

EIR Daily Alert Service

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

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EDITORIAL

An Outrageous Crime by the International Monetary Fund

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—Quietly, the International Monetary Fund last week allocated \$650 billion in what are called IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to 215 member countries. The purpose is proven both by the structure of the SDRs and by the timing of this allocation. The IMF is trying hard to head off a “debt bomb,” a collapse of underdeveloped countries’ unpayable debts after 18 months of pandemic collapse. This is just like Federal Reserve and other big central banks hyperinflationary money-printing in huge “quantitative easing” programs, to prevent the

“everything bubble” of corporate and household debts in Europe and the United States from blowing up in a new global financial crash.

The Special Drawing Rights sound like a big sum, but they are just rights of countries to borrow back their own IMF quotas for an indefinite period in order to pay foreign debts, which the underdeveloped nations will otherwise default on imminently. What will the IMF do next? Soon enough it will ask the major nations for new quotas to replenish its coffers, just as it demanded \$500 billion from a G20 meeting in February 2009, right after the 2008 global crash.

This SDR move is not just the IMF signaling an underdeveloped nations “debt bomb” about to blow up. It is an outrageous move by the IMF to claim the authorization—never given to it in FDR’s Bretton Woods system which created it—to be the lender of last resort to super-indebted countries, providing them the income to pay debts to giant banks and other multilateral financial firms. This pure waste defines the difference between dumb money, which it is, and credit—which it is not.

Credit, productive lending from major sovereign nations to equally sovereign developing nations, for economic development and future industrialization, is the crucial element needed immediately now, to shift the 21st-century paradigm from endless wars to peace through development.

The IMF in effect is stealing that credit from major developed economies and passing it out as dumb money—new debt—to roll over unpayable debts. This was prohibited under the Bretton Woods agreements, which gave us a healthy, functioning international monetary system from 1945-70.

The last time the IMF pulled out this particular scheme, in 1982, Lyndon LaRouche was well known and trusted by developing countries’ leaders, despite Henry Kissinger’s threats against him. LaRouche told those leaders the IMF could not solve the 1980s “Third World debt bomb”; that debt had to be reorganized, as Hamilton did for the young American

Republic, and made the basis for new credit for development. LaRouche was proven right; the IMF only exploded that debt bomb.

By the 1990s, even from prison, LaRouche designed the worldwide corridors of development—the “World Land-Bridge”—and with it, the New Bretton Woods necessary to provide the nation-to-nation credits to make it possible for underdeveloped regions to progress and industrialize. During the 1990s the Schiller Institute held hundreds of large and small conferences on these plans, and they were noticed, in particular in China.

Then for 20 years, after a 9/11 attack on the United States which no one but LaRouche understood at the time, the United States and NATO countries sent their young men and women to wars against developing sector countries, while our non-military industries steadily closed down when they could have been producing capital goods for export to development projects funded by credit. Constant, distant and meaningless warfighting battered and divided our societies.

As of this month, with the 20th anniversary of that 9/11 attack that triggered our trans-Atlantic Iliad, the geopolitical war policy has failed for all to see. Underneath it, so-called neo-liberal economics, has failed, the IMF with it. Afghanistan is the center of a tremendous opportunity to change the whole character of relations among nations to the one LaRouche laid out in the World Land-Bridge corridors of development and the New Bretton Woods credit system. Its descendant, the Belt and Road Initiative being carried on by China and many collaborators, is the vehicle into which credit for development should go.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, August 31, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban Make Overture to India, Wish for Good Relations

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—A senior Taliban leader and deputy head of Taliban’s office in Doha, Qatar, Sher Mohammed Stanekzai, in a carefully scripted statement that he read out in Pashto in a 46-minute video message broadcast on Aug. 28 on the group’s social media platforms and Afghanistan National Television (RTA/Mili TV), said the Taliban wished to have good political and economic ties with India, including continuing the air corridor that was operational under the previous regime. Air corridor is the main trade route between India and Afghanistan since Pakistan, located in between, denies the land corridor between the two countries. As a further gesture of goodwill towards India, Taliban officials visited the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat Province, built by New Delhi.

India was concerned since the Taliban’s rapid takeover of Afghanistan, following the Biden administration’s announcement that it would withdraw all troops by Aug. 31. The previous Taliban regime that ruled Afghanistan between 1996-2001 was openly hostile to India and was close to Pakistan.

It became evident to India during the U.S.-Taliban talks at Doha, which were designed to set down the ground conditions for a safe U.S. troop withdrawal, that a Taliban takeover was likely, and therefore, India made contacts with the Taliban officials in Doha. Last June, Qatar’s Special Envoy for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution Mutlaq bin Majed Al Qahtani, speaking at a web conference, said the Indian officials made a “quiet visit” to Doha to speak to the Taliban’s political leadership based there. The statement came just days after India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stopped over in Doha to meet with the Qatari leadership twice in two weeks. India’s Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the Qatari official’s statement but later this month admitted having developed contact with the Taliban. Reportedly, Stanekzai was a participant in the back-channel talks.

In the Aug. 24 phone discussion between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, “They expressed

their determination to increase cooperation in opposing the spread of terrorist ideology and the drugs threat emanating from Afghan territory. They agreed to establish a two-way channel for permanent consultations on this issue,” according to the Kremlin statement.

Taliban and Turkey Discuss Recognition, Help To Run Kabul Airport

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—NATO member Turkey is nearing a deal to recognize Afghanistan’s Taliban government and operate the Kabul airport in partnership with Qatar, and thus widen up the possibility for the Taliban to attract foreign aid and investment, AFP reported on Aug. 29. The agreement is awaiting approval and finalization by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, when the American exit is completed, AFP reported Aug. 28, citing two unnamed sources.

One sticking point in the Turkish government talks with the Taliban has been the issue of who will provide airport security. “How can we give the security to you (the Taliban)?” Erdogan asked reporters Aug. 28 “How could Turkey explain it if the Taliban took over security responsibility and another bloodbath occurred?”

In what Middle East Eye called an “exclusive” on Aug. 28, they reported that the potential partners have concluded a draft deal, according to “two sources familiar with the deal.” Turkey and Qatar will jointly operate the Kabul International Airport, and Turkey will provide security through a private firm, whose staff will consist of former Turkish soldiers and police; and that additional members of the Turkish special forces, operating in plainclothes to secure Turkish technical staff, will not leave the airport perimeter.

Multiple Taliban spokespeople refused to respond to Middle East Eye inquiries on the matter. Turkey intends to keep its embassy in Kabul open and has not evacuated its Ambassador or its diplomatic staff. Turkish President Erdogan still needs to approve the deal, and is expected to consult with his NATO allies.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

U.S. Inflation: Forget Whether It's 'Transitory'; It's Going Very Fast

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—Meat prices in the United States economy, as of July, were 5.9% higher than a year earlier, a significantly higher inflation than the officially reported retail price of food as a whole, and above the overall consumer price index inflation of 5.6%. But that increase pales in comparison to the way meat-processing giants Tysons and JBS have raised their prices to wholesale customers such as restaurants—20-30%, depending on the type of meat product.

As a result, even though cattle and hog ranchers are getting prices per hundredweight recently which are higher than in previous years, the big meatpackers' margin is at the record level of \$1,000 per head of cattle, which was reached in May 2020. At that time the meat supply chain had broken down completely due to inhuman working conditions causing COVID outbreaks at meatpacking plants; and the meatpackers used their own disruption to raise their profit margin—over and above the prices paid to meat producers—to a record. Now farm leader and Colorado rancher Mike Callicrate reports that as of the end of August the meatpackers' price margin had reached \$1,300 per head. His word for it is “stealing.”

Then there are shelter costs. Bloomberg News reported the national average rent increase when a new lease is signed on a home or apartment, reached 17% as of mid-August. This means new homes, existing homes, and rent are all inflating in the 17-20% annual range. This has *not* been reflected at all, thus far, in the CPI and other “preferred” (by the Fed or Wall Street) measures of inflation.

Tale of Two Cities' Electricity Infrastructure

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)— All power to the New Orleans area was knocked out as Hurricane Ida neared landfall this morning when a transmission tower collapsed in the 90-100 mph winds and caused “imbalance” in its system, said Entergy. Half of New York City's subway system was blacked out Aug. 29, Sunday night through Monday morning, with no storm, by a

“voltage dip,” an “unprecedented power surge,” and “an unprecedented system breakdown,” said New York State Gov. Kathy Hochul.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

London Trying Hard To Kill Afghan Peace, but Being Blocked

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—The Afghanistan War is over. U.S. Central Command chief Gen. Frank McKenzie announced Monday afternoon, Aug. 30, the departure of the last U.S. Air Force evacuation flight from Kabul, and said “Tonight’s withdrawal signifies both the end of the military component of the evacuation, but also the end of the nearly 20-year mission that began in Afghanistan shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.”

But the furious likes of Tony Blair have not given up. A special session of the UN Security Council, called at the special request of Britain and France, did not adopt the Anglo-French resolution which would have called for a “safe zone” in Kabul supposedly administered by the UN, and similar “humanitarian corridors” elsewhere in Afghanistan. A considerably watered-down resolution, passed 13-0 with Russia and China abstaining, will nonetheless do no good. It demanded of the Afghan Taliban “that every effort be made to allow for the rapid and secure reopening of the Kabul airport and its surrounding area,” with no one preventing Afghans from travelling whenever they wish, and that the Taliban must “adhere to this and all other commitments.

British Ambassador to the UN [Dame Barbara Woodward](#) told the UN Security Council president in a speech after the vote, “We have been clear that the Taliban must adhere to their own stated commitments to ensure safe passage beyond 31 August.” Moreover, in a particularly rich flourish for a Brit to make, she declared, “A coordinated approach will be vital to counter any extremist threat emanating from Afghanistan, and we call on the Taliban to uphold the commitments contained in the Doha agreement.”

Dame Barbara’s verbal flourishes showed no interest in any “commitments” regarding the 85% of the world’s opium traffic coming

from Afghanistan for more than a decade, particularly from Helmand Province under British military occupation. But in the *Wall Street Journal* Aug. 28 was reported an interesting development: The Taliban have already started issuing orders to Kandahar farmers that opium poppy will be a banned crop when the Taliban have formed a government, “adhering to a commitment” made by Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid at an Aug. 18 press conference. Farmers are quoted saying they will have to obey this Taliban ruling, and the price of raw opium in several provinces has doubled or skyrocketed from \$70/ton to \$200.

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Initiative Calls for Reversal of Belgian Nuclear Power Phaseout

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—In a letter to Prime Minister Alexander de Croo, the “Horizon 238” think tank (named in reference to uranium-238) states that so-called renewable energy sources on their own can never provide power to cover the needs of Belgium. The public debate on nuclear technology should be freed from dogmatism and return to the facts which speak for the atom, the letter says.

The authors of the letter point to the high expertise which Belgium has developed in 60 years’ use of nuclear technology, and furthermore emphasize the pioneering role of Belgian nuclear physicists in the development of technology to recycle used nuclear fuels and prepare them for new use again: “Our country has the opportunity to use this expertise to prepare its future more serenely. Today, the MYRRHA project developed at the Belgian nuclear research center, is a research pioneer for recycling nuclear waste. In the near future, Belgian nuclear engineering could take the forefront of the hydrogen economy and of the deep decarbonization of industrial sectors that are difficult to electrify, leveraging new, more versatile and more sustainable nuclear technologies.”

Horizon 238 started out with a membership of engineers and specialists employed at Belgian nuclear sector firms; however, it has since been joined by predominantly young Belgians of all sectors who have a genuine interest

in nuclear power development. “At the beginning, we were all young engineers. This may be the reason why our publications are sometimes considered too technical,” Horizon 238 states on its website. “Over time, we were joined by young people from more diverse backgrounds. We intend to continue this momentum and to further diversify our team.”

Desperate Africa Yearns for Nuclear Power

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—Set back an estimated 10 years of hard-fought development by the pandemic, African countries are determined to quickly reverse course and resume growth. One item high on the list is nuclear power. A new report by the (anti-development) African Climate Reality Project counted a total of 17 African countries (out of 54) have expressed interest in nuclear power for electricity.

In South Africa, the only country to have a (functioning) nuclear plant, the very pro-nuclear Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe made a proposal last year that the country look into gaining an additional 2.5 GW of nuclear power (twice that of the Koberg plant), coming from—not yet existing—small modular reactors. Last week, Mantashe’s bold proposal was approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa.

An article on that proposal in the South African news site, Independent Online, this morning, featured Dr. [Kelvin Kemm](#), now a regular guest on Schiller Institute development forums. Titled “Africa Waiting on S.A.’s Nuclear Technology,” it quoted him: “A lot of African countries are looking to get these small nuclear reactors. South Africa has the resources and personnel to build up this industry. South Africa is a world leader.”

Dr. Kemm was also a guest on Ethiopian television Aug. 25, appearing on the “[Future Africa](#)” show on Oromio Broadcasting Network. The only guest, he was able to essentially give a class on nuclear power, for over 45 minutes. The program was then written up by the African Agenda site, giving it an even wider audience.

COVID AND FAMINE

Anti-Vaxxers Have Formidable, Silent Opponent, but Virus Is Silencing Them

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—Four lately prominent anti-vaccine radio personalities have died of COVID in the U.S. Southern states within recent weeks, proving that they practiced the rejection of modern medical science that they preached so easily, but which was no match for the coronavirus when it came for them.

Three of those voices of irrationality now silenced were those of Phil Valentine, a 62-year-old conservative radio host in Nashville, Tennessee, who told his listeners that refusing vaccination was “just using common sense,” and died of COVID on July 30; Farrell Austin Levitt, prominent on two Florida radio stations, WIOD in Miami and WPBR in Palm Beach, and an occasional news anchor on Newsmax TV, who urged, “Why take a vax from people who lied to you?” and died of COVID Aug. 4; and Marc Bernier, 65, who was a mainstay on talk radio WNDB in Daytona for 30 years and called himself “Mr. Anti-Vax,” and who died of COVID on Aug. 28. COVID also silenced Caleb Wallace, 30, of San Angelo, Texas who helped organize the “Freedom Rally” and other prominent protests against pandemic restrictions, masks, and vaccinations.

The disease compelled the first three to regret and forswear their rejection of vaccines, before they died. The coronavirus pandemic is on pace to increase the number of human beings who die in 2021 by half again above the “normal” level of deaths of recent decades.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Big China Problem for Kerry and Green Warriors

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—A CNN Politics article Aug. 30 confirmed the fear of Prince Charles’ green helpers that China will block them from the Malthusian “final solution” of eliminating both fossil fuels and nuclear

power from mankind's "fire." The Biden Administration's Climate Envoy John Kerry heads for China this week to try again, but faces failure again.

"China poses one of Kerry's biggest challenges heading into Glasgow," states this account. "The world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, China has committed to transitioning to net-zero emissions by 2060, though it does not plan to reach peak emissions before 2030. China's 2060 decarbonization target is a decade behind those of the U.S. and European Union. 'None of this works without China really cranking up, and China is not cranking up right now, and that's a big problem,' " CNN quotes former U.S. Climate Envoy Todd Stern, who had Kerry's current job in the Obama Administration. " 'They have said they will hit their peak before 2030. That's kind of small beer, compared to what's needed.' "

This wrong-headed frustration became an absurdity when CNN added: "President Joe Biden has also been vocal in his desire to outcompete China when it comes to clean energy and electric vehicles." Just look at the happy highlights of auto giant GM's attempt at EVs.

General Motors has recalled all 420,000 all-electric Chevy Bolts it has built and sold over the past five years and stopped production of new Bolts. Here's the encouraging news from GM for Chevy Bolt owners:

- Although your vehicle is recalled due to fire danger, GM and its battery maker LG Energy Solution don't have a solution, a "fix" as the industry calls it. So the recall is effectively an indefinite warning that your EV is dangerous, but you'll have to keep driving it.
- GM recommends you don't charge your car "fully"—a nice judgment call for you.
- GM recommends not charging the car in your garage—even if you've installed the charging station on your house current, in or at the garage.
- "Hundreds of employees" of GM and LG are working to solve the problem.

Greens Flirting with Pro-Green SPD-Led Government

Aug. 30 (EIRNS)—The dream of a Green chancellorship of Annalena Baerbock having been ruined by the constant drop in her ratings in past weeks, and the Green Party ratings falling behind those of the Social Democrats, the Greens are adapting to the option of a coalition government led by the SPD and their chancellor candidate Olaf Scholz. The option of a coalition with the Christian Democrats is dropped, and the Greens' campaign is becoming more aggressive against CDU-CSU chancellor candidate Armin Laschet. Baerbock now accuses him of being against the Paris Climate Agreement. The charges have less to do with reality, because Laschet is also paying tribute to the whole climate nonsense, than with making clear that a coalition with a Laschet-led CDU-CSU is impossible for the Greens. A side-aspect is that it keeps the door a bit open for coalition options with the Christian Democrats if they should decide to replace Laschet with CSU Chairman Markus Söder, who is more publicly open for a deal with the Greens.

Olaf Scholz, on his part, is now talking a lot about favoring a post-election coalition with the Greens and the Linke, or with the Greens and Free Democrats. Since the SPD program is quite green anyway, a Scholz chancellorship would be a green, and for the Great Reset too, which Scholz has been backing in his present function as Finance Minister of the outgoing Merkel government.

A first national TV show featuring all three chancellor candidates last night was assessed in a FORSA opinion poll afterwards, giving Scholz 36%, Baerbock 30% and Laschet 25%.