
Editorial

Dramatic Global Shifts

Just before the Nov. 5 U.S. elections, Lyndon LaRouche had advised that the world immediately after the elections would be dramatically different than what it had been up to that point. In the first 72 hours after the election results were announced, some dramatic global developments underscored that assessment.

The first occurred in Russia, where on Nov. 6, President Putin announced the replacement of his Defense Minister and the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as part of a broader military and military-industrial reorganization. While internal politics and scandals are definitely involved, it should be noted that Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, a four-star general, has been a close ally of Putin; while the new head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Valeri Gerasimov, was a lead speaker taking on NATO's BMD provocation at a conference in Moscow last May.

The second shift came in the Middle East cockpit, where British Prime Minister David Cameron announced a policy of preparation for greater military involvement against Syria, following President Obama's re-election.

The third dramatic development was the eruption of what could be called the "Petraeus scandal," which led to the CIA chief's immediate resignation, but set off a rapidly expanding set of additional scandals. While these all allegedly center on allegations of extra-marital affairs, their import is to raise quite valid questions about the trustworthiness of top levels in the Obama Administration—and about the President himself. Intersecting the raft of unanswered questions and *prima facie* evidence of security failures in the case of the Benghazi killings of U.S. diplomatic personnel, including the Ambassador, this new scandal out-

break looks set to implode an Administration already rotten to the core.

Thus, Gen. David Petraeus's Nov. 9 resignation has rapidly brought the question of "Obamagate" to the fore. Congress was already investigating the Administration's conduct in the Benghazi affair, but now a whole new set of questions arises. Was it really possible that President Obama didn't know about the FBI's months-long investigation of General Petraeus until right after the election? Why were the intelligence committees of the Congress not informed of the investigation? Was this "resignation" timed to prevent Petraeus from carrying out his scheduled testimony before Congress on Benghazi this week?

In the current climate, new calls for the establishment of a Joint Select Committee, like that which resulted in the moves for impeachment of President Nixon in Watergate, have been raised. While these calls have primarily come from Republican Senators, Democratic Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman Dianne Feinstein has expressed strong frustration with the Administration's behavior as well, and indicated her potential support for an investigation of the Administration.

Add to political developments, the anticipated, but now full-blown, push by Obama for Schachtian austerity, including cuts in entitlements, and it's not hard to see the political preconditions for Americans to mobilize for the dramatic changes in policy required in the United States finally emerging. The hideous failure of the last 40 years of the economic policy of monetarism and de-industrialization has just been laid bare by Superstorm Sandy. That may well be the shock which brings Americans to their senses, at long last.