

## Editorial

### *For a New Atlantic Alliance*

At a well-attended event in Berlin on Oct. 21, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche issued a "Berlin Appeal to the U.S. Senate," in which she called for the creation of a New Atlantic Alliance based on a return to the policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. That call, which was enthusiastically endorsed by those present, succinctly summarizes the world's current conjuncture, and what must be done. We reprint it in full:

"We are currently living through a phase-change in world history, and the fate of humanity depends upon how we react to the challenges which lie before us. The world financial system is facing shocks for which the recent tsunami and hurricane were only the foretaste. The world system doesn't function any more, either in the so-called Third World, as is obvious in the African refugee crisis in the Spanish enclaves Ceuta and Mellila, or in the so-called industrial nations, which are devastated by mass unemployment and plant closings. If now a large part of the American auto sector goes bankrupt, along with the bankruptcy of General Motors and its largest feeder-firm Delphi, and many smaller companies, with it about a third of the American machine-tool capacity, and a million jobs, directly and indirectly, will be lost.

"Thus countless people are in danger of losing their existence, their homes, their health care, and their pensions. The social and political consequences of such a collapse are incalculable. The demand by the management that the workers at Delphi either agree to a de facto reduction of their wages and benefits by 70%, or the company will entirely close down, is outright intimidation, and an unprecedented attack on the living standards of the workforce and their families. The success of this pressure would mean both the smashing of the trade unions and a collapse into barbarism. These measures clearly violate the general welfare clause of the American Constitution.

"We appeal to the American Senate, not to permit the United States to collapse from a superpower to a Third World country. The Senate must declare the stricken industrial capacity a question of national security, put it under receivership, and put into effect the retooling program for the reconstruction of national

infrastructure which has been proposed by the American economist Lyndon LaRouche. Just as the saving of the capacity of the auto industry, so the reconstruction of the hurricane-struck states of the Southern U.S. also demands the immediate revival of the policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal.

"But the crisis, which is affecting the American auto sector, is only a symptom of the international crisis of the world financial system, which finds itself in the last phase of a systemic collapse. Therefore the crisis also demands an international solution. The greatest danger threatening the common good is unemployment, which is so large in the so-called developing countries that you can't even get statistics. But also in the so-called industrial nations it has reached unbearable dimensions, such as in Germany, where de facto there are about 10 million unemployed. We therefore appeal to the U.S. Senate, to put the necessity for a new financial architecture on the agenda, as well as call for an emergency conference for a New Bretton Woods, and, at the same time, and make room for a New Deal policy.

"A New Deal in America would have signal effect for a similar policy in Europe, which urgently needs a New Deal policy in the tradition of the Lautenbach and Woytinsky-Tarnow-Baade plans. A policy like that of FDR and his New Deal and the New Bretton Woods must be the basis for a new Atlantic Alliance, if the world is not going to sink into the chaos of an uncontrolled financial collapse. The injustice of the system of globalization has brought about an unbearable situation. The masses of people in every land are poor, while a relatively small financial elite enriches itself personally, through often criminal and exorbitant ways. With the existential crisis for Delphi there is now a crisis for the American nation as a whole. We appeal to the Senate, to seize this crisis as an opportunity to once again implement the commitment to the common good guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution.

"We should be happy to live in such a moment, when the fate of humanity for many generations will be decided. Such an opportunity comes, in the best of situations, once in a lifetime. We can be sure that history will testify to our honor."