

Editorial

Africans take the lead

On Dec. 20, in New York City, a new institution was founded, which will rightly lead the way toward the reshaping of world history in 1998. Under the leadership of Dr. Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda, and with the close aid of Helga Zepp LaRouche's Schiller Institute, an African Civil Rights Movement was formed.

Dr. Binaisa first issued his call for such a movement in April 1995. That call poses the challenge which faces all nations, but has reached the most critical point in Africa. We quote its statement of purpose:

"Recognizing the right for development as the inalienable right of man, we call for a policy of rapid development of the physical economy of our continent. This means the large-scale development of continent-wide infrastructure (railways, roads, waterways, energy, education, and health), it means a perspective of rapid buildup of modern agriculture and industry, so that we will feed ourselves and manufacture from our raw materials. We demand that the existing foreign debt structure be frozen and any payments postponed until such a time as we have economically recovered and have separated out the legitimate from the illegitimate debt. We reject any of the IMF's [International Monetary Fund] SAPs [Structural Adjustment Programs] and privatization policies, and instead join forces with those in Ibero-America, in Russia and Ukraine, who demand a general bankruptcy reorganization of the collapsing world economy, and a 'New, Just World Economic Order.'

"We, the people of Africa, must finally throw off the yoke of the new colonialism and exercise our sovereignty by choosing '20-century methods' for the most rapid economic development, which will enable 'all the men in all the lands of Africa to live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.' Thus, we lay the basis for lasting peace on our continent. Because, as Pope Paul VI said, 'Development is the new name for peace.' "

It is particularly appropriate that Africa lead the way in establishing an organization dedicated to such universal principles. The fate of the African continent is in

many respects the "conscience" of mankind, because it is there where one can see most starkly the future which the international financial oligarchy sees for all of mankind. Over the course of 1997, once again, we in the LaRouche movement have stressed the "Africa issue"—dramatized in the British-sponsored genocide around the Great Lakes region—as a test for all humanity. We have largely confronted apathy in the face of the unspeakable, yet stoppable horrors.

But, even under conditions which would make the strongest man faint, a grouping of African leaders has taken courage from Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, and stepped onto the stage of world leadership. In great contrast to those small people who rail about the fate of "their neighborhood," or "their family," or "their country," or "their race," these people have agreed to move ahead with a perspective of replacing the IMF with a new monetary system, and effectively destroying the British Empire. They have taken the lead for all nations throughout the world.

In the course of 1998, it is precisely such far-sighted leadership that will be required. We are headed into financial, economic, and political storms, the likes of which have not been seen for centuries. To try to patch up the system which is collapsing, or deal with local palliatives, is a losing proposition. What mankind requires is individuals who will rise to the Mountaintop, so eloquently spoken of by Rev. Martin Luther King, to tell the truth, and to fight for the global changes which are required.

This magazine was founded with the specific commitment to providing the intelligence required for the construction of such a "new, just world economic order," intelligence which centers uniquely around the leadership of our founder, Lyndon LaRouche. Many opportunities for advancing toward this objective have been lost over the last three decades. Now that African leaders have come forward to launch an institution committed to it, it is incumbent upon the rest of us to join them—and make 1998 the year of a new, just monetary system, for all.