

‘Haitians Want A Real Nation’

by Cynthia R. Rush

Sept. 27—On Feb. 23, 2010, a little over a month after the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake that killed 300,000 Haitians, Lyndon LaRouche warned that Haiti “is the image of what awaits all of humanity under the current, British-imperial international financial system: It is the face of the New Dark Age. We must stop it in Haiti, if we are to have the moral fitness to survive on this planet.”

LaRouche, along with several other experts, had just proposed to President Barack Obama that he order an emergency mobilization of the Army Corps of Engineers to help relocate up to a million homeless earthquake victims living amidst the rubble of Port-au-Prince to higher ground, before the rainy season hit, bringing with it an almost certain outbreak of infectious diseases to a traumatized and vulnerable population.

“To prevent another wave of mass deaths and total national disintegration, a bilateral treaty agreement between the United States and Haiti should be promptly reached,” LaRouche recommended, lasting for as long as 25 years, and premised on total respect for the nation’s sovereignty. This partnership, LaRouche said, could set Haiti on the path to real reconstruction and economic development.

The Nero in the White House criminally rejected the proposals by LaRouche and other experts in disaster relief. Bypassing the Haitian government altogether—which has been denied funds, and deliberately excluded from reconstruction decision-making—Obama authorized funds to be channeled to an army of competing non-governmental organizations (NGOs), USAID, and other agencies committed to the British imperial outlook of enforced backwardness and population reduction.

Thus, in many respects, the country is worse off today than it was *before* the 2010 earthquake. “Rebuilding better,” the slogan of the official international Haiti reconstruction effort, is a shameful fraud.

Immediately after the October 2010 cholera out-

break, LaRouche recalled he had warned that Obama’s policy would lead “precisely towards this sort of outbreak and it has now done that. . . . This means that the policy of genocide implicit in Obama’s policy is now coming to bear. And probably, among the next targets of this genocide is going to be the people of the United States themselves, unless Obama is removed before that.”

Prophetic words; and Obama is still in the Oval Office.

Provide Hope Amidst Despair

Jean-Philippe Lebleu of the LaRouche-affiliated Comité pour la République du Canada in Montreal, reported on “The LaRouche Show” Sept. 15, that he and other French-speaking colleagues went into action almost immediately after the 2010 earthquake, distributing LaRouche’s programmatic proposals through Haitian radio programs in Montreal, Houston, and Washington, D.C., eventually contacting the Haitian Regional Coalition of Youth in the North and North West Departments in August 2010, and speaking on the radio show hosted by its leader Charles Lukson.

The point of LaRouche’s intervention, Lebleu said, was to emphasize that Haiti could be a “factor of change,” and not just “a place that needs help.” This programmatic focus, Lebleu underscored, “gives a sense of a future to Haitians, who are otherwise plagued with uncertainties, caused by disease and natural catastrophes.”

One of the high points of this intervention came in November 2010, just a month after the cholera outbreak, when 2,500 people gathered in the city of Cap Haitien to hear Lebleu read the statement by Helga Zepp-LaRouche entitled “Operation Frederick Douglass,” named after the U.S.’s first consul to Haiti, the former slave, abolitionist leader, and Abraham Lincoln ally.

In that statement, Zepp-LaRouche demanded that “the reconstruction of Haiti has to build up infrastructure, cities, industries, and agriculture. And this has to occur in the context of building the NAWAPA (North American Water and Power Alliance) and PLHINO (Mexico’s North West Hydraulic Project) water-management projects. It has to be in the context of building the World Land-Bridge as the reconstruction after the collapse of the present system.

“And we have to think in terms of 25 years of development, of one generation of development for Haiti. And we have to have a solemn commitment to do that.



UN/MINUSTAH/Victoria Hazou

In Port-au-Prince, where 400,000 homeless people still live in hundreds of squalid “displaced persons” camps, Tropical Storm Isaac destroyed the flimsy tarpaulin and bed-sheet “homes” of camp residents. Shown: The devastation caused by Isaac at Camp Laiterie de Damien in Port-au-Prince.

We should call it Operation Frederick Douglass, because there is no better name to give Haiti a better future.”

‘Development as It Should Be Done?’

That sense of hope for the future is desperately needed. To date, against the backdrop of the still-ram-paging cholera epidemic—there is an upsurge after every major rainstorm or hurricane—every aspect of Haiti’s post-earthquake “reconstruction” has been focused on enforcing slavery and oppression, defining a future whose central features are tourism and sweatshops.

A case in point is the misnamed “Northern Industrial Park” in Caracol along Haiti’s northern coast, which is a giant free-trade zone of the same notorious “maquiladora” character as those in Mexico and Central America. Here, thousands are expected to be grateful for the chance to work long hours at slave-labor wages—the South Korean owner Sae-A Trading Co., Ltd. complains that \$3 a day is too much—to produce garments for multinational retail firms that export to the U.S. or Europe.

These sweatshops are of no benefit to Haiti’s economy or its people. They build only enough infrastructure to ensure that the workforce will be able to produce sufficient quantity of goods without dropping dead first.

While the UN has been forced to desperately beg international donors for more funding to cover even minimal humanitarian operations, the Caracol project has been generously funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, the U.S. government, and USAID, which calls Caracol “a smart economic investment.”

According to Paul Collier, the Oxford University economist drafted by the UN to design Haiti’s “rebuilding” strategy, the Caracol project is “development as it should be.”

Collier, who is admired by the Nazi-trained British imperialist drug pusher George Soros as “one of the most original minds in the world today,” is an outspoken champion of “limited sovereignty.” In a program published in 2009, Collier asserted that infrastructure projects or ad-

vanced technology are “inappropriate” for nations like Haiti. Rather, he notes, Haiti’s greatest asset is its large, uneducated, cheap labor force, and economic backwardness. “Due to its poverty and relatively unregulated labor market, Haiti has labor costs that are fully competitive with China, which is the global benchmark.”

Don’t waste funds investing in modern equipment for Haitian energy projects, Collier advises. Second-hand equipment for primitive energy production will work just fine.

Relegated to the Trash Heap

Lebleu told The LaRouche Show’s Marcia Baker that following the 2010 earthquake, the failure of Nerobama to come to Haiti’s aid was cause for tremendous pessimism and demoralization among the population. People didn’t understand why the first black President of the United States, someone they thought of as “their” President, turned his back on them.

Two and a half years after the earthquake, Haitians live in terror every time a tropical storm or hurricane rips through Hispaniola, because vital flood-control and water-management infrastructure hasn’t been built. Tropical storm Isaac, which hit the island on Aug. 25 this year, killed 24 people in Haiti and five in the Dominican Republic, amidst massive flooding and mudslides that

forced tens of thousands to flee to temporary shelters.

In the capital, Port-au-Prince, where 400,000 homeless people still live in 575 squalid “displaced persons” (IDP) camps, Isaac’s fierce winds and rains destroyed the flimsy tarpaulin and bed-sheet “homes” of camp residents. Jean-Michel Vigreux, country director in Haiti for the CARE NGO, wrote at the time that “water is stagnating around the camps and in some areas latrines are flooded.”

In other parts of the country, the storm destroyed tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural crops, and wiped out bridges and roads which were often in precarious condition to begin with. Given the lack of sanitation infrastructure and the inability of the Health Ministry to replace the medical NGOs that have pulled out due to lack of funding—the Health Ministry’s own budget is miniscule—cholera upsurges are given.

Moreover, as Prof. Mark Schuler of City University of New York campus points out, although the population of the IDP camps has dropped from 1.3 million immediately after the earthquake to 400,000 today, this in no way means that people’s living conditions have improved.

On the contrary, Schuler wrote in a July 9 article. Those former camp residents have been treated like “piles of garbage, swept aside and neglected,” often forcibly evicted from camps in the main plazas and driven into new slums and shanty-towns, which, he said, have become the “new Cité Soleil”—the capital’s largest and most dangerous slum. Moved away from public areas that might otherwise attract potential investors, the IDPs have been relegated to areas whose only common denominator is “that they are all hidden on land that is . . . of no strategic interest to investors or tourism promoters.”

Science and Engineering

It is against this backdrop that just a few days after tropical storm Isaac hit, on Aug. 29, Haiti’s Defense Minister Jean-Rodolphe Joazile called for the creation of an Army Corps of Engineers for Haiti, as well as an Army that can provide “service to the people even in the remotest corners.”

Joazile reported that both Brazil and Ecuador “have agreed to train engineers for us,” and added that given Haiti’s cholera epidemic and other health challenges, “if the Ministry of Defense has a Corps of Engineers within it, it will be very useful for the people.” And, he added, “in parallel with this,” Haiti also needs a na-

tional health service.

Any discussion of reestablishing the military—the Army was disbanded in 1995-96—provokes rage and hysteria among human rights groups that argue that Haiti must never again have an army, as such institutions are, they allege, inherently prone to human rights abuses and authoritarianism.

But Joazile reflected the reality that an army is inextricably linked to a nation’s sovereignty. It is needed today, “but we must not repeat the same mistakes of the past.” The army, he said, “must be rebuilt on a new basis . . . not on the ruins of the former Armed Forces. . . . This army must . . . essentially be at the service of *development* and the people.”

It is precisely this optimistic outlook that the LaRouche movement has been promoting in Haiti, even under difficult conditions. Lebleu points out it is important to be aware of Haitians’ terrible isolation from the rest of the world. “It’s hard to get a book or a newspaper. Radios are the only stable way of knowing what is going on, along with some TV channels.”

A major achievement was the creation of a regular radio show featuring Lebleu and LaRouche collaborator Charles Lukson, focusing on LaRouche’s development perspective, which was broadcast in five of Haiti’s ten departments (states) three times a week over a period of several months during 2010-11. Invited guests included Texas Congressional candidate Kesha Rogers of the LaRouche national candidates’ slate, among others.

On the radio show and in other forums, Lebleu reports, “We’ve kept hammering on the three-point proposal for Haiti: “The danger of a British-Obama thermo-nuclear war confronting the U.S. with Russia and China; the need to reinstate the Glass-Steagall law in the U.S. and internationally, plus the development of the La Peli-gre region” in Haiti’s Artibonite Valley, site of the Franklin Roosevelt-era infrastructure development project that transformed Haiti’s major rice-growing region.

Following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan, several thousand more Haitians—students, religious groups, NGO activists—gathered to watch the French translation of LPAC-TV’s “Rim of Fire” video. Given Haiti’s and the Caribbean’s vulnerability to earthquake and volcanic events, the video received the widest attention and was shown repeatedly.

As Lebleu commented, people depend on such video showings to find out what’s going on in the world. “For most people our interventions are a bit of fresh air, to finally have people thinking from the top.”