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EDITORIAL

LaRouche's 'Apollo Mission' To Defeat the Global Pandemic: Build a World Health System Now!

April 9 (EIRNS)—*The following is the introduction to the Schiller Institute international statement on how to defeat the global pandemic, the full text of which will be released on April 10.*

April 10, 2020—At the time this urgent call to build a World Health System was written, the world had confirmed over 1.5 million cases of COVID-19, and the number of deaths attributed to the pandemic was over 80,000. This disease, first active in humans in December or November 2019, has spread, within a matter of months, to nearly all nations of the world, with a ferocious rate of growth in populations not taking strong measures to arrest its advance. The mortality rate among those infected is estimated to be an order of magnitude greater than that of the seasonal flu. At the time you are reading this call to action, the numbers will be greater, possibly much, much greater.

Gravest of all, we could be witnessing an explosion of infections and deaths in the so-called less-developed sector or Third World, especially in Africa—whose underdevelopment is the Achilles Heel of the entire human species.

Defeating this deadly virus will require immediate, coordinated global action: intensive public health measures, including extensive testing and isolation of those found to be infected; a huge increase in the availability of healthcare facilities and equipment; significant investment and resources devoted to finding cures and a vaccine; great strides in sanitation measures, especially in less-developed nations; and an end to the historically unnecessary lack of development—and outright looting—in the world. This global pandemic emphatically requires a global response, as reservoirs of the virus in any part of the world could cause resurgences for years.

It requires a World Health System covering every part of the planet.

Such a global response requires, most centrally, the coordination of the United States, China, Russia, and India, a Four Powers alliance open to all nations of the planet. The leaders of those four nations should hold a summit as soon as possible to work out common approaches to addressing the enormous health, material, and infrastructural needs of the world, as a first step towards creating an entirely New Paradigm to replace the bankrupt old system.

There is no other way, no lesser course, that will actually defeat the pandemic.

Although COVID-19 is the disaster currently inflicting itself on humanity, it is only one of many to which the world is susceptible, due to a failure of the international order over the past fifty years, most especially the deadly looting of developing sector nations. A solar flare could knock out most of the world's electricity grids—why have they not been hardened against this, even in the so-called “developed” countries? An as-yet-undiscovered asteroid or comet could destroy an entire continent—why have we developed no defenses against this threat? There are 800 million people on this planet who lack adequate food—why has this been tolerated? A plague of locusts currently menaces the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions. Another disease could spring up any week—why do we not have better defenses against viruses?

The world community must create a resiliency for successful long-term survival, not just in the short-term while hoping that no unusual events occur, but prepared for true safety and security. This cannot occur under the neo-liberal economic paradigm that is now failing. It cannot occur under a regime of bailout and treating financial values as sacrosanct. That system, with its \$1.8 quadrillion speculative bubble, is now thoroughly bankrupt, and must be put through a process of bankruptcy reorganization long specified by the American economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, along with the simultaneous requirement to build a new Hamiltonian credit system, nationally and internationally, to put humanity back on the track of science-driven physical-economic development. The long-term successful survival

and flourishing of the human species requires a world system that recognizes the divine spark of potential genius in each individual and which seeks to foster that potential through economic, cultural, and scientific development.

Below, we take up the task of delineating the needed World Health System, by posing, and answering, two questions:

1) What is the cause of this, possibly the worst crisis humanity has ever faced?

2) What is the full set of measures that should be taken on all fronts, both in the United States and worldwide, to defeat the pandemic?

We do not start by listing all the bottlenecks and shortages, and try to work from the bottom up. We start instead by figuring out what is required: We must use this existential crisis to finally overcome the underdevelopment of large sections of mankind, a condition, which is not worthy of the human species. Then, we determine the physical economic requirements to achieve each step along the way, including the bills of materials and manpower requirements, as defined from the standpoint of industrial engineering. We then return to the bottlenecks and figure out how we are going to break through them, on schedule or earlier. We will find that, to achieve that trajectory, we will be on a forced march requiring constant technological breakthroughs; we will find that we are in the domain of the science of physical economy, where Lyndon LaRouche's work is our only guide and roadmap.

We will also find that such an approach requires full international cooperation, especially between the United States and China, to achieve these common aims of mankind. Anyone opposing such cooperation should be scientifically classed in the same genus and species, politically, as the coronavirus itself.

That approach is how Franklin D. Roosevelt mobilized the nation to defeat fascism in World War II. That is how NASA engineers turned the

looming Apollo 13 catastrophe into success. And in our current endeavor to defeat the coronavirus across the planet, here too failure is not an option.

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Friday, April 10: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley's briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Africa CDC Head Warns, COVID-19 'Is an Existential Threat for Our Continent'

April 9 (EIRNS)—Dr. John Nkengasong, the head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stated in a recent call with journalists that COVID-19 “is an existential threat for our continent. We have to win the battle against COVID in Africa in order to survive.... We cannot eliminate COVID in any country in the world if we still have it lingering in any part of the world.” He added that “global solidarity” was urgently required to defeat the pandemic.

An April 7 Yahoo News article which reported on Dr. Nkengasong's comments, also noted that “public health officials are raising the alarm that infection rates in Africa could soon boom, while also undermining international efforts to end the pandemic. Many are concerned that as cases increase, COVID-19 will make its way to vulnerable populations in war zones, slums and sprawling refugee camps across the continent.”

Princeton University Professor Jessica Metcalf is quoted saying that there is already a “tsunami of other infectious diseases” in Africa, such as malaria and AIDS, and that the result of adding COVID-19 into the mix could be catastrophic. “It's likely to be one last straw that might break the camel's back.”

Exemplary of the lack of health infrastructure across the region is the case of the Central African Republic, population 5 million, which has a grand total of three ventilators for the entire population.

The Imperial College of London, with its known Malthusian proclivities, published a study on March 26 which said that, if nothing were done to reduce the coronavirus spread, Sub-Saharan Africa, whose total population is 1.1 billion, could see 1 billion people infected, with close to 2.5 million deaths from COVID-19. If stringent measures are taken, such as testing, isolation of cases, widespread social distancing, then the infections could drop to “only” 110 million with 300,000 deaths.

But those are precisely the sort of measures that are impossible to implement under current economic and social conditions in Africa, and in fact most of the underdeveloped world. Alexandra Lamarche of Refugees International told Yahoo News, published April 7: “Lockdowns not only stymie the spread of the virus, but they also stop the flow of income, prevent people from reaching markets for vital supplies, and prohibit access to communal water points.” Social distancing and washing of hands are impossible for the some 50% of African urban dwellers who live in slums and lack running water. Massive projects for infrastructure, industrial, and agriculture must be launched immediately to address such problems, if COVID-19 is not to decimate the African continent.

U.S. Unemployment at Depression Levels, Fed Is at ‘Wall and Main’

April 9 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Labor Department announced today that new unemployment claims for the week ending April 8 were 6.6 million (at least; the previous two weeks have had to be revised upward). With revisions, just under 17 million people have filed for unemployment in three weeks, representing about 11% of the labor force, even with the inclusion of unincorporated self-employed (because they are now allowed to file for benefits). Since real April unemployment, including new labor force dropouts, was nearly 9% according to surveys taken more than three weeks ago, real unemployment now can be put in the range of 20%, close

to pre-New Deal Great Depression levels. It is still estimated that this unemployment is overwhelmingly in services and in small businesses.

For businesses under 500 employees, the Treasury's Payroll Retention loan program, aside from having a rocky start with many banks, has been quickly shown to be much too small at \$359 billion. China's similar program was twice as large, and still, huge numbers of small businesses there have not reopened.

Moreover, banks are pulling commercial and industrial credit lines. The column in *Financial Times* yesterday about JPMorgan Chase stopping any small business loan applications outside the Payroll Retention program, is but a hint of the volume of credit being called and credit lines being capped for large and small businesses alike, as the banks themselves are hit with margin calls on all their speculations. Commercial/industrial lending is now becoming like mortgage lending after the crash: Only Federally-backed loans go through.

The Federal Reserve this morning announced a \$2.3 trillion "Main Street lending" program which continues the evolution of Fed lending toward the intersection of Wall and Main. Businesses of up to 10,000 employees and up to \$2.5 billion annual revenue can receive loans from \$600 billion of this, which is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) based on \$75 billion from the Treasury in "equity and reserves." This "company" size certainly includes a lot of Wall Street investment firms, but the revenue limit excludes major or regional banks or big private equity firms. The loans are to be made by banks and 5% discounted (95% purchased) by the Fed. The Treasury's "equity and reserves" amount to owning the first-loss tranches of the SPV, which are certain to be losses with most businesses receiving the loans.

Another SPV uses \$35 billion in Treasury "equity and reserves" to cover \$800 billion in lending to states and larger counties and cities (the cover term "local government" is misleading). Note the much higher leverage ratio reflects the assumption that municipalities, for the most part, will repay the loans.

Much of the rest of the remaining \$900 billion of the \$2.3 trillion is the Fed taking over the guaranteeing of a large volume of the small business payroll retention loans from the Treasury. This will require more Congressional authorization, which is coming.

Finally, this is all in addition to the ongoing QE and liquidity programs trying to save the financial markets. Fed's balance sheet tomorrow will probably show at least \$6.5 trillion.

Fed Extends Its Financial Markets Bailout to Outright Junk

April 9 (EIRNS)—On the same day it announced a new \$2.3 trillion combination of loan facilities for small and medium enterprises (including Wall Street SMEs) and municipal governments, it extended its “unlimited” quantitative easing purchases to include junk bonds all the way down to low B ratings. It did this after a large amount of corporate debt, which had been at the lowest “investment grade” level, was downgraded into junk. This “fallen angels” debt increased by nearly \$200 billion in the past three months.

Also on April 9, the Bank of England removed the very low limit on the balance of the U.K. government's account at the BOE, and made its size unlimited, meaning that the Exchequer can borrow/withdraw amounts of helicopter money directly from the BOE.

IMF Managing Director Georgieva Stresses Global Crisis Is ‘Like No Other ... It Could Get Worse’

April 9 (EIRNS)—In a prerecorded video speech prepared for delivery prior to next week's annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, IMF Managing Director [Kristalina Georgieva](#) asserted that the current global crisis is “a crisis like no other.” COVID-19's disruption of the social and economic order has occurred “at lightning speed and on a scale we have not seen in living memory.”

All true enough, but Georgieva has nothing to offer other than vague suggestions of providing “trillions of dollars” in emergency financing and/or debt relief—none of which will happen under the current system.

She said, “Just three months ago, we expected positive per-capita income growth in over 160 of our member countries in 2020. Today, that number has been turned on its head: We now project that over 170 countries will experience negative per-capita income growth this year.” She predicted that if the pandemic fades in the second half of the year, “thus allowing a gradual lifting of containment measures and reopening of the economy—our baseline assumption is for a *partial recovery* in 2021. But again, I stress there is *tremendous uncertainty around the outlook: it could get worse* depending on many variable factors, including the duration of the pandemic,” she stressed (emphasis in original).

In the developing sector, investors have withdrawn at least \$100 billion from these markets just in the last two months—three times the amount withdrawn during the same period of the 2008 financial crisis. External financing needs for these emerging markets are estimated to be in the “trillions of dollars, and they can cover only a portion of that on their own,” she said. “They urgently need help,” she continued, which means that hundreds of billions of dollars would have to be pumped in from outside sources, since those governments are unable to cover the whole costs themselves, and many already had large and unsustainable debts.

The Truth of Coronavirus in Haiti Depicts a ‘Disaster of Epic Proportions’

April 9 (EIRNS)—When the story of coronavirus in Haiti is told truthfully, it will be “a disaster of epic proportions,” said Dr. Jeb Sprague, a research assistant at the University of California at Riverside, in a report to the Grayzone’s “Red Lines with Anya Parampil” podcast on April 9. Parampil opened her podcast referring to Sprague’s co-authored article with University of Haiti agronomist Nazaire St. Fort in the Grayzone, on March 30, “Haiti on the Precipice as Coronavirus and U.S.-Imposed Leadership Take Their Toll.”

The official figure of 30 confirmed cases in Haiti is not believable. There is virtually no testing taking place; the official poverty rate is 58.6%—although more reliable estimates put it at 80%, given the fact that

the majority of the population has no decent housing, sanitation services, or jobs. Public health infrastructure was long ago gutted. To speak of self-isolation policies is a joke; people who quarantine, starve. In the capital of Port-au-Prince, people continue to gather in public places, for celebrations, public markets, and in nightclubs.

Dr. Sprague points out that the government spends \$13 per capita for healthcare, compared to the neighboring Dominican Republic with \$180 per capita, or Cuba, which spends \$781 per capita. In this situation, estimates that as many as 800,000 Haitians could die from COVID-19, are entirely plausible, Dr. Sprague said. One Haitian physician suggested to the authors that deaths from coronavirus could exceed those from the 2010 earthquake. Consider the fact that there are only 64 ventilators in the whole country, many of which don't work.

An added element is the porous, 224-mile border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where official coronavirus cases have climbed to 2,349. According to the International Office for Migration, since March 29, more than 11,000 Haitians have left the Dominican Republic to return home to Haiti. Only about 2,500 of those passed through official checkpoints, where they could be screened for flu-like symptoms and have their temperatures taken. Thousands of others returned, undetected and unscreened, via rivers or mountain crossings, the *Miami Herald* reported today.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Doctors Birx and Fauci Warn, It's Too Early To Relax Guidelines, May Spark 'Second Wave' of Disease

April 9 (EIRNS)—In separate interviews, the State Department's Dr. Deborah Birx and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, offered similar warnings against the dangers of moving too soon to relax social distancing guidelines, so as to "get back to normal." As reported April 8 by the *Washington Examiner*, Dr. Birx warned that any

early relaxation of the guidelines could lead to a “second wave” of the virus.

In an April 8 interview with NBC’s Today show, Dr. Birx said that while there are positive signs of a flattening of the curve in California and Washington state, Americans must continue to accept guidance from the federal government. Critically important, she emphasized, is that these early signs of hope from those two states not become a justification for relaxing the 30-day guidelines which are crucial to stop the spread of the deadly disease.

“If people start going out again and socially interacting, we could see a very acute second wave very early,” Dr. Birx warned. She further said that both she and Dr. Fauci believe that “if we work as hard as we can over the next several weeks, we will see the potential to go under the numbers predicted by the models.”

Dr. Fauci, in an April 8 video interview with editor Dr. Howard Bauchner of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, said that “as a society, just forget about shaking hands, we don’t need to shake hands,” according to AP’s account, “only half-jokingly.” “I mean it sounds crazy, but that’s the way it’s really got to be, until we get to a point where we know the population is protected” with a vaccine, he insisted. Fauci also said the U.S. should never get caught flat-footed again. “We have a habit of whenever we get over a challenge, we say, ‘OK, let’s move on to the current problem.’ We should never, ever be in a position of getting hit like this and have to scramble to respond again. This is historic. When you see what happened and is happening to New York City, that’s beyond sobering. That’s really terrible.”

Speaking on NBC News “Today” show this morning, he explained that, while the U.S. may be “beginning” to see a flattening of the infection curve, “it will be the virus that determines when life returns to normal.” Today’s crisis is a wake-up call that this could recur in the future, he warned. “When you’re talking about getting back to normal, we know now

that we can get hit by a catastrophic outbreak like this. It can happen again, so we really need to be prepared to respond in a much more vigorous way.”

Media Politicize WHO Issue, as Trump Says WHO ‘Got It Wrong’; Tedros Urges U.S.-China Collaboration

April 9 (EIRNS)—At yesterday’s briefing by the White House Coronavirus Task Force, the media magpies demanded answers on whether President Donald Trump intends to defund the World Health Organization (WHO) and on whether some action should be taken against China for disseminating “misinformation” on the coronavirus.

The President made no comments at all about China, and had Secretary of State Mike Pompeo come to the podium instead. When asked if he thought China had withheld “critical information” about the virus, Pompeo was uncharacteristically subdued, saying only that “this is not the time for retribution.” Each country had an obligation to share its information accurately, he conceded, but went on to affirm that China and the U.S. were collaborating very well and thanked China for the medical supplies it had sent. Asked about whether a “leadership change” were necessary at the WHO, Pompeo replied, “This is not the time to be doing that kind of change.”

The President later responded to reporters on the issue of the WHO, saying that the organization had “gotten it all wrong,” had made erroneous statements about human-to-human transmission and criticized the U.S. for banning transportation from China. He repeated that the WHO was China-centric, and pointed to the U.S.’s large financial contribution to the WHO, compared to China’s. “We’ll investigate ... and make a determination as to what we’re doing” regarding financing, he said.

At yesterday’s press conference in Geneva, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a reporter that the WHO is always assessing its strengths and weaknesses. “We want to learn from our mistakes and move forward.” But, there is a war between “humanity and the virus,” he emphasized, so this is not the time to politicize the issue, because lives are at stake and there is no time to waste.

“The United States and China should come together and fight this dangerous enemy. And the rest of the G20 should come together to fight it; and the rest of the world should come together to fight it. For God’s sake,” he emphasized, 80,000 citizens of the world have died. “Every one person is precious. If you don’t want more body bags, don’t politicize this.... I will suggest two things to the world. The first is national unity and the second is global solidarity.... When there are cracks at the national level and global level, that’s when the virus succeeds.”

Corps of Engineers’ Semonite Cautions, Some Projects Won’t Be Ready Before Pandemic Peaks

April 9 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is cautioning some state and local governments that some of the projects to build temporary expanded hospital capacity may not be completed before the pandemic peaks in their areas, so they should reconsider those projects.

“We’re beginning to run out of time,” Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, the head of ACE, told reporters April 8, reported *Military Times*. “I think that we will probably be done starting new builds—probably in a week.” While projects in New York and Chicago are close to wrapping up, for hundreds of other proposed sites, it may take too long to get contracts drawn up and construction underway to make a difference for local hospitals, Semonite said. Still, the prospect of wasting money pales in comparison to the risk of letting one person die, because they didn’t go for it: “The last thing we want is to have somebody die because we didn’t have the bed space available,” he said.

Semonite provided the following breakdown of the status of assessments and projects:

- 834 of the 914 facility assessments requested have been completed.
- 23 facilities totaling 8,571 beds are pending construction.
- 17 facilities designed by the Corps of Engineers with a total of 5,869 beds will be built by the states, not the Corps of Engineers.

- 17 facilities with a total of 14,759 beds have been built by the Corps of Engineers.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Central American Voice Insists, Replace Speculative Capitalism with a Productive System

April 9 (EIRNS)—“The world has to replace speculative capitalism—whose upcoming bankruptcy is already being admitted by the mass media as a recession due to the virus—with the physical productivity of goods,” Guatemala university professor and journalist Mario Roberto Morales argued in his latest opinion column.

Morales’s column was published yesterday in four Central American online news sites: Guatemala’s daily *El Periódico* and PúblicoGT website; El Salvador publication *ContraPunto*, and Honduras website, Criterio. Morales informs his readers of the real global line-up about which the vast majority of Central Americans know nothing: the developing cooperation between Presidents Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, and Vladimir Putin on developing physical production, versus the speculators of Wall Street and the City of London. He writes:

“The terrorism of the media and financiers around the coronavirus—which is very real, and not fictitious—is an expression of the global struggle between the unproductive speculative capital of Wall Street, the City of London, and the Rothschild and Soros banks—which are using the terror of the virus to try to get people to support their anti-people financial measures—and capital for the physical productivity of goods, which seeks to put an end to the financiers’ globalization and its periodic crises....

“This is now a requirement for global survival and not an idealist or utopian proposal. That is why, as unprecedented as it may seem, Trump agrees with the Chinese proposal to put an end to the hegemony of speculative capital in favor of a capitalism of material productivity. And that is why China and Russia support Trump and not the Obamas-Clintons-Soroses, who are so tied to the military-industrial complex and wars as a

means of boosting the market for their weapons. That is also why the issue of whether Trump is re-elected or not is so important.”