

KESHA ROGERS

U.S. Must Lead in Space In Cooperation with Russia and China

Aug. 5—LaRouche PAC Policy Committee member Keshia Rogers submitted the following op-ed to the Houston Chronicle, calling on the United States to lead in space exploration. The op-ed is in response to a Chronicle editorial that attacks both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump for not having a vision for space exploration.

Human space exploration is not merely one program on a buffet table of policies that candidates can pick and choose from. NASA represents the cutting edge of the greatest scientific discoveries. Our space program was based on a policy that sought to improve our knowledge and enable our transformation of our Universe. President John F. Kennedy's mission to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to Earth was more than just an audacious goal; it unleashed technological and scientific breakthroughs that transformed society, utilizing the best talents our nation had to offer.

President Kennedy's vision did not just end with landing a man on the Moon. He called on Congress and the nation to meet national goals including the development of alternate liquid and solid fuel boosters, the Rover nuclear rocket, and space satellites for worldwide communications and many other uses. These goals aimed at unleashing a new era in space exploration, which would increase the creative and productive output of our society, inspire the entire world, and lay the basis for nations to collaborate to achieve the common aims of all mankind.

Keeping these aims in mind, it is not the United States which today is offering the hand of cooperation in the exploration of space, but it is Russia and most importantly China, which has repeatedly offered to collaborate with us on space exploration, including return-



Liu Yang became China's first female astronaut, aboard the Shenzhou-9 space docking mission. Since the June 2012 mission, China has repeatedly offered to collaborate with the United States on space exploration.

ing to the Moon for research and development, and protecting Earth from impacts by asteroids and extreme space weather. China is now taking that mission to the next level, and moving to become the first to land on the far side of the Moon. Here again, space opens the door to peaceful cooperation, even while politicians argue for war, sanctions, and chauvinistic nationalism.

It comes as no surprise that the two Wall Street candidates have no policy with respect to our country's most inspiring legacy of the past 50 years. These candidates have failed to meet the standard set by JFK,— but rather than lower the national debate to their level, we should raise it to his. The responsibility of leadership requires us to go far beyond the immediate crises and challenges of our day, and to look into the future, to imagine what mankind must become, and to take the necessary actions to bring that future into being. This was the leadership that President Kennedy exemplified. That is the leadership we must demand now!