

warlords and Taliban militias active and strong.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) review issued in December 2005, during the recent several years, opium poppy cultivation has spread to every corner of Afghanistan. The illegal opium trade accounts for a huge part of the Afghan economy, and has a negative impact far beyond its borders.

Reports indicate the opium crop is likely to increase sharply this year, since villagers are planting more opium poppies in defiance of the ban, according to the United Nations. Production is expected to increase over last year in 13 provinces, according to a UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report. Cultivation is likely to stay steady in 16 provinces, and only decrease in 3, the report noted, based on a December-January survey of 496 villages.

According to Parenti, the backdrop to this gathering crisis is Afghanistan's shattered economy. The country's 24 million people are still totally dependent on foreign aid, opium poppy cultivation, and remittances sent home by the 5 million Afghans abroad. Afghanistan ranks fifth from the bottom on the UN Development Program's Human Development Index. Only a few sub-Saharan states are more destitute.

Since late 2001, the international community has spent \$8 billion on emergency relief and reconstruction in Afghanistan, at least on paper. Even the World Bank, not particularly noted for its careful expenditure of public money, has accused the aid sector of "sky-high wastage." In addition, the Bush Administration, which once purportedly proposed to deliver a "Marshall Plan" for Afghanistan, is slashing funding for reconstruction, from a peak of \$1 billion in 2004, to \$615 million this year.

The impact of opium on Afghanistan's economy, governance, and society is profound. Cultivating opium poppy helps supplement subsistence-level incomes derived from other agriculture-based pursuits. To beat opium for good, however, Afghanistan needs to build an economy that provides an annual per capital income of some \$1,000, said former Afghan Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, as reported in *Bloomberg Markets* magazine. Although this is not a huge sum, it is five times the 2005 levels, and is an indicator of how much and how quickly Afghanistan's economy will have to grow, if the scourge of poppy production is to be eliminated.

One other indicator is that the average gross income per hectare from opium cultivation exceeded that of wheat, the main alternative crop, by as much as 27 times.

Finally, we take note of how democracy is doing in Afghanistan. Honestly, no one in Washington cares about democracy in Afghanistan. Such rhetoric is used merely to pull wool over Americans' eyes. Even Holbrooke never mentioned "democracy" in Afghanistan in his *Washington Post* op-ed. Of course, he does not want to sound stupid.

Now that you have the scorecard in front of you, how long do you think it will be, before the United States accomplishes what it went there for? Do I hear, never?

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## BüSo Campaign

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# Industry Must Return To Berlin and Germany

by Rainer Apel

In a March 27 discussion with members of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) party in Germany, chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche threw out a challenge: The upcoming election campaign in Berlin will begin a paradigm-shift nationally, focussed on the reindustrialization of the capital city. This will be featured in a mass-circulation pamphlet, using the methods of mass organizing that have proved so successful in the LaRouche Youth Movement in the United States. There is no way that Berlin can be saved, Zepp-LaRouche declared, unless the deindustrialization which has occurred in the last 15 years is reversed, and Germany becomes a keystone in the Eurasian Land-Bridge, a hub for East-West transportation and trade, with vanguard industries to be located in Berlin.

On April 1, the Berlin section of the BüSo, the LaRouche party in Germany, held its Party Congress to vote up the candidate slate for the September elections for city-state parliament. In addition to more than 40 LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) activists from Berlin and Leipzig, 25 Berlin BüSo members and 15 guests attended.

### An End to Pessimism, Economic Collapse

After Berlin BüSo chairwoman Monika Hahn opened the meeting with a challenge to overcome the devastating cultural pessimism and economic decline in the city, Helga Zepp-LaRouche gave the keynote address. She began by recounting the spectacular "April Fool's" joke from a local daily, the *Wiesbadener Kurier*, which wrote about the Eurasian Transrapid maglev rail project, as if it were science fiction—but the joke blew up in the *Kurier's* face, because exactly this Eurasian project perspective had been at the center of the BüSo campaign for the March 26, municipal elections in Wiesbaden—a campaign which the *Kurier* had systematically blacked out. While the press boycott prevented the BüSo from gaining seats in the municipal parliament, its program obviously had an impact: The *Kurier* clearly felt compelled to say something about it, one week after the election. Zepp-LaRouche noted that the affair showed the effect of an intense campaign of the BüSo over several weeks, during which it had been a constant "head-ache" for the political establishment.

In this context, Zepp-LaRouche stressed the importance of the Berlin campaign: During the next five months, we will see a dramatic escalation of all crises, characterized by the



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*The Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) organizing in Leipzig last year. The sign warns of the implosion of the hedge funds, and the systemic crisis of the global banking system. Now, the campaign is concentrating on the capital city of Berlin.*

post-Greenspan-era policy of drastically reducing liquidity on the markets, threatening the entire system. “The fact that none other than [CEO Josef] Ackermann of Deutsche Bank in Zürich spoke about the systemic crisis, is absolutely telling. . . . It sounds as if he were a BüSo member!” Zepp-LaRouche then defined the other crisis areas, such as Iraq, the George Shultz-Felix Rohatyn policy of privatizing the military, and contrasting that with the growing groundswell against Cheney and the neo-cons. Pointing to the growing clout of the LaRouche movement in the United States, especially of the Youth Movement, she stressed the importance of a political shift there, to effect any potential for change in Europe. In that context, the escalation around the impending General Motors bankruptcy will be the decisive margin of action or non-action in this period, she said.

In conclusion, Zepp-LaRouche demanded a paradigm-shift in Germany toward national sovereignty, reindustrialization, and Classical culture—to be initiated by the Berlin campaign. The BüSo will issue a battle-cry for the revitalization and reindustrialization of Berlin in the Classical-cultural tradition of Lessing, Moses Mendelssohn, and the Humboldt brothers, and in the machine-building tradition of Beuth, Rathenau, and Siemens. Restored as a powerhouse of industrial

production, Berlin and Germany shall take up again their historic mission of helping the Eurasian continent east of the German border to develop economically—a mission that was broken off, when World War I broke out in 1914, Zepp-LaRouche said. For Berlin to restore that mission, it has to create several hundred thousand new industrial jobs; today, the German capital, with its 3.5 million inhabitants—which 15 years ago still had 380,000 jobs in the productive sector—has no more than 110,000 left, and more firms are yet to be shut down, if the present trend is not reversed. Berlin today has about 300,000 jobless citizens officially, but more than 500,000 in reality. And almost every third child in Berlin under age 15, is growing up in poverty. Berlin’s per-capita debt is 17,000 euros, far more than the average debt of an Argentine citizen, for example.

### Youth Candidate To Lead the Slate

A slate of 20 candidates was elected at the Berlin party congress, with LYM member Daniel Buchmann as the leading candidate. He introduced himself, explaining that he was born in Berlin in 1981, and still remembered the industrial base of East Berlin, and knows how that has been destroyed since then. There are eight candidates under age 25 on the slate, with four who are new recruits. Among the younger candidates, Marlitt Dietrich said she had decided to run on the BüSo slate because she sees it as her responsibility to intervene and change the situation, which has become unbearable, on the basis of truth and knowledge. Another young candidate, Björn Hinz, said he had joined the BüSo “because it tells us, not only to discuss and to study ideas, but to act accordingly and change the world.”

Among the older candidates is Solbjörg Kirchhem, a former nurse, who decided to join after attending an event featuring Lyndon LaRouche as a speaker, in Berlin at the beginning of March. Another older candidate is Wolfgang Liebhenschel, an architect and former city councilman. He has fought for many years for the Transrapid, water desalination projects, and the extension of the Berlin subway system, as well as a new era in constructing bigger apartments—altogether a huge program for creating jobs. And, there is long-time member of the BüSo in Berlin, Evelyn-Gisela Halke, who described the horrible wartime conditions in Berlin, which she lived through—and then the joy after the war in rebuilding the city and enjoying the Classical culture in concerts and theaters, which now all are going to be destroyed or are almost destroyed!

Rosa Tennenbaum, also a long-time BüSo party member, called for a dramatic turnaround in the Berlin schools, which are plagued with violence, as epitomized by the case of the Ruetli School which made headlines in recent days, when the teachers walked out, calling on the administration to close the school. Dr. Wolfgang Lillge, the BüSo party’s health policy spokesman, compared the present policy of cutting medical services with the opposite policies of the past, when Germany had a quite advanced health-care policy.