

Editorial

Africa needs a New Bretton Woods

United Nations Security Council President Bill Richardson announced on Sept. 3 that the Council will hold a meeting of foreign ministers on Sept. 25, to “stimulate new thinking” on Africa. “Our goal,” he said, “is to focus international attention on Africa, to develop a more coherent approach to both the conflicts and the long-term needs of the continent.”

How can such a laudable goal be achieved?

Not by “business as usual.” What is required, is an uncompromising moral commitment on the part of the world’s nations, that *never again* will they sit by and watch as genocide is carried out, as it was in Zaire-Congo during the past year. That means a transformation, not only on the part of world leaders, but also of the citizens who will have to hold their leaders’ feet to the fire.

We must call those to account who are responsible for the genocide: Laurent Kabila in Congo, Yoweri Museveni in Uganda, and their British sponsors.

But beyond that, we must create the conditions worldwide, in which Africa can develop and thrive. As Lyndon LaRouche underlined in his Labor Day conference speech, published in this issue of *EIR*, Africa confronts the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The spread of death and disease which we see there, will be the fate of the rest of the world, if we do not act in time to reverse the descent into a Dark Age.

What is needed, is a New Bretton Woods Conference, to place the bankrupt world financial and monetary system into receivership, and reorganize it for high-technology development and great projects of infrastructure building. The murderous austerity conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund and the British free-market neo-colonialists must be scrapped. The Eurasian Land-Bridge project, which is now being vigorously pursued by China and many of its neighbors, provides the perfect framework for a worldwide reconstruction of the physical economy. Its benefits would extend to nations not part of the Eurasian continent, including Africa, as corridors of industrial development are built up swiftly along the newly constructed high-speed rail networks. The United States and the other

nations of the West should support this magnificent initiative.

EIR is taking two measures immediately to further this process, as it applies to Africa. We ask our readers to join in, and help to organize for a breakthrough.

First, we will conduct a seminar in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 10, on “The Culture of Violent Change of Government and the Myth of Economic Revival in Uganda.” The speakers will be Cecilia Atim-Ogwal, chairman of the Interim Executive Council, Uganda People’s Congress Member, Parliament of Uganda; and Linda de Hoyos, *EIR* intelligence director for Asia and Africa. They will sweep away the myth that Uganda’s President Museveni is some kind of “model” African leader.

Mrs. Ogwal, in an extemporaneous address to the Labor Day conference of the Schiller Institute and the International Caucus of Labor Committees, summed up the situation in her nation. “Ask Museveni,” she said, “how did he decide Ugandans don’t need political parties?” Museveni sustains himself in power “by the might of the gun.” As for his so-called economic successes, there are none. Uganda today is worse off than it was in the 1960s or 1970s or 1980s. Then, even the poorest of the poor could send their children to school, and get medical care. Today, parents are selling their children—their own flesh and blood—to buy casava root to eat. The number of children in school in 1986 was 639,000 (out of 13 million total population); in 1996, there were 424,000 in school (out of a 20 million population).

Second, *EIR* will soon release a new *Special Report*, “Peace Through Development in Africa’s Great Lakes Region.” This is the proceedings of a seminar held in Walluf, Germany, in April 1997, of which highlights were published in *EIR* of May 23. Participants included Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, several of their associates from *EIR* and the Schiller Institute, former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa, and leading opposition figures from Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. The report is indispensable reading for anyone concerned with how to solve the crisis in Africa today.