande’s crisis is not unexpected, as its development has been influenced by hoarding capital and splashing into unrelated businesses, such as bottled water and new-energy vehicles,” said Cong Yi, a professor at the Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, according to *Global Times* today.

“The central government guided the direction of the domestic property market early in 2016: Houses are for people to live in, not for people to speculate on,” he said, about the shaky real estate firm. “Hence, the exposure of Evergrande’s crisis underscores the authorities’ firm determination to regulate a rapidly expanding sector, whose development relies on piles of debt.” Those who say Evergrande could be China’s “Lehman-type situation,” *Global Times* writes, “do not understand China’s development model.” Cong further stated, “China’s future economic development relies on innovation and the real economy, rather than the short-term booster of the property sector.”

COVID AND FAMINE

Vaccine Production Ramped Up To Inoculate Everyone in the World

Sept. 23 (EIRNS)—Moderna’s CEO Stéphane Bancel usefully reported today that the industry-wide expansion of vaccine production of the last six months has been successful and that there will be enough vaccines to inoculate everyone in the world by the middle of 2022. He includes infants in his estimation. That would translate into 15-16 billion doses, about 50% higher and several months earlier than the goals in accepted discussions up to now (10-11 billion doses to cover 70-80% of the world by late 2022, at the earliest). Pfizer and Moderna have been the major components of increasing production in the West.

However, a serious look at the gear-up would concentrate on China and India. The two countries alone will likely account for more than 10 billion doses. Bancel’s statement is welcome, as almost no one else has dared, publicly, to move beyond the 10-11 billion figure, nor move up the time frame. The “crash program” method should be recognized, examined, and discussed for application to health systems, food production, etc. However, the discussion over vaccine shortages should be over; rather, the issue is a mobilization to distribute vaccines and to build public health systems around the world.