

International Intelligence

Euro Industry Investment Drops 30% in Last Year

Real industrial investments dropped by 30.1% between May 2008 and May 2009 in the Eurozone countries. Industry in The Netherlands reported an increase of 9.7%, compared with April 2009, and Germany, 5%, but these have had no significant effect on the longer-term trend. In Germany, most of the “plus” is due to orders from the auto industry, which has to do with the government’s offer of a bonus to people who scrap their old cars and buy new ones. The European Union as a whole was slightly “better off” than the Eurozone, with investments in May 2009 down 28% from May 2008.

In several of the EU countries, the collapse of industry continued at full pace (April to May 2009): Ireland, minus 13.1%; Hungary and Bulgaria, minus 7.6% and 5.8%; Greece, minus 5.5%; and Spain, minus 4.5%.

Although the development of industrial orders determines the actual output, with a delay of several weeks, and because many firms will still produce out of hope for improvement in sales, it will be evident in the Autumn that Europe has lost almost a third of its industrial production in one year.

Flu Vaccine Production Way Behind Requirements

In another sign that the global systemic breakdown crisis is dictating terms to the swine flu pandemic, several of the world’s leading drug makers have announced that the virus they are growing to make the A(H1N1) vaccine doesn’t yield enough of the antigen needed to protect people.

The problem now, even for the wealthier nations, is that the back-up facilities for vaccine production do not exist. Unless the pandemic disease known as the British free-trade system is wiped out, the progress of the pandemic is going to accelerate.

Most manufacturers make vaccines by injecting an approved version of the virus strain into chicken eggs, which provide the nutrients for it to grow and multiply. However, the yield per egg is turning out to be only one-third to one-half of what manufacturers expected.

A Lyon, France-based specialist noted that other methods exist to directly produce vaccines from cell cultures. Given the fact that A(H1N1) influenza directly attacks lung cells, it would be important to produce vaccine from this type of cell.

However, this method is slow, and therefore, inadequate in the current emergency. In practice, the low-antigen productivity implies that only some very limited quantities of vaccine will be ready by mid-September. Governments will be pressed to prioritize which parts of the population receive vaccination. Already, the French government has stopped speaking about mandatory vaccination, for the simple reason that there will not be enough vaccine in time.

The Lyon source agreed that the only solution would be a crash program (doubling the number of eggs). Technically, according to the specialist, a massive increase in production could be achieved by suspending other sectors of the pharmaceutical business. In France, he said, this might happen, if things continue to go the way they’ve been going. But political determination will be required to overcome resistance to that.

The last crash vaccination program, he recalled, was in 1974.

Indonesia: British Mining Complicit in Terrorism?

Is the American-owned Freeport McMoRan, the world’s largest gold and copper mine, located in Papua, Indonesia, being targeted by Britain? A series of early July ambushes at the huge Grasberg mine in Papua killed several Freeport workers and others, while a bombing in Jakarta on July 17, which was aimed at a meeting of mining executives, wounded two Freeport executives, among others.

The Papua assaults may have been carried out by Papuan separatists, while the Jakarta bombings were likely the work of Jemaah Islamiyah, part of the al Qaeda-linked network which orchestrated bombings in Indonesia between 2003 and 2005—i.e., what *EIR* has identified as the British global terrorist apparatus. These attacks on Southeast Asia’s largest economy, and its largest taxpayer, Freeport McMoRan, must be seen in the light of the British activation of the Eurasian “Arc of Crisis” over the past month.

Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono charged that the British mining giants in Australia and New Zealand may be involved in the terrorist attacks. He told the press on July 16 that Freeport “involves global competition over natural resources,” that “there are a number of countries that have an interest in destabilizing Freeport,” and that foreign NGOs and governments had a history of backing groups that “agitate” in Papua, going back to the 1960s.

Asked which countries, Sudarsono answered: “Apparently many neighboring countries to the south.” Rio Tinto and Billiton, the core of the British imperial mining cartel, are located in Australia.

‘China Youth Daily’ Runs Long Article on LaRouche

China Youth Daily, the second most widely read newspaper in China, with a readership of more than 10 million, printed a lead article on Lyndon LaRouche on its international page July 24, entitled “The Present International Financial System Cannot Be Saved”—the first words out of LaRouche’s mouth when journalist Bright Ju began his interview at LaRouche’s home on July 12.

The article notes that LaRouche, aside from being a political figure, has wide-ranging interests in science, culture, and music; and is a man who hopes to create a new Renaissance, reviving the great tradition of Western culture, from Plato to Bernhard Riemann, which lay at the basis of the rapid economic development of the last centuries.