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P.O. Box 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

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EDITORIAL

‘Day of Action’ Youth Mobilize for 1.5 Billion Jobs Worldwide with ‘LaRouche Plan’

June 17 (EIRNS)—Two positive initiatives stand out today amidst the spreading pandemic and other deepening crises. The Schiller Institute youth contingent led a multinational Day of Action, calling for leaders of the Four Powers—the United States, Russia, China, and India—to rise above the

fray and meet to initiate measures for the common good, in particular for health and medical infrastructure to fight COVID-19, and for the economic system to create productivity through the “LaRouche Plan” for 1.5 billion new, productive jobs and all that goes with it. Secondly, in this spirit, a meeting was held today by Chinese and African leaders, called the “China-Africa Solidarity Summit against COVID-19,” which was moderated and addressed by President Xi Jinping and African Union Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, among others.

The extraordinary summit created a new “Africa Medical Supplies Platform” for all of African nations to be able to access, for the next six months, diagnostic and therapeutic supplies to fight the pandemic. Ramaphosa, who has in recent days drawn attention to the importance of space exploration and nuclear power, made a special point of the necessity for measures to set aside unpayable debts in Africa, at this time of emergency to combat the virus.

The Schiller Institute Day of Action involved reaching out through all communication modes to hundreds of individuals and organizations in a position to launch needed initiatives for a new economic system, whose emergency goal is centered on infrastructure for world health, as the Schiller Institute petition headline states: “Defend Earth’s Most Precious Resource—People!”

The blueprint for this activation is provided in the document, “The LaRouche Plan to Reopen the U.S. Economy: The World Needs 1.5 Billion New, Productive Jobs.” Produced by LaRouchePAC, it will be discussed at 2 p.m. EDT this Saturday, June 20, by farm leaders, labor specialists, and others LaRouchePAC’s weekly online National Town Halls, and entitled: “1.5 Billion Productive Jobs Worldwide—How To Return the U.S. Workforce to the Science of Production.” This is the light shining through what otherwise can seem a hopeless darkness of injustice and suffering with no way out toward a future of progress. It is a call to action.

The opposite of the fighting approach for collaboration on a new economic system was on display today in new U.S. foreign policy

initiatives on Syria, in an awful display of British Empire geopolitical regime-change tactics. It is made worse, because authority for the sanctions comes from the combined backing of the neo-liberal and neo-conservative crazies, who put the clause into the latest National Defense Authorization Act. The State Department announced 39 new sanctions against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, his wife, many family members and other Syrian leaders, which proscribe any economic support of the nation. These come after details of the dire situation of medical and food shortages in Syria were conveyed June 16 to the UN Security Council, and by warnings about the threat of famine in Syria from UN World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley in an interview with the U.A.E. daily *The National* on June 12. More than 9 million people in Syria are food “insecure” (without enough to eat, either for lack of means or supplies) and 2 million more on the edge.

Part of this picture includes Lebanon, very closely connected, where the banking system itself has blown out. Lebanon, a nation of 5 million people, hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees. In recent days, moves are underway toward a “new paradigm” of cooperation with China, for intervention with infrastructure development, and possible relief through Russian and Iranian initiatives on Syria.

Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp LaRouche today, in her weekly strategic webcast, spoke of how it is “no time for geopolitical games.” Is the thinking to have “regime change in Syria through famine?”

After detailing the situation and other events of the day, such as the “drifting away” between Germany and the U.S., she concluded by drawing out the general point about what is needed among nations. “Germany and the United States should work together to solve the refugee crisis, the building up of Southwest Asia, the solving of the pandemic, working together to industrialize Africa—these are the kinds of things we should put our minds together on. We have to have a different paradigm, and a completely different thinking. Because national interest is fine—I’m all for national interest, including that of Germany. But as Friedrich Schiller has

said many times, you can't have national interest which is in contradiction to that of humanity. Therefore, you have to be a patriot and you have to be a world citizen at the same time.

“So that is the kind of spirit that the Schiller Institute is trying to evoke. That will be the subject of our upcoming conference on the 27th of June.” See the invitation for the conference, “[Will Humanity Prosper or Perish? The Future Demands a Four-Power Summit Now.](#)”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

U.S. Slaps 39 New Sanctions Designations on Syria, Including Assad, His Wife, and Family Members

June 17 (EIRNS)—The U.S. has imposed 39 new, draconian sanctions on Syria under the so-called Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act, passed as part of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act in December 2019. Named after the pseudonym used by a Syrian police defector who reportedly smuggled out tens of thousands of photos of torture in Syrian prisons, the act not only targets individuals in the Syrian government allegedly responsible for criminal acts against the Syrian people, but also those who do business with them.

Individuals targeted today include Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, his wife Asma; Assad's sister Bushra; Assad's brother, Maher and sister-in-law Manal; Mohammed Hamsho, the head of the Damascus Chamber of Commerce; his wife Rania al-Dabbas; their son Ahmad Hamsho, a show jumper in Syria's equestrian team in the 2012 Olympics; and Ghassan Ali, a right-hand man of Maher Assad, and Samer al-Dana, who are leaders of the Syrian military's Fourth Division.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said, “Today's designations send a clear message that no individual or business should enter into business with or otherwise enrich such a vile regime.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo explained in a separate statement, “Mandatory sanctions under the Caesar Act target foreign persons who

facilitate the Assad regime's acquisition of goods, services, or technologies that support the regime's military activities as well as its aviation and oil and gas production industries.”

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah in Lebanon, in a speech delivered on June 16, advised the Lebanese government to ignore the new U.S. sanctions. “U.S.’ resort to Caesar’s act is an evidence of Syria’s victory in the military and field war/ It is its last weapon,” he said, urging Lebanon to take a stand from this unjust, cruel Act which will affect Lebanon at different levels, reported Al-Manar News. “Whoever calls to close borders with Syria will later call us to open the borders with ‘Israel,’ ” he said.

Joint Statement from G7, EU Urges China To Withdraw Hong Kong National Security Law

June 17 (EIRNS)—Today the Group of Seven Foreign Ministers and the EU took the unusual step of issuing a joint statement, calling on China to withdraw the Hong Kong National Security legislation. “We strongly urge the government of China to reconsider this decision.” It was replete with other high-handed bombast, e.g. “It would jeopardize the system which has allowed Hong Kong to flourish and made it a success over many years.”

When the issue was first broached by President Donald Trump after China’s passage of the law, there was not a lot of enthusiasm among Europe’s leaders for joint action on the matter. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been working overtime on the phones and on the teleconferencing circuit to get a tougher anti-China policy coming out of the Europeans.

The statement is conveniently timed with Secretary Pompeo’s meeting in Hawaii today with Senior Councillor Yang Jiechi, in which Hong Kong was undoubtedly going to be a topic of discussion. Both are happening a day before the National People’s Congress Standing Committee will discuss the legislation on June 18.

It has also been revealed recently that Pompeo’s chief adviser on China is Prof. Miles Maochu Yu, a Chinese professor at the U.S. Naval Academy. Miles Yu as he calls himself, has written at least two books, *The Dragon’s War* and *The OSS in China*, the gist of which is that the attempts by the U.S. Army and by the OSS during World War II to establish contact and a relationship with the forces of the Communist Party fighting in Yanan were all a “ruse” by the Communists to hoodwink the Americans for support.

The “Miles” in Yu’s name is from the chief of naval intelligence in China during World War II, Milton Miles, who was doing his utmost to upend the OSS attempts to make contacts with the Communists. Yu came to the U.S. in 1985 as a student and was instrumental after the 1984 Tiananmen events in finding housing for the students who fled, and he later helped organize the meetings of Chinese dissidents in the U.S. He also wrote a weekly “China Watch” column in the *Washington Times*, which has since been taken over by Bill Gertz.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

President Xi Insists People and Lives Come First at ‘China-Africa Solidarity Summit against COVID-19’

June 17 (EIRNS)—Chinese President Xi Jinping gave the keynote address at today’s Extraordinary China-Africa Solidarity Summit Against COVID-19, whose featured participants included UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a native of Ethiopia; African Union 2020 Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa; and Co-Chair of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Macky Sall, President of Senegal. The Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 is a joint initiative between the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of South Africa in its capacity as the Chair of the African Union (AU), and the Republic of Senegal in its capacity as the Co-Chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the joint statement said.

Initiatives include China's commitment to work on further relieving the burden of debt in Africa, and the creation of an Africa Medical Supplies Platform, to operate for six months to make accessible diagnostic and therapeutic supplies to all nations.

In his keynote, [Xi Jinping](#) stressed the close relationship China has always had to Africa and promised additional assistance in the present crisis. Chinese teams have just returned from extensive visits and consultations in Sudan and Algeria. Xi said, "Both China and Africa face the formidable task of combatting the virus while stabilizing the economy and protecting people's livelihoods. We must always put our people and their lives front and center. We must mobilize necessary resources, stick together in collaboration, and do whatever it takes to protect people's lives and health and minimize the fallout of COVID-19...."

"China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC [Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] headquarters this year. China will work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the FOCAC Beijing Summit, and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals. Together, we will build a China-Africa community of health for all."

Xi said that China would also work to uphold the commitments made under the Belt and Road Initiative for Africa's infrastructure development and would cancel the debt of relevant African countries in the form of interest-free government loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020. He also promised to work with the global community to further extend the period of debt suspension. He would also encourage Chinese financial institutions to respond to the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative and to "hold friendly consultations with African countries according to market principles to work out arrangements for commercial loans with sovereign guarantees."

South African [President Ramaphosa](#) expressed his appreciation for China's help, and emphasized the serious lack of proper medical equipment

in most African nations. He praised the creation of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform, which will be managed by Afreximbank (African Export-Import Bank) and the Export-Import Bank of China. He also underlined the importance of debt relief for African nations during these trying times and called for an economic stimulus package for Africa.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

UN Agencies Warn of Impending Food Crisis in Caribbean and Ibero-America Worsened by Coronavirus

June 17 (EIRNS)—The urgency of implementing the LaRouchePAC program to create a new global financial system and double food production is driven home by the joint report issued today by the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which warns that as a result of the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 16 million more people will join the ranks of those living in extreme poverty in the region—for a total of 83.4 million—and almost certainly will face a food and hunger crisis due to their inability to access food.

In the 2016-2018 period, the report points out, there were already 53.7 million people experiencing severe food insecurity in this region. Today, it explains, food prices are rising more than any other product in the basic market basket of consumer goods. Nations such as Venezuela, Haiti, Central America’s “dry corridor,” and small developing islands of the Caribbean are particularly vulnerable, signalling that measures taken thus far by governments are too fragmented and inadequate.

The report, “Preventing the COVID-19 Crisis from Becoming a Food Crisis: Urgent Measures Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean,” warns that after seven years of slow growth, the Ibero-American and Caribbean region could see the biggest drop in Gross Domestic Product (-5.3%) in a century. As a result, said FAO’s representative for the region, Julio Berdegué, “we may have a historic setback in the fight against hunger. In a matter of months, we may lose

what we have achieved in 15 years. Millions of people may end up going hungry. That is the gravity of the current problem.”

And, he told the daily *Página 12*, “this is not a short-term problem. We’re looking at a 2020 that will be very bad, and a very weak 2021, in the best of cases. One thing is to hold out for two or three months and another is to hold out for one or two years. So, it’s necessary to prevent the health crisis from becoming a food crisis.”

The report proposes ten emergency measures to address the immediate problem, including, among other things, increased subsidies for both consumers and producers, an Anti-Hunger Grant, which would involve issuing cash transfers, food baskets, or vouchers to the entire population living in extreme poverty for a six-month period; reinforcing school-based food programs to ensure that children and adolescents are fed; and providing support programs encouraging production “for one’s own consumption”—subsistence farming? While these can provide some necessary relief, they are no substitute for the aggressive global program whose implementation LaRouchePAC is urging. The report so far is available only in [Spanish](#).

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WHO Welcomes U.K. Breakthrough in COVID-19 Treatment

June 17 (EIRNS)— Initial clinical trials in the United Kingdom have shown that dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can effectively treat patients who are critically ill with COVID-19. The results demonstrated that the treatment could reduce mortality rates by one-third among patients being ventilated and by one-fifth among those on oxygen. The treatment is only effective on seriously ill patients.

“This is the first treatment to be shown to reduce mortality in patients with COVID-19 requiring oxygen or ventilator support,” the statement quoted WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as saying. “This is great news, and I congratulate the government of the U.K.,

the University of Oxford, and the many hospitals and patients in the U.K. who have contributed to this lifesaving scientific breakthrough.”

Prof. Peter Horby, Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, one of the chief investigators in the trial research, was quoted by yesterday’s University of Oxford statement as saying “ ‘Dexamethasone is the first drug to be shown to improve survival in COVID-19. This is an extremely welcome result. The survival benefit is clear and large in those patients who are sick enough to require oxygen treatment, so dexamethasone should now become standard of care in these patients. Dexamethasone is inexpensive, on the shelf, and can be used immediately to save lives worldwide.’ ”

NASA Gives Briefing on Mars ‘Perseverance’ Rover and Helicopter ‘Ingenuity’ Due for July 20 Launch

June 17 (EIRNS)—Today NASA held a fascinating briefing on the Mars 2020 rover, Perseverance and the Mars helicopter, newly named “Ingenuity,” to be launched with Perseverance on July 20th, the 51st anniversary of the first manned lunar landing. The helicopter on Mars “will attempt to be the first powered flight on another planet.”

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine was joined on a panel with representatives of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Kennedy Space Center heading up the mission of the Mars rover. In his opening remarks Bridenstine exclaimed that it was a “great time to be at NASA, to watch all the exciting things NASA is doing.... NASA can do stunning achievements in difficult times.” Bridenstine reported that NASA had one of two critical missions that were continuing during the COVID-19 crisis, and he explained the importance of this undertaking. The mission is scheduled to launch in July. If NASA had missed the launch window for Mars, it would have had to put Perseverance in storage for two years, which could have cost the agency somewhere around a billion dollars.

The naming of the rover Perseverance was most fitting in these challenging times. Bridenstine spoke about the architecture NASA is building out on the Moon with the Artemis mission, preparing the way for

future human landings on Mars, and how the Mars robotic missions are a precursor to get the data for understanding Mars.

The scientific instruments Perseverance will carry are quite astonishing. The rover will have 23 cameras, mostly in color, and the wheels on the rover will have new dimension tread design. The instruments will look for ancient habitable environments, evidence of chemical building block of life. The mission will get samples and bring them back to Earth directly from Mars. The rover will land in the Jezero crater located in one of the oldest basins on Mars.

One very engaging report was given by the Deputy Project Manager of the Mars 2020 mission Matt Wallace. He spoke about the challenges NASA faced preparing this mission for launch during the pandemic. He said that fully assembling and doing the final testing of the space craft was very challenging. On the Mars rover, there will be launched the “COVID-19 Perseverance Plate,” which is now affixed to the port side of the rover, show the globe supported by the caduceus staff and serpent symbol of the medical community. The rover will also take a plate containing the names of 11 million people from around the world who signed up to have their names taken on the spacecraft to Mars.

Finally, one of the panelists pointed out that the United States will not be alone in its mission to Mars. China’s will be sending its first lander to Mars, Tianwen, now scheduled for July 23 launch.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Justice Department Files Civil Suit To Block the Release of Classified Material in Bolton’s Book

June 17 (EIRNS)—On June 16, the Department of Justice filed a civil suit with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against fired National Security Adviser John Bolton, seeking to block the release of his book *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir*, “as currently drafted.” The conditions of his employment at the National Security Council required him to submit to the NSC for a review of classified

material for any projected publication. The suit alleges that the manuscript that Bolton submitted was “rife with classified information, which he proposed to release to the world.” Attorney General Bill Barr stated that Bolton “hasn’t completed the [review] process.”

Bolton’s lawyer, Charles Cooper, stated that between January and April, an NSC official had reviewed the book with Bolton four different times, and that alterations were made. However, Cooper does admit that they never received anything in writing to the effect that the manuscript had passed the review process. On June 8, they received a letter from John Eisenberg, deputy counsel for the NSC, stating that classified material is still included. Despite this, on June 12, Bolton’s publisher, Simon & Schuster, began the media rollout campaign for the release of his book on June 23.

The media focus has been upon Bolton’s claim that the Congress is guilty of “impeachment malpractice” for focusing only upon Ukraine. It turns out that, in Bolton’s world, that means is that Trump was impeachable for undermining Bolton’s actions on behalf of the British Empire in Venezuela, North Korea, Russia, and China.

OTHER

Lebanon at the Crossroads of the New Paradigm, China Offers To Help

June 17 (EIRNS)—Lebanon seems to be poised to join the “new paradigm” in international relations and economic cooperation. The tiny country, with a collapsed physical economy and bankrupt state and banking system (with 1.5 million Syrian refugees compared to 5 million citizens), can also become the bloody battlefield between the pro-old paradigm of Anglo-American geopolitics’ local agents and those who want to chart a new path for the country, this time eastwards.

The revolt against the banks and corrupt politicians pushed President Michel Aoun in October 2019 to appoint a new prime minister, Hassan Diab, to replace corrupt Anglo-Saudi agent Saad al-Hariri, whose dynasty

looted the country for three decades. Diab immediately launched a corruption investigation into the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been embezzled by political parties from left to right, and from Shi'a to Sunni to Christian parties.

The banks, the main privateers, have been the main conduit of this international-domestic racket.

Since 2018, Lebanon has been in negotiations with international “donors” to resolve the government financial crisis. The IMF has proposed, and is still proposing, draconian measures to privatize what is left of the state-owned enterprises. The latest proposal was to legalize the cannabis-based drug hashish, the only agricultural activity that is generating cash for the country. The legalization would mean that the state can generate income by taxing its trade. Besides, Lebanon has come under pressure from the U.S. and the EU to stop all trade with Syria. Today, June 17, the U.S. Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act (Caesar Act) will be implemented. It imposes punishment on anyone engaging in trade with Syria. For the Syrians, who have already been suffering from previous sanctions that have collapsed the economy, this Caesar Act means famine and mass starvation, which was confirmed by the UN Special Envoy to Syria recently.

Lebanon is the main trade outlet for Syria. This means that Lebanon will also suffer. The Lebanese leadership and people are put in a position to accept complicity in the mass murder of the Syrian people, or suffer the wrath of the U.S.

It was in this context that the leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, made a televised speech on June 16 to denounce the Caesar Act and vow to fight it. However, the most important aspects of his speech were two: 1. Break up the negotiations with the IMF; 2. Go to China for help to rebuild the productive economy.

In his speech, he reiterated what he said in November 2019, that Chinese companies were willing to invest tens of billions of dollars in Lebanon in infrastructure, industry, and agriculture. He states in this new speech that China was willing to build a modern railway connecting the

country from the north to the south (from Tripoli to Naqoura), and build new power plants and ports. The power sector in Lebanon costs the state \$2 billion annually in subsidies and lost revenues.

It should be noted that Hezbollah is the main ally of President Michel Aoun in the new government, which was formed in November 2019. According to a source who is close to Aoun's party, Free Patriotic Movement, Aoun is in total agreement with Nasrallah on both breaking with the IMF and joining the Belt and Road. However, he is very cautious, because of the fragile political and sectarian structures in the country that can easily be manipulated to create a new civil war.

Whereas last year the Chinese government remained silent in response to Nasrallah, this time it did respond. The Chinese Embassy in Beirut issued the following statement, which was sent to Lebanese media today, June 17:

“In recent days, the Lebanese media has followed with interest the practical cooperation between China and Lebanon.

“In answering the inquiries addressed to it, the Chinese embassy in Lebanon indicated that the Chinese side is ready to carry out practical cooperation actively with the Lebanese side on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in the framework of joint work to build the Belt and the Road.

“China is committed to cooperation with other nations mainly through the role of its companies, the leading role of the market, and the catalytic role of government and commercial operation. Chinese companies continue to follow with interest the opportunities of cooperation in infrastructure and other fields in Lebanon and keep in touch with the Lebanese side in this regard.”

In March 2019, a very large Chinese delegation visited Lebanon and a major conference on the Belt and Road was held in Beirut. The Chinese business and official delegations proposed various infrastructure, industrial and agricultural projects to be financed and built by China. However, under

the corrupt Hariri government, Beijing's offer was rejected. Instead, Hariri pushed the previous Anglo-French proposal from 2018, which was backed by the World Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) at the Paris Conference for Economic Development for Reform through Enterprises (CEDRE) in April 2018, when Lebanon was promised \$10 billion in infrastructure projects. Needless to say, none of the projects was implemented. It just made Lebanon lose two more years.

Now, it seems that Lebanon is left with no choice other than to join the new paradigm of win-win cooperation.

In the meantime, Russia and Iran are holding discussions on the situation in Syria. Observers from the region are speculating that Russia and Iran, with the support of China, might launch a relief campaign for Syria. The move would put all the regional and international players on the edge of a confrontation.

Unless the Trump Administration recognizes that the suicidal and criminal path the policies of regime-change by use of military force and/or mass starvation are doomed not only to fail (as in Yemen), but also bring the major world powers to a direct confrontation, these powers would be better off meeting to discuss a new global emergency policy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild the world economy, as Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche has been proposing.

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Thursday, June 18: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley's briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).