

Editorial

A Strategic Announcement from Russia

Transportation corridors: not just roads from Point A to Point B, but the sinews and nervous system of the most intensive agro-industrial development ever seen on the planet. Russia's May 15 announcement, that the huge Eurasian nation was committed to a ten-year strategy of developing transportation corridors, coincides exactly with year 2004 U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.'s proposals for a U.S. strategic recovery program.

Russia's announcement of its immediate commitment to the railway-development component of the type of Eurasian land-bridge program which LaRouche has continued to propose, opens the door for global economic reforms which LaRouche says, "match exactly the strategic priorities I have placed upon emergency reregulation of energy production and distribution, and revival of the Hill-Burton tradition in health-care inside the U.S.A. itself."

Minister of Transportation Sergei Frank announced that the Russian Federation has created the Eurasian Transport Union (ETU), an idea it put forward at the Second Eurasian Transport Conference in St. Petersburg last year. Alone among publications in the West, *EIR* reported this conference in its issue of Sept. 29, 2000. Russia, India, and Iran have signed a preliminary agreement on a North-South corridor, and nearly 50 Asian and European countries are expected to collaborate with the newly registered ETU. Its goal is to accelerate the development of international transport corridors from Europe to Asia across Russian territory, modernizing the infrastructure of the Trans-Siberian Railroad and Russia's inland waterways, and building up the North-South route from Calcutta in India, through Iran and across the Caspian Sea, linking to Russian rail and water routes into Europe.

Sergei Glazyev, chairman of the Russian State Duma's Committee on Economic Policy and Business, reports that these large infrastructure projects are at the center of Russia's attention right now. Because many countries lack access to credits for infrastructure development, Glazyev says that "in the work conducted by the Schiller Institute and Mr. LaRouche, we see very fruitful ideas concerning the promotion of economic

growth in the new economic situation"—among them, the infrastructure corridors.

It was at the May 4-6, 2001 Bad Schwalbach conference of the Schiller Institute, where Glazyev appeared together with LaRouche, that LaRouche presented an outline of the significance of transcontinental Eurasian high-speed transport:

"Through the mediation of Russia, which has the peculiarity, historically, of being a Eurasian nation, . . . it is possible for Europe to unite with Russia and nations in Asia to set up a long-term system under which, instead of consumer goods markets and investments for these countries, you set up long-term development of the productive powers of labor in these nations. So, you're talking about a generation or more. That means a system of long-term credit issued by those nations which are producing the greater part of the technology to the nations which need that supplement. . . .

"Look at Asia today: In China, you have the coastal areas. . . ; they are more highly developed, relatively speaking, and the inland is poorly developed, the population has a poorer standard of living and poorer opportunities for development. This extends then into Central and North Asia as a whole. Therefore, if we conquer this area, what happens? . . .

"Integrated transport systems, featuring railways, especially magnetic-levitation systems, are excellent. . . . If you can move freight from Rotterdam to Tokyo at an average rate of 300 kilometers per hour, without much stopping along the way, and if for every 100 kilometers of motion across that route, you are generating the creation of wealth through production, as a result of the existence of that corridor, then, the cost of moving freight from Rotterdam to Tokyo is less than zero. . . .

"Therefore, we have come to a turning point in technology, where the development of the internal landmass of the world and the great typical frontier is Central and North Asia. That is the greatest single opportunity before all mankind for development. . . ."

These steps not only move toward restoring Russia's world role; they also call for an immediate and fundamental shift in monetary policies, worldwide.