

EIR Participates in Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of the African Union

by Donielle DeToy

June 4—Fifty years ago, on May 25, 1963, African leaders representing 32 newly created nations gathered in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, to form the Organization of African Union (OAU). The President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, a founding father of the OAU, presented a clear and necessary vision of a united Africa joined together for the common cause of independent banking, economic cooperation, and large infrastructure projects. Lawrence Freeman, of *EIR*'s Africa Desk, rekindled that vision in his presentation, "Africa's Great Deficit: Challenges of Infrastructure Decay, Peace, and Economic Development," on May 28, 2013, at the headquarters of the OAU in New York City.

The conference, "Africa@50 Summit," was sponsored by the Center for Media Peace Initiatives (CMPI), to commemorate the OAU's founding. Dr. Uchenna Ekwo, the president and founder of CMPI, invited Freeman to speak on the first panel, "Democracy, Development, and Defense." He presented some of *EIR*'s proposed great infrastructure projects for Africa and provoked an intensive discussion of the credit policies of America's first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander's Hamilton.

Freeman reminded the audience of the brutal mentality of Africa's most infamous British imperialist, Cecil Rhodes, master of "the looting of the continent's abundant resources under the ground, accompanied by the killing of tens of millions of 'natives' above the ground." Unfortunately, after 50 years, the same policies have continued, he said. The two mechanisms used to achieve these desired ends have been: "1) the intentional refusal to build regional and transcontinental infrastructure projects in vital categories of power, water, and rail transportation; and 2) the manipulation, creation, and nurturing of 'ethnic-religious' differences. The intended consequence has been fragile or weakened states throughout the continent. Suffering from

the lack of the basic necessities of life, desperate people predictably turn on each other, killing their brothers and sisters over food, land, and water, simply to stay alive. We witness these conditions today in Sudan and South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Mali."

Nkrumah's Vision

How does one end the conflicts, wars, famine, and insurgencies? Freeman insisted that the root causes must be extirpated, and replaced by a new economic principle based on a Hamiltonian credit system and continental collaboration for great infrastructure projects. That concept is not new to the OAU; in its founding 1963 conference, President Nkrumah echoed a similar theme:

"It is true that we are now throwing off the yoke of colonialism as fast as we can, but our success in this direction is equally matched by an intense effort on the part of imperialism to continue the exploitation of our resources by creating divisions among us. . . .

"It was colonialism in the first place that prevented us from accumulating the effective capital; but we ourselves have failed to make full use of our power in independence to mobilize our resource. It is only by uniting our productive capacity and the resultant production that we can amass capital. And once we start, the momentum will increase. With capital controlled by our own banks, harnessed to our own true industrial and agricultural development, we shall make our advance. We shall accumulate machinery and establish steel works, iron foundries, and factories; we shall link the various states of our continent with communications; we shall astound the world with our hydroelectric power; we shall drain marshes and swamps, clear infested areas, feed the under-nourished, and rid our people of parasites and disease. It is within the possibil-

FIGURE 1



This satellite view of Africa, showing one-third of the continent is desert, makes clear why water projects are so desperately needed.

ity of science and technology to make even the Sahara bloom into a vast field with verdant vegetation for agricultural and industrial developments.”

‘A Bright Future’

Making the Sahara bloom is exactly what *EIR* then presented to this audience. Freeman showed maps of four major continental projects—two water infrastructure proposals, the Transaqua program and the canal from eastern Congo to the Qattara Depression, and two transport corridors, Africa Pass and an East-West railroad.

A map of water resources in Africa shows the problem clearly: an abundance of water in the Congo Basin, and an extremely dry desert region, including the rapidly disappearing Lake Chad. Transaqua (see *EIR*, Oct. 8, 2010), would build a navigable canal from the mighty Congo River north to join the Obangui River, then cross

the Central African Republic into the Chari River to replenish Lake Chad. This would improve the lives of over 50 million Africans from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria, creating new economic potential for all of the Sahel. The canal from the Eastern Congo to the Qattara Depression (*EIR*, June 8, 2012) also begins with Congo River; this proposed irrigation canal travels through Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan, and Egypt. The two transportation grids will connect more than 20 countries on the African continent.

Freeman then spoke of the youth of Africa, the continent which “is reported to have the fastest-growing population, ages 15-24, in the world, making up 20% of the total population of the continent, or 200 million, and 60% of the unemployed. Construction of these infrastructure projects will not only be the most efficient way to provide employment for Africa’s ‘youth bulge,’ but it will necessitate the education and training of tens of millions of youth as laborers, engineers, and scientists. This course of action will provide a bright future for all Africans, and benefit the entire world.”

Lyndon LaRouche has warned that the present global financial system is in a process of disintegration and that the United States must lead the way by reinstating Glass-Steagall and establishing a Hamiltonian credit system. It was this concept that created a particularly intense dialogue during the conference. One audience participant, a proclaimed descendant of Hamilton, challenged everyone to go to Wall Street to view the statue of Hamilton, study his writings to understand how it is that America was able to free itself from the British Empire by creating a new type of bank. This addressed the often-asked question, “How will you pay for these projects?”

In the afternoon, a panelist began his speech with a reference to Freeman’s earlier presentation, and then gave a brief history of Hamilton’s method of national banking. His impromptu statement ended with a call for the immediate creation of the First National Bank of Africa. The Founding Fathers of the OAU and the U.S.A. would most certainly agree.