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This Week You Need To Know

LAROUCHE TO CHENEY: GET OUT NOW!

This leaflet was issued by the LaRouche Political Action Committee on Nov. 1, 2005.

Lyndon LaRouche today called for Vice President Dick Cheney's immediate ouster from office. In light of the Oct. 28, 2005 indictment of Cheney's chief of staff and top national security advisor I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby on five counts of lying to a Federal grand jury, and in the wake of today's action by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), who called the U.S. Senate into an extraordinary closed session to force an end to the White House obstruction of Senate oversight over Administration crimes, LaRouche spelled out four precise reasons why Cheney must go—now.

1. *Cheney lied, repeatedly and in collusion with others, to draw the United States into war with Iraq.* The indictment of Libby by Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald removes any shadow of doubt about the circumstances under which the United States went to war against Iraq. The United States went to war on the basis of an egregious conspiracy of lies, led by the Vice President and others. Already, 2,000 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and over 15,000 severely wounded, along with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

2. *Cheney conspired, in this campaign of lies, with a notorious international fascist organization, implicated in major acts of terrorism.* Some of the lies perpetrated by Cheney and others, particularly the so-called Niger yellowcake hoax, were concocted by an international fascist organization, formerly headed by World War II Nazi figure Licio Gelli. That organization, the Propaganda Two (P-2) Lodge, produced fake "evidence," aimed at duping the U.S. Congress into voting for a fraudulent Iraq war. The current Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a former member of the fascist P-2 Lodge, was central to the Niger hoax, and another former P-2 Lodge member, the American self-professed universal fascist Michael Ledeen, was another pivotal player in the war hoax. This same P-2 Lodge was behind the 1970-1982 wave of terrorism in Italy, collectively known as the "strategy of tension," which included the 1978 kidnapping/assassination of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, and the 1980 Bologna train station bombing, which killed over 80 people.

The Niger yellowcake hoax was coordinated, within the Bush Administration, by Vice President Cheney, personally. As the Fitzgerald indictment of Lewis Libby noted, in four separate locations, Vice President Cheney was the source to Lewis Libby of the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson, the wife of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson IV. And both Cheney and Libby knew that she worked for the Counterproliferation Division of the CIA, which is part of the Directorate of Operations. Both Cheney and Libby thus knew that Valerie Plame Wilson was a CIA covert agent, at the time they blew her cover to syndicated columnist Robert Novak.

3. *Cheney is the author of the Administration's Nazi-imitation policy of torture of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.* Cheney, as the result of these actions, must resign now, and those like David Addington and John Hannah on the staff of the Vice President, who played a pivotal role—under Cheney—in the Bush Administration's open policy of committing torture, in violation of the Geneva Conventions and other U.S.-endorsed United Nations resolutions, must also be fired immediately. The Cheney legacy, as even the *Washington Post* admitted, is one of promoting torture. This is a

Nuremberg crime, and there is no place in the White House for individuals who mirror the Nazis' acts of brutal torture against any human beings.

4. *The Alito nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court is a cheap attempt to divert attention from Cheney's crimes.* The nomination of Samuel Alito, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 31, 2005 was nothing more than an effort by the Bush-Cheney White House to divert attention away from the crimes of the Vice President. LaRouche called the nomination "A stink-bomb thrown in to divert attention away from the Cheney investigations." The United States Senate should refuse to take any action on the Alito nomination until Cheney has been removed from office. Any other course of action would be a betrayal of the United States, and the civilized world.

Cheney has been exposed, by his actions, as well as by the investigation of Special Counsel Fitzgerald, as a liar and a torturer. These actions pass well beyond the standard of high crimes and misdemeanors of our U.S. Federal Constitution, and have implications *tantamount to treason* in their effects.

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[CHENEY: ROME BURNS NERO](#)

[by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.](#)

November 3, 2005

While American soldiers are dying by the day, and cities are burning, Halliburton's "cash cow," an already politically doomed Vice-President Dick Cheney, is playing Nero with the fate of our United States.

The evidence is already conclusive. Vice-President Cheney not only lied about the threat of non-existent nuclear weapons, in his successful duping of members of the U.S. Senate into voting up the worse-than-Indochina catastrophe in Iraq, while looting the U.S. Treasury to the advantage of his former employer Halliburton, but Cheney has been the origin of, or accomplice in various high crimes and misdemeanors which have been perpetrated in the effort to promote and continue his rampage of primary crimes in office.

The latest of these scams was the dumping of Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers in the attempt to divert attention from Cheney's crimes by changing the subject from the lives of U.S. service personnel in Iraq, and from the issues of Hitler-like prison-camp tortures, by insisting that all else be put aside in the purely diversionary effort to confirm the appointment of a completely unsuitable and unnecessary candidate for Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Is there any member of the U.S. legislature, so gutless, or so stupid that he or she would condone the attempted stalling-tactic of using Samuel A. Alito, Jr. as a way of covering for the now-naked crimes of Vice-President Cheney and his torturous crew?

The fact is, that but for the intrinsically fraudulent stalling tactics employed by the office of the Vice-President and his accomplices, the evidence of the crimes perpetrated in the Valerie Plame Wilson case would have been publicly exposed in October 2004, and the present Bush-Cheney Administration would not be in office today. Is there any U.S. citizen either so

ignorant, or so craven and corrupt as to condone the attempt to use the Alito nomination as a pretext for further stalling on exposing the crimes against the U.S. Constitution which were fabricated through leading efforts of Cheney's office in order to perpetrate the murderous fraud of the presently continuing Iraq war on the U.S. Senate and our republic?

All that is required, is a wee bit of old-fashioned honesty and guts, and dirty Dick Cheney were soon gone from office, and the human race might then resume a civilized approach to the desperate issues of the day.

Rome has now burned our Nero, Cheney. So, although Mrs. Lynne Cheney is not exactly Nero's mother, once more, history has spoken to those who can hear her voice.

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InDepth Coverage

Links to articles from

[Executive Intelligence Review, Vol. 32, No. 44](#)

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Feature:

[IT DIDN'T START WITH ABU GHRAIB](#)

[Dick Cheney: Vice President for Torture and War](#)

[by Jeffrey Steinberg](#)

In a rare display of editorial candor, The Washington Post devoted its lead editorial of Oct. 26, 2005 to Vice President Dick Cheney. Under the banner headline 'Vice President for Torture,' the Post editors wrote: 'Vice President Cheney is aggressively pursuing an initiative that may be unprecedented for an elected official of the executive branch: He is proposing that Congress legally authorize human rights abuses by Americans. 'Cruel, inhuman and degrading' treatment of prisoners is banned by an international treaty negotiated by the Reagan administration and ratified by the United States. The State Department annually issues a report criticizing other governments for violating it. Now Mr. Cheney is asking Congress to approve legal language that would allow the CIA to commit such abuses against foreign prisoners it is holding abroad. In other words, the vice president has become an open advocate of torture.'

[Cheney's Addington Was Chief Author Of U.S. Torture, War Crimes Policy](#)

[by Edward Spannaus](#)

A little over one year ago, on Oct. 24-25, 2004, the New York Times ran a lengthy account of the 'Secret Rewriting of Military Law' which took place after Sept. 11, 2001. The article was illustrated by a chart identifying 'senior administration officials who exercised unusual power in the days after Sept. 11.' At the pinnacle of the section naming 'Key Players' was Vice President Dick Cheney. Next in the hierarchy were three lawyers: Cheney's Counsel David S. Addington, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales, and Gonzales's Deputy Timothy Flanigan.

National:

Emergency Closed Session of Senate Launches 'Cheneygate'

by Michele Steinberg

If it were not for the stonewalling, lying, and obstruction of the investigation of Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald by Vice President Dick Cheney, and his chief of staff/national security advisor, I. Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, there might not ever have been a second George W. Bush Administration. This was made clear in the press conference by Fitzgerald on Oct. 28, 2005, when he indicated that it took the past year to cross-check every possible consideration in indicting Libby.

- **Cheney: Rome Burns Nero**

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

November 3, 2005

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Documentation

What Is 'Phase II' of Senate Committee Investigation?

On Nov. 1, Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) told reporters that the purpose of the closed session of the Senate 'is to discuss the need for a Phase II investigation by the Senate Intelligence Committee' into the pre-Iraq War intelligence failures. A few hours later, at the request of Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) the document that defines Phase II, a Feb. 12, 2004 joint statement by Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), chairman, and Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, was put into the Congressional Record. At Levin's request, parts 'C through G' of that document were adopted by unanimous consent, as the official Senate definition of 'Phase II' of that investigation. Portions of that document follow here, followed by remarks by several Senators, as reported by the Congressional Record...

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Education:

'BOBOS AS A NO-FUTURE GENERATION'

The Present Dark Age In Education

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

October 26, 2005

Have you looked lately at the ratio of the price of a four-year university education, to the average household income of persons in the middle to high range of the current personal income of members of the lower eighty percentile of the population of the U.S.A. and Europe, respectively? As you think about just those raw statistics alone, what do these ratios imply about the prevalent, deplorable attitudes toward the future of our nation among the majority of those products of attendance at institutions of higher learning, born between 1945 and 1955, in those regions of the world?

High Cost, Low Chance Of a Higher Education

by Paul Gallagher

It is hard for late-middle aged members of the Baby Boom generation which governs this nation, remembering the light cost of their own college education, to imagine, let alone to pay, the stunning costs of so-called higher education for their children's and grandchildren's generations today. The nation publicly tears out its hair about health-care cost inflation; but in fact, college-cost inflation has exceeded it, and for a very long time, averaging a roughly 9% annual increase in total costs of attending college, every year for more than three decades.

Economics:

Delphi in Advanced Planning for Shutdown

by Richard Freeman

Starting the last week of October, Delphi Corp. CEO Steve Miller began a full-fledged charm offensive, meeting with members of the U.S. Congress and visiting auto plants to talk with workers. He promised that he would consider their input in what to do with Delphi, and said that he had not made up his mind about which plants, if any, he would close.

Within 48 hours, Miller's effort blew up in his face.

Interview: Mark Reutter

The Delphi Case and the Misuse of Bankruptcy Law

Mark Reutter is the author of the book *Making Steel: Sparrows Point, and the Rise and Ruin of American Industrial Might*; and other studies and articles on the dramatic use of bankruptcy and consolidation in the global steel industry over the past decade. He was interviewed on Oct. 31 by **Paul Gallagher**.

Bush's Pandemic Plan Doesn't Add Up

by Christine Craig and Laurence Hecht

President Bush released his long-awaited National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza on Nov. 1, calling on Congress for \$7.1 billion to fight the spread of a deadly strain of avian flu. Senate Minority leader Harry Reid said that he was 'pleased to see that the President has finally followed our lead, and released his avian flu plan today,' but pointed out that the amount was nearly \$1 billion less than the \$8-billion proposal which passed the Senate by a vote of 94 to 3 the previous week.

Interview: Mark Sweazy and Robert Bowen

Emergency Action Needed on Auto: Reflections on a European Trip

On Oct. 29, Lyndon LaRouche's West Coast spokesman Harley Schlanger interviewed Mark Sweazy, an official of the United Auto Workers union at Delphi Corporation, and Robert Bowen, the Midwest representative of the LaRouche Political Action Committee, after their recent trip to Germany, to discuss a solution to the crisis in the auto industry. We publish here an edited transcript of highlights of the 50minute interview on The LaRouche Show, an internet radio broadcast that airs every Saturday at 3 p.m. Eastern Time. EIR's Jeff Steinberg gave a brief update on the indictment of Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis Libby, at the beginning of the show, and LaRouche Youth Movement members also participated in the discussion. This program is archived and can be heard on www.larouchepub.com.

India Will Build A Strategic Waterway

by Ramtanu Maitra

On July 2, 2005, after years of deliberations, Indian Premier Manmohan Singh inaugurated the Sethusamudram Ship Canal project, to deepen the Indian side of the Palk Strait that separates India from Sri Lanka. The Sethusamudram project envisages linking the Arabian Sea with the Bay of Bengal, which is north of Sri Lanka, thereby creating a navigable canal across the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, and the Palk Strait. This will allow ships sailing between the east and west coasts of India to have a straight passage through India's territorial waters, instead of having to go around Sri Lanka.

International:

Synarchist Destabilization Of Germany Meets Resistance

by Rainer Apel

The incoming Grand Coalition government of the two biggest German political parties, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD), is not what the hard-core synarchist interests among international bankers and speculative fondi like. Their own preferred option of a 'black-yellow' coalition of radical budget-cutters, composed of Christian Democrats and Free Democrats, failed to get a majority in the Sept. 18 parliamentary elections. There are also strong budget-cutting trends in the Grand Coalition, but another factor threatens to assert itself,

which is profoundly disliked by the synarchists: the potential of a shift toward a national mobilization of industry and labor, resembling what Germany's first such Grand Coalition did, several weeks after it took power in December 1966.

Cheney's Demise and Germany's Grand Coalition

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche is the chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (Bu"So) party in Germany. We excerpt here a statement she issued on Nov. 4. She began with an overview of the political fight in the United States (covered in our National section), and the revelations concerning Vice President Dick Cheney's role in suppressing the Frank Olson 'suicide' case (covered in our Feature). The section reprinted here addresses the potential impact of these developments on Germany.

A Decade of Bloodshed Since Rabin's Murder

by Dean Andromidas

Ten years ago, on Nov. 4, 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, in a crime which marked the doom of the Middle East peace process. Minutes before his murder, he addressed a peace demonstration of more than 100,000 Israelis, declaring that 'peace is not only in prayers . . . but it is the desire of the Jewish people. There are enemies of peace. They are trying to attack us in order to torpedo peace. I want to tell you: We found a partner for peace among the Palestinians—the PLO, which used to be an enemy—and stopped terrorism. Without partners for peace, there is no peace. Also with Syria, there will be an opportunity to achieve peace. This rally must broadcast to the Israeli public, and to many in the Western and outside world, that the people of Israel want peace, support peace.' Ninety minutes later Yigal Amir, one of the 'enemies of peace,' shot Rabin to death.

U.S. Economic/Financial News

Army Corps Budget Cuts To Blame for Levee Failures

"The Army Corps of Engineers' geotechnical capabilities were cut. Their budget was squeezed; their manpower was reduced; ... their experiment station downsized. This attrition has effects." So responded Dr. Raymond Seed, University of California at Berkeley engineer, and leader of the National Science Foundation's investigation team into what caused some levees in the New Orleans vicinity to fail during Hurricane Katrina. Seed testified as one of four witnesses at the Nov. 2 Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs hearing on "Hurricane Katrina: Why Did the Levees Fail?" In opening the hearings, Committee chair Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) said that levee failure, caused by "poor design," caused an increase in the flooding when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans Aug. 29. Collins was open to exploring the question.

However, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the ranking Democrat on the committee, led a furious assault against the Army Corps, saddling it with the levee failures, and after calling the situation "infuriating," asserted, "This ultimately has to lead our committee to ask some very tough questions of the Army Corps."

This assertion by Lieberman was rebutted by Dr. Seed, who stated his own assessment of why the levees failed, including, in some cases, the role the Army Corps played, but also stated that in many instances, the Corps did an excellent job, but was boxed in by slashed budgets, and the way the levee system works. For example, there were breaches/crevasses in the 17th Street and London Ave. levees, which were the focus of much of the hearing. The breaks seem to have been caused by storm water getting under the muddy soil upon which the levees are built, going to the other side, and shifting the soil, so that in one case, the levees were pushed back by 35 feet.

Dr. Seed pointed out that the Army Corps had proposed building floodgates on these canals, to cut off the storm surge. But the local levee boards as well as the local drainage boards rejected that proposal, so the Corps, "against its will," according to Seed, was forced to build linings for the levees, which did not work as well. There are actual problems that must still be seriously looked at, yet should not become a matter for public posturing.

Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), a member of the bipartisan "Gang of 14" who blocked Dick Cheney's nuclear option last spring, intervened into this debate, by pointing out that, in 1999 constant dollars, the Army Corps budget had been reduced by more than half in recent years. "Don't point fingers at the Army Corps. The fault is ourselves in this Senate," he insisted.

Will Delphi Collapse Blow Out Credit Derivatives Bubble?

The *Financial Times* Nov. 1 warned that the collapse of U.S. auto-parts maker Delphi may blow out the credit derivatives bubble. The *FT* notes that credit derivatives are ostensibly backed up by real bonds, and since Delphi was a "so-called reference entity" for credit derivatives, leading to "tens of thousands of separate deals, worth tens of billions of dollars, the collapse of Delphi leaves many more contracts out there than there are real Delphi bonds." This is the first test of such a crisis. When Northwest Airlines went under last month, the seven investment banks which held most of the credit derivatives easily agreed in an auction on the markdown for the bonds underlying their credit-derivative contracts, making it possible to settle in cash. An auction for Delphi was scheduled for Nov. 4, but only a handful of the tens of thousands of derivatives holders had signed up. No one knows what will happen if they have to come up with non-existing real bonds.

Lyndon LaRouche commented that this is but one of the many likely events which could blow out the system on any given Friday. (For more on the Delphi debacle, see InDepth, this issue.)

Reid: 'A Budget Is a Moral Document'

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, in his opening floor speech Nov. 3, slammed the President for his irresponsible budget and reconciliation bills. Reid commented, "In essence, Mr. President, a budget is a moral document. Unfortunately, the Republican budget is an immoral document."

He denounced the current budget resolution process as an immoral attempt to give huge tax breaks to the rich, while cutting programs for the poor and middle class, including:

- * Medicare and Medicaid—\$27 billion

- * Agriculture support—\$3 billion

- * Housing subsidies

- * Food stamps

- * Other health-care programs

- * Child-support enforcement

- * Student loans

In denouncing the Bush budget slashing, Reid cited a group of religious leaders, including Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which is urging the House and Senate to oppose the budget reconciliation process.

Public-Health Experts Condemn House Budget Cuts

Among other injurious provisions, the House plan, which slashes more than \$11 billion from Medicaid, allows states to cut critical screening and services for children that would prevent life-long disabling medical conditions.

"These cuts are wholly unacceptable," said Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, executive director of the American Association of Public Health, in a press release Oct. 18.

Seasonal Flu Is Here, But Vaccine Is Not

State health departments have cancelled thousands of flu-shot clinics, as vaccine supply concerns have arisen in all 50 states, according to an October survey by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Annual influenza kills (an underestimated) 36,000 people, hospitalizes over 200,000 people, and causes an over \$10 billion-a-year loss in productivity in the United States, yet the nation lacks basic infrastructure and regulations for orderly and timely distribution of flu vaccine to high-priority patients first.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the seasonal flu has already spread sporadically in 13 states, New York City, and Puerto Rico, and can be found throughout the Texas region, where supplies ran out last week.

Many institutions in Virginia ran out of supplies at the end of October. Public-health clinics can't borrow vaccine to treat the sickest patients first (as the Centers for Disease Control advises, but does not require), because neighboring jurisdictions are in the same crisis. Family practitioners, even those who ordered this season's vaccine back in April, are turning away patients, because the vaccine still hasn't arrived. Lack of regulation leaves public health in chaos, but private companies, such as Maxim Health Systems, that supply big corporate customers and chain-retail stores, received their full orders of vaccine first.

Senate Passes Bipartisan Amtrak Amendment

The U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan amendment to fund Amtrak, the national passenger rail system, by a vote of 93-6, according to the website of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt) Nov. 3. The amendment, known as the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2005, will spend \$1.9 billion per year for six years to ensure critical infrastructure investment and set up Federal/state grants to build rail projects.

World Economic News

China's Exports Continue To Surge

Despite change in the yuan exchange rate, the People's Bank of China reports that exports have continued to rise, according to the *China Daily* on Nov. 1. In July, the PBOC had pushed through a 2.1% up-valuation of the yuan against the dollar and other currencies, despite opposition from the export-fixated Ministry of Commerce which warned that a stronger currency would hit Chinese exporters. Many Chinese economists are warning that China is far too dependent upon its exports, most of which are the products of totally foreign-owned industries based in China to exploit its cheap labor. The export fixation has done nothing to develop the real Chinese economy, but exploits China's overburdened infrastructure as well as labor.

China Freight Transport Is Energy-Inefficient

The cost to the economy of freight transport and storage in China is some 21% (in GDP terms)—this is 8-10% higher than in developed nations, Xinhua reported Nov. 1. China's freight transport is very energy-inefficient.

'Devastating Energy Crunch' Forecast for UK

A potentially very cold winter will cause a "devastating energy crunch" in Britain, the chemicals firm Ineos told the Trade and Industry Select Committee Inquiry on British gas supply, the *Independent* reported Nov. 2. The Meteorological Office and others are forecasting a 67% chance of a very cold winter, and this would lead to "massive" rises in the price of gas, which "is very likely to put many manufacturers out of business for good," Ineos experts wrote. "We expect the UK to be short of gas leading to a gas deficit emergency. This will have consequences such as 'three day weeks,' wide-scale power cuts, loss of essential services such as water and sewerage, and further business closure."

"We are faced with the nightmare scenario that, in the event of very cold winter weather conditions, the UK will essentially be 'closed for business.' Much of this business will not recover and is unlikely to operate again."

Britain, although the EU's biggest gas producer, has much higher prices. Energy Minister Malcolm Wicks said there is "concern" about electricity rationing in the winter, but rejected "exaggerated" talk. Confederation of British Industry head Sir Digby Jones has also warned of energy shortages, but Wicks rejected that as "scare-mongering."

Rising Bankruptcies, Repossessions in Britain

British corporate insolvencies are up more than 20% over the past year, a new report says. According to Consultants Experian, 4,787 firms went under during July-September, up from 3,954 in the third quarter of 2004. The sectors doing the worst are those most exposed to the housing market and shopping streets, the *Observer* reported Oct. 30. Insolvencies in non-food retailing were up 71% in the third quarter, to 205, and in the property sector, there were almost 60% more business failures than the third quarter of 2004.

Also this week, official figures are expected, which will show a huge rise in personal insolvencies. *This Is Money* newsletter reported, "There were just under 36,000 bankruptcy orders made in England and Wales last year. The figure is likely to be 46,000 for this year." This could be a record, higher even than 1992, at the depths of the last housing crash. Consumers are burdened with huge debt, and at the same time, a new and "easier" bankruptcy law was introduced in 2002, and many are taking what advantage they can of it.

Finally, the *Telegraph* personal finance editor, Ian Cowie, wrote Oct. 30 warning of the "alarming spike in repossessions before the housing bubble bursts." UK County Courts announced a 66% increase in debt repossession orders in late October, to nearly 20,000. This is not so bad as 1991, when repossessions were up to 1,500 *a week*, but now, consumers are in much, much more debt. Cowie pointed out that British consumers owe 1.1 trillion pounds—more than the combined national debts of Africa and South America.

United States News Digest

Second Judge Removed from DeLay Case

After Texas Judge Bob Perkins was removed from hearing former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's case on grounds that he had given donations to Democratic organizations, Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle moved, on Nov. 3, to remove Judge B.B. Schaub from making the decision about who will replace Perkins, on the grounds that Schaub has

contributed roughly the same amount to Republicans as Perkins did to Democrats. Schaub responded to Earle's motion by recusing himself. DeLay is charged with conspiracy and money-laundering in connection with fundraising for his political action committees.

Iraq War Plan Worst in American History

The Iraq war plan "will come to be regarded as the worst war plan in American history," said former *Washington Post* military correspondent Tom Ricks, on Nov. 2, at the conclusion of an all-day conference on military operations in Iraq, held at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. Ricks, who is writing a book on the Iraq war, was highly critical of the war, as were a number of other speakers throughout the day, exposing how the poor planning led to chaos in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Baghdad in April of 2003, and the further chaos caused by Amb. Paul Bremer's order disbanding the Iraqi army the following month.

Dr. Conrad Crane, director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute, called Bremer's order "a key mistake," because the Iraqi army was disbanded without pay, but still had its guns. Even worse, the order was issued in such a way as to impugn the honor of the army, which was virtually guaranteed to provide a large pool of potential manpower for the insurgency.

Lt. Col. Richard Lacquement, who was serving in the 101st Airborne Division in Mosul at the time, documented how Bremer's orders for dissolving the army and de-Ba'athification, actually disrupted the efforts by the military commanders on the ground to establish some stability. The riots that followed Bremer's orders, he said, were about "how are we going to live," because upwards of 3 million people were left without support.

Another active-duty officer, Maj. Isaiah Wilson, currently teaching at the U.S. Military Academy, sided with then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who had testified to Congress just before the invasion, that it would take several hundred thousand troops to occupy Iraq. Shinseki's estimation, Wilson said, was based on a conception of a "quality of peace objective." In other words, determine what the country should look like as an objective, and then backward-plan from there, to determine the types of forces required, and the types of activities required to get to that objective. Instead, planning was driven by a military objective and a political decision on what numbers and types of forces would be allocated.

Bush Cronyism Strikes Again

On Nov. 1, President Bush picked a banker/bureaucrat, FDIC chair Donald Powell, who raised big bucks for his Presidential campaign, to manage Gulf Coast "recovery and rebuilding" in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Powell, like other Bush cronies such as Michael Brown and Michael Chertoff, has no disaster and/or large-scale rebuilding experience. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said the appointment shows that Bush doesn't consider the Gulf Coast recovery "a top priority." Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) asked how Bush, after his failed response to Katrina, thinks the problem can be solved "by adding another layer of bureaucracy."

Texas Governor Blasts FEMA's Incompetence

The White House might have been able to pretend that criticism of FEMA and Federal disaster response was just partisan politics when the complaints came from the Democratic Mayor of New Orleans, and Democratic Governor of Louisiana. But on Nov. 1, Republican Texas Gov. Rick Perry wrote a scathing letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, saying that thousands of hurricane victims are at risk of getting evicted from their current housing. Two months after Katrina, there are still about 175,000 refugees living in Texas apartments, and Perry stated that 15,000 evacuees could face eviction this month, if FEMA does not come up with a plan. Perry also blasted FEMA's denial of a state request to

extend by 60 days the government's agreement to pay 100% of the cost of debris removal.

McGovern To Introduce Bill To Force Withdrawal from Iraq

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) announced Nov. 2 that he will be introducing legislation to stop funding deployment of U.S. armed forces in Iraq. The bill would allow Defense Department funds to be used only to provide for: the safe and orderly withdrawal of all troops; consultations with other governments, NATO, and the UN regarding international forces; and financial assistance and equipment to Iraqi security forces and/or international forces.

Cosponsors include Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.), and Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.).

Waxman Blasts Chertoff's Failure To Plan

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), the ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, fired off a letter Nov. 1 to Department of Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff, demanding to know why he has not completed the operational annex to the National Response Plan. The NRP was released by Tom Ridge, Chertoff's predecessor, last Jan. 6, and the operational annex is supposed to set forth, in detail, the precise role of each agency in responding to a major emergency. In his testimony to the House special committee on the Hurricane Katrina response, Chertoff had attributed much of DHS's and FEMA's problems to a lack of planning.

"Given your numerous statements about the importance of planning," Waxman wrote, "it is unclear to me why your department did not complete the detailed operational annex, which would have provided precisely the type of planning you believe was missing in your agency's response to Hurricane Katrina. As Secretary of Homeland Security, you are the federal official responsible for this planning function.... It is your responsibility to complete the operational annex."

Waxman attached to his letter two e-mails exchanged between FEMA officials in the days immediately after the hurricane, showing the chaos reigning in the agency. FEMA director Michael Brown and Lt. Gen. Russell Honore, the military on-scene commander, didn't even make contact until four days after the storm, even though Chertoff had ordered Brown "to get hold of General Honore and make sure you two guys are lashed at the hip." Chertoff, Waxman wrote, "sent an unqualified battlefield commander [Brown] into the field without an adequate battle plan."

Pollard Gets Prison Release Date of 2015

The website of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons last week posted the release date for the notorious spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard as Nov. 21, 2015. On this date, in 1985, Pollard was convicted and, in 1986, sentenced to life in prison for spying. This is the first time a date for his release has ever appeared.

There is no explanation given. Although those given life sentences can be released from prison, it is not usual to post it. Others convicted for spying, including former CIA agent Aldrich Ames and former FBI agent Robert Hanssen, have been given life sentences without any date for possible release. The Israeli press speculates that additional Israeli government pressure could shorten the sentence even further.

Releasing Pollard has been a no-no for the last 20 years. Even Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), when he was in Israel several months ago, when asked about the release of Pollard, said he could not be released because of the seriousness of his crime.

U.S. Population Questions White House Ethics

The U.S. population is questioning White House ethics, according to a *Washington Post* poll, published Oct. 3, which says that 46% of Americans think the level of honesty and ethics in government has declined under Bush, and 55% consider that the indictment of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby signals broader problems "with ethical wrongdoing" within the government. The poll also suggests that President Bush's overall job approval rating has fallen to 39%, while a mere third of Americans think he is still doing a good job to ensure high ethics in office. The *Post* notes that this is slightly lower than Clinton's rating when he left office. Ouch!

The poll says that seven out of ten Americans think the charges against Libby are serious, while 55% believe Fitzgerald's decision to indict Libby was based on the facts, not partisan politics, as some Republicans charge.

Ibero-American News Digest

LaRouche To Address Mexico's STUNAM Nov. 9

EIR News Service has issued an open invitation to join in a dialogue that members of the Workers Union of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (STUNAM) will be holding with international economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche on Nov. 9, in an audio-video hookup between the United States and Mexico City. This meeting will be co-sponsored by *EIR* and by Federal deputy and engineer Agustin Rodriguez Fuentes—STUNAM General Secretary—for the purpose of putting urgent political and programmatic solutions for Mexico, Ibero-America, and the world, on the table for discussion.

LaRouche will present his strategic evaluation on "The Significance of the U.S. Situation for Mexico," and his live intervention will take place in the STUNAM auditorium in Mexico City, at 10:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time in the United States. The dialogue will be broadcast worldwide in both English and Spanish (www.larouchepub.com and www.larouchepub.com/spanish).

Kirchner To American Heads of State: 'Neoliberalism Has Failed'

At the opening session of the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata Nov. 4, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner issued a biting denunciation of the "Washington Consensus," the neoliberal policies that the financial oligarchy imposed on Ibero-America in the 1990s. "Today, there is empirical evidence of the failure of these theories; our region is evidence of that failure.... [T]he horrific consequences of the policies of structural adjustment, tragically, outline the map of Latin American instability." It is time, he said, for the Presidents of the region "to stop speaking in a soft voice and speak loudly."

"Trickle-down economics" has demonstrably failed, Kirchner said. As a nation, Argentina must take responsibility for having adopted those economic policies, "but we want the international lending agencies to also do so." At this point, the Hemisphere's heads of state applauded—even George Bush politely did so. Kirchner denounced the IMF, not for refusing loans to Argentina, which the country doesn't want; but for refusing to refinance its debt unless it accepts the conditionalities "which are none other than those which lead to our [debt] default."

The Argentine President then pointedly addressed the United States, whose governments, he said, had in the past allowed policies which caused "misery, poverty, and democratic instability" in the region. Echoing the point that Lyndon LaRouche has made repeatedly, he called on the United States, as the world's only superpower, to exercise "responsible leadership" in Ibero-America. "The market alone cannot reduce existing levels of poverty.... We must create, produce, and export goods and services, and leave behind blind and exclusive faith in the market." What is needed is "a new strategy of sustainable growth and development for the region," Kirchner emphasized.

Kirchner never mentioned the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by name, but warned that "just any kind of integration is of no use to us, but only that which recognizes diversities and asymmetries among the region's economies."

LaRouche Youth Bring Cheney Campaign to Americas Summit

"I still can't believe that these ideas have made it all the way here," said one astonished reporter as he encountered the LaRouche Youth Movement contingent, which arrived in Mar del Plata, Argentina on the morning of Nov. 3 for the Summit of the Americas, and immediately began distributing the "LaRouche to Cheney: Get Out Now!" press release to everyone they could find at the International Press Center: the international press, Argentine government officials, Presidents and Foreign Ministers of the rest of the Americas.

As accredited *EIR* correspondents at the summit, the three LYM members had a focussed message: "Our organization is working hard to oust Dick Cheney from the Vice Presidency in the United States, because this is necessary in order to create a New Bretton Woods system, and develop the nations of the Americas."

Argentina Repudiates Bush, Free Trade

Much of Argentina shut down in protest over President George Bush's presence in the country. and in repudiation of free trade, paralleling the rejection of free trade in the summit negotiations themselves. The decision on the text of the final declaration had to be left in the hands of the Presidents who met in plenary Nov. 4, because none of the other negotiators who've been meeting during the week, including Foreign Ministers, could come up with a consensus document.

Given the post-Cheney era, Lyndon LaRouche recommended that the Ibero-American leaders simply repeat to Bush, Dick Cheney's infamous statement to Sen. Patrick Leahy on the floor of the U.S. Senate: "Go f*** yourself!"

EIR's contacts in outlying provinces report that the scope of the protest in Argentina is unprecedented in recent Argentine history, and in no way is limited to the usual crew of Jacobin "globalizers" who gathered in Mar del Plata. Several cities in the interior of the country had held "pots-and-pans" demonstrations, and other forms of protest Nov. 4. In both the capital city and province of Buenos Aires, and the provinces of Entre Rios and Rio Negro, teachers engaged in a work stoppage. The Argentine Workers Federation (CTA) called a national day of protest which was backed by state sector workers in the courts and many government offices. At 11:00 a.m., those who went to work protested by draping Argentine flags on state-run offices and buildings, and showering one section of downtown Buenos Aires with confetti.

Brazil Keeps Paying and Paying, and Owing and Owing

During the first three quarters of 2005, the Lula da Silva government of Brazil extracted a whopping 86.5 billion reals—some US\$38.7 billion, and the equivalent of 6.1% of Brazil's GNP—through its "primary budget surplus" imposed upon the Federal and state governments and state sector companies. This far surpasses the "savings" they were supposed to extract over the *entire* year, to meet the official goal of a primary budget surplus of 4.25%.

"Primary budget surplus," calculated as government revenues minus all expenditures *except* for debt payments, is IMF's currently favored conditionality to force governments to guarantee ever-increasing flows of government revenues are skimmed off the top for debt payments, before anything else gets paid.

Yet, despite the record gouging of the economy, it was not sufficient to meet the government's interest payments over the same period, which totalled 120 billion reals—US\$53.7 billion!—26% more than in the same period the year before. That

increase came almost entirely due to interest rates, because 54% of the debt is tied to the SELIC (benchmark interest rate). The Brazilian government paid a record 14.4 billion reals—over US\$6 billion—in interest in September, alone.

Peruvian 'Nazi-Communist' Humala Endorses Morales for Bolivian President

Retired Peruvian Lt. Col. Ollanta Humala, a former military attache in South Korea, Presidential candidate of the ethno-fascist Peruvian National Party, and brother of jailed insurgent Antauro Humala, gave an interview to the foreign press corps in Lima last week, endorsing fellow cocalero/candidate Evo Morales for the Presidency of neighboring Bolivia.

The synarchist Humala movement in Peru has been exposed by *EIR* as supported by Spain's Franco-ite fascists, and modelled on the Italian *Fascisti*; its collaborators have been directly linked to former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet's infamous Operation Condor death squads. The movement calls for drug legalization, and poses as an "indigenist/nationalist" alternative to "corrupt government."

In his interview, carried by international wires Nov. 2, Ollanta Humala says that Latin America as a whole "is undergoing a crisis of its political systems," and that Bolivia, teetering on the edge of total political and social chaos, "has not escaped that reality." While avoiding direct comparisons between Morales' political campaign and his own, Humala acknowledged meeting with Morales earlier this year, and that they share opposition to coca eradication.

One of the effects of the Humala movement in Peru is to feed into U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's pretext of regional "ungovernability" to justify multinational intervention, and analysts are already commenting that a Morales victory in Bolivia could fuel greater indigenous backing for Humala in Peru in next year's elections.

Western European News Digest

UK May Replace Obsolete Trident ICBM System with Tactical Nukes

There is a real danger that tactical nuclear weapons, the types of which could be used in "pre-emptive" strikes, may replace Britain's current strategic missile stockpile. So wrote Andrew Gilligan, the former BBC journalist who first exposed the fraud of the Blair government's fraudulent Iraq dossier, in the current *Spectator* magazine. Britain is about to begin discussion of renewing its Cold War-style Trident system, and Prime Minister Tony Blair is insisting Britain must "retain our nuclear deterrent." This deterrent is totally under U.S. control.

Opponents of this policy in the Labour Party are joined by former Tory Defense Secretary Michael Portillo, who stated: "The case for Britain having an independent nuclear deterrent depended on the existence of the Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union collapsed long ago. There is no threat from China. The nuclear weapons states, from India to Israel, do not have the capability to hit us. Relations between Tony Blair and Jacques Chirac may be strained, but as yet we have no reason to fear a nuclear strike from the French *force de frappe*," referring to France's independent nuclear deterrent.

But Blair's policy may be to follow the "far more dangerous" U.S. "joint nuclear operations" doctrine which foresees small "preventative" (pre-emptive) nuclear strikes, Gilligan warned. For Britain, "the real question in the months ahead is not whether ministers wish to maintain an 'independent deterrent.' It is whether they agree—or even half-agree—with the developing American doctrine of usable, pre-emptive nukes."

The Gilligan article did not take note of the shift signalled by the recent U.S. Congressional vote denying funding for Cheney's pet project of nuclear "bunker buster" bombs.

Bertelsmann Researcher Sees European Paralysis Lasting Until 2007

A source at the Bertelsmann Foundation, a key venue for synarchist "reform" scenarios, was asked by *EIR* for his view on the most recent political shakeups in Germany; he said that he saw these as positive, because a new generation of politicians was now stepping onto the scene. The old generation that has failed, is out; some of them are still there, but they will be out soon. The same process is going on in France, Italy, and other European countries.

The new generation of politicians will be unprejudiced (as far as budget-cutting reforms were concerned), they want to overcome the immobility of the old social security systems, they want a new Europe, which is more focussed on the reform and its effects on the situation of the population. In Germany, some of the new politicians, like Siegmur Gabriel, will be in the Grand Coalition government, and in the party leaderships, like Andrea Nahles. But this is a process that has only just begun. Changes can be expected also in Italy, with the elections there next year, and in France. By 2007, after the French Presidential elections, the new generation of politicians will take first shape. Germany's Angela Merkel-led Grand Coalition is only a transition; it will prepare the rejuvenation of politics. What is going on in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) now, will be repeated also in the other parties, soon.

Whereas the last EU summit in London showed that the old establishment has failed, and cannot give new impulses anymore, the future lies with the young politicians with their new ideas. Asked whether he saw Chancellor Schroeder's support in London for a strong social security state as a thing of the past, the source said, yes, things have to change, but they will not change with the old generation of politicians.

Left Party Chief LaFontaine Sees SPD Headed for Profound Crisis

Lifting the veil from some of the synarchist scenarios for the destabilization of Germany, Oskar Lafontaine, chairman of the Linkspartei (Left Party) and a left synarchist himself, said in an interview with the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* Nov. 2, that the recent move of challenger Andrea Nahles against Social Democratic Party (SPD) chairman Heinz Muentefering, which led to his resignation from the party leadership post, means that "the era of false loyalties" to the party hierarchy is over in the SPD. "The struggle over the course of the party will now break fully out into the open."

Granted, Nahles also backed the Agenda 2010 and Hartz IV, but she did so without really backing Schroeder or Muentefering. That is over now, anyway, Lafontaine said, adding that, for the time being, a Grand Coalition will govern Germany, although, as things stand, it will not be on a sound political basis. For the SPD, the coalition will be a burden, preventing the necessary programmatic debate (in the direction of the Linkspartei views, that is), Lafontaine said.

Benn: British Labour Faces 1931-Style Crisis

The British Labour Party today faces the same fate as it did in the crisis of 1931, according to Labour's "grey eminence" Tony Benn, Writing in the *Guardian* Nov. 2, Benn describes how, in 1931, Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald dissolved Labor into a National Coalition government. Benn wrote that in the four years since he left Parliament, Britain is seeing "nothing less than the erosion of parliamentary democracy and its substitution by a near dictatorship" under Tony Blair. The House of Lords (which serves as a kind of senior political overseer of the Parliament) is being filled by Blair's nominees and contributors. Blair is ignoring his own cabinet on many policies, (as happened in getting Britain into the Iraq war). "It is almost as if democracy has been thrust aside in order to fight the war on terror and preserve our 'values,'" Benn wrote.

Blair's "real legacy could be the destruction of the Labour Party itself, for that could well be how history will see it," Benn wrote. He recalled MacDonald, who dumped the party in economic-crisis-ridden Britain in 1931, to form a "national

government." But Labour came back to power in 1945. "If Labour could recover after MacDonald, we can recover from Blair," but Labour MPs must play their part, before the country is pushed into another war.

French Prime Minister Suspends Privatizations

The debate, launched by French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin last June, on the need to protect key strategic companies from financial predators, is showing concrete results. At his monthly press conference on Oct. 27, de Villepin declared a "pause" in the privatizing of state assets. After the recent privatization of the French highways, the SNCM shipping firm, and the partial privatization of the public power producer Electricite de France (EDF), de Villepin gave no date for planned privatization of the French airports (ADP). He further declared that the privatization of the postal system and the National Railroad Company (SNCF) were "not on the agenda."

Much more important is the scrapping of the privatization plans for the French nuclear giant Areva, which includes the core of France's nuclear industry: Cogema (nuclear waste recycling); Framatome (nuclear plant construction); and CEA industry (nuclear technology), a decision taken with no consultations with Anne Lauvergeon, the CEO of Areva who had been named to that position, only to carry out the privatization.

According to *Le Figaro*, de Villepin has thus identified "a red line he refuses to cross," of certain public services "whose activity is mercantile, but whose strategic importance is necessary for national independence." The decision was another slap in the face to Interior Minister, and leading neo-conservative Nicolas Sarkozy, who had announced in 2004, when he was Economics Minister, that 35-40% of Areva's capital would be opened to private financial investors.

Post-Cheney Era Creates Headwind for Tony Blair

"Times are tough," British Prime Minister Tony Blair had to admit Nov. 3, after his woeful last 24 hours: These included the resignation of his former close collaborator David Blunkett, and near-defeat on his terrorism bill. A Downing Street spokesman reported Blair's statement to his cabinet. Blair claimed times are "tough" due to the government trying to "do the right thing," but the growing impact of the post-Cheney era in the U.S. is more likely the underlying cause of Blair's troubles.

Meanwhile, outgoing Tory leader Micheal Howard said that Blair's authority is "vanishing," and likened this to what happened to Tory Prime Minister John Major in the late 1990s. BBC political editor Nick Robinson wrote that right now, it is not "good for your political health to be associated with the Prime Minister."

Draconian British Terrorism Bill Watered Down

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Home Secretary Charles Clarke is backing down on the more drastic aspects of his new terrorism bill: One aspect of the bill, which makes "indirect incitement to terrorism" an offense, squeaked through by just one vote, Nov. 3, although the Labour majority is 66. This was Labour's smallest margin of victory in the Commons since it came to power in 1997. Some 31 Labour MPs voted against Clarke and Blair.

On one key issue—which would allow authorities to hold terror suspects for 90 days without charge—the government may have to back down. "Backbencher" Labour MP David Winnick has proposed an amendment setting a 28-day limit, up from the current 14 days, and this would certainly pass. Clarke stopped a vote so far only by demanding all-party talks to reach "consensus" on the issue over the next week.

Russia and the CIS News Digest

Putin Visits the Netherlands

Russian President Vladimir Putin was the guest of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and the Dutch government the week of Oct. 31. During the state visit, Putin and his hosts discussed chiefly the expansion of trade and economic relations, especially the possible participation of the Netherlands in building the Baltic Sea natural gas supply pipeline to Europe, already agreed upon between Russia and Germany, and its extension to Great Britain.

Lavrov Cites Possible 'Forgeries' in 'Oil-for-Food' Report

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was among those denouncing the methods and findings of the (Paul) Volcker Commission investigation into alleged fraud in the Iraq oil-for-food program. Some 20 Russian companies were named, partly on the basis of documents alleged to have been signed by former Kremlin chief of staff Alexander Voloshin, which Voloshin denies having signed. What Lavrov said, in remarks reported by *Kommersant* on Oct. 31, is that Moscow suspects that Volcker used "some quite dubious or explicitly forged documents." He emphasized, "Russia has repeatedly inquired about the sources of the documents but received no reply. If forgeries appear again, after we have studied the facts, we will demand that the commission explain how it obtained these so-called documents."

Russian UN Envoy Ridicules Bolton's 'Overkill' on Syria

On Nov. 2, U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton, one of Dick Cheney's neo-conservative warmongers, called for yet another UN resolution on Syria, saying that Syrian arms are still flowing to the Palestinian and other militias in Lebanon. It was less than 48 hours after the UN Security Council had passed Resolution 1636, which demanded Syria's full cooperation in the investigation of the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri—but which did not carry sanctions against Syria.

Syrian Ambassador to the UN Fayssal Mekdad denied the charge that his government was shipping weapons into Lebanon, saying, "Syria will not allow this.... This is not in the interest of Syria or Lebanon."

But it was the Russian envoy, rejecting the call for another resolution, who showed some insight into Bolton's "Beastman" state of mind. Russia's Ambassador to the UN, Andrei Denisov, said that another resolution would be "overkill," after the resolution that had just been adopted on Oct. 31. Denisov asked, "How many times can you kill one person—two times, five times, or ten times, when one time is enough? That is the case here."

Former Russian PM Primakov in Rome

Former Russian Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, a senior intelligence specialist and ex-head of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Agency, who now heads the Chamber of Industry and Trade, spoke Nov. 3 at the launch of an Italian edition of his book *From the USSR to Russia*. He has been in Rome since Nov. 1, having meetings with business and government circles. Primakov was closely involved in attempts to prevent the Iraq war and was the last foreign diplomat to meet Saddam Hussein before the U.S. invasion. Still active in Russia's Southwest Asia diplomacy, Primakov met Nov. 3 with Italian Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini, who just returned from the region. The book presentation, at the Russian Embassy, was attended by leading Italian figures, including former Prime Ministers Giulio Andreotti and Lamberto Dini.

Russia and China To Increase Space Cooperation

Russian Federal Space Agency (Roskosmos) head Gen. Anatoli Perminov arrived in China Nov. 1 for two days of meetings with China's National Space Administration. Roskosmos deputy head Yuri Nosenko stated that the two countries would discuss Russia contributing to China's current unmanned lunar program, and China participating in a Russian lunar satellite program slated for 2010. Joint manned missions to the Moon could follow, he said.

In addition to the restarted Russia-China talks, Russia is negotiating with Europe on a joint manned spacecraft development program, and will start launching its rockets from the European spaceport in French Guyana within two years. China is pulling together the Asia-Pacific nations, including in Ibero-America, for joint space projects. Following the space meetings, Perminov will join the rest of the Russian delegation Nov. 3-5, for the 10th meeting of the heads of state of both governments. The agenda of Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov's talks in China featured cooperation in the oil and aircraft industries.

Asia News Digest

UN's Eglund Blames Donors for Looming Death of Thousands in Pakistan

Appearing on the Jim Lehrer News Hour Nov. 1, UN Emergency Relief chief Jan Eglund said the lack of international help, and the enormity of logistical requirements, have led to the sure death of thousands of Pakistani earthquake victims lodged somewhere in the Himalayas. He said there are at least 150,000 people fighting death up in the slopes of the mountains. With snow showers reported from the area, Eglund believes these 150,000 have a maximum of five weeks to live. After that, death from hypothermia and starvation is almost a certainty. Already, 60,000 people have been confirmed dead.

Eglund pointed out that following the tsunami in Asia, at least 1,000 helicopters were mobilized in no time. The post-tsunami logistics were a cake-walk compared to the logistical nightmare facing the UN now. Following the earthquake, so far only 100 helicopters have been mobilized. He said the only way to save the people up there is to reach them with helicopters. Roads are broken in thousands of places, rocks are loose, aftershocks are occurring daily, and there is no way the roads can be opened before thousands die.

The UN relief chief said the United Nations is still looking for 600,000 tents for sheltering the quake victims. So far, only 140,000 have been found. He said on the fifth day after the quake, he visited one village and found children frozen and starved to death. He said that now, we have no idea how many are gone. Only those children with broken limbs who could get medical help within 48 hours, had their limbs saved. Thousands of children could not get such attention within 48 hours. Most of them lost their limbs and many others died of gangrene.

Will Koizumi's Neo-con Deputy and Cabinet Go Fascist?

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi appointed a new neo-con deputy and cabinet Oct. 31, which would mean Japan will go fascist, as the global media insist. Koizumi gave the "heir apparent" post of Chief Cabinet Minister to Shinzo Abe, grandson of Japan's wartime Minister of Munitions, Nobosuke Kishi. Kishi was convicted of war crimes during the U.S. occupation led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, but was released on the insistence of John Foster Dulles as part of "Operation Gladio" in Japan to whitewash fascists. Grandson Abe often attacks China and North Korea, making him a media celebrity. Another China-basher, neo-con Taro Aso, was named Foreign Minister. Economics czar Heizo "surgery without anesthesia" Takenaka, the Harvard IMF asset, kept his post and was given the additional post of Home Minister, to control the postal system and the rest of Japan's \$14 trillion government funds. With Abe and Aso thus in line to vie for Prime Minister when Koizumi retires in 2006, Japan is apparently making a beeline for the 1930s, just as LaRouche wrote one week ago.

LaRouche Sparks New Debate on Fascism in Japan

An article by Lyndon LaRouche, "Government Crisis Looms; Japan Faces the Future," in *EIR* Nov. 4, has sparked a new debate on fascism in Japan, as to how far Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi can go, if LaRouche destroys Vice President Dick Cheney in the United States. "It depends on what happens in Washington," said a Tokyo intelligence insider, author of a book attacking Wall Street. "Koizumi and his comrades are childish fascists living in virtual reality," puffed up by Japan's jingoist media. "There are no Japanese politicians left with brains." He acknowledged that global synarchy might be able to push Japan's power elite into fascism even if LaRouche wins in the U.S., but joked, "maybe the Japanese and U.S. neo-cons intend to barricade themselves inside Japan" as their "last stand."

A Japanese Socialist Party leader who has made a career attacking Koizumi and the LDP also said: "Everything depends on what happens in the U.S." If the U.S. goes fascist under Bush-Cheney, "Koizumi will go the same way. Koizumi himself can't understand what he is doing. He obeys only; he will be not able to be fascist without his leader" in Washington. "Therefore, I hope and expect that Mr. LaRouche will succeed to stop Cheney and Bush from the inside. Then we can fight against American neo-cons from outside, to make, together, our democracy in the 21st Century. The problem does not start in Japan."

A senior Korean peace movement leader, however, was more alarmed. "Pushed by the U.S. neo-cons," he said, "Koizumi's group wishes to establish its military power over all of Asia, most directly over the Korean peninsula, similarly as they did during the last century." He compared them to Hitler.

China-India Strategic Partnership

Liu Yunshan, member of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Politburo and head of the Propaganda Department under the CCP Central Committee, had an extended meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Indian media reported Nov. 2. Liu said the Chinese government thinks highly of developing a peace-and-prosperity-oriented strategic partnership with India. He was heading a CCP delegation invited by the government of India for a five-day visit (Oct. 27-Nov. 1).

Liu pointed out that to develop friendly and cooperative Sino-Indian relations is not only in the interests of the people of the two countries, but also in keeping with their aspirations.

Islamic Militants Plan Attacks To Sink South Asia Summit

Islamic militants have plans for bombing all five capitals of the nations of South Asia before the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit on Nov. 12-13 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Bengali-language daily *Ittefaq* Oct. 31 quoted a source saying that "militants had planned to bomb the capitals—Dhaka, New Delhi, Colombo, Islamabad, and Kathmandu, to foil the summit." Indian central intelligence linked the bombings in New Delhi on Oct. 29 to these terrorist threats. The Bangladesh government is taking extraordinary security measures for the summit.

Asian Technocrats Look To 'Post Cheney Era'

"Congratulations on knocking out the Cheney group! We read it first in *EIR*!," a physical economist in Seoul said Nov. 3. "Now I have a new request: Next we must knock out those standing in way of the New Bretton Woods and the global New Deal such as Eurasian Land-Bridge. So, can't *EIR* do a similar expose campaign against the financier kingpins of the Washington Consensus and their overseas controllers: Rohatyn, Soros, and, who is it in Europe?"

"Politicians here are quite stupid," he said. "It would really help us, if we can target financiers of the Washington consensus, like your campaign against Cheney."

"The IMF's [post-1971] floating-rate system has been a disaster, and on this, there is consensus in Japan, China, and Korea," a senior Korean Finance Ministry official said. Former Japanese Vice Finance Minister Haruhiko Kuroda's "criticism of floating rates [in his Asian Development Bank speech] was given with the official permission of the Japanese authorities. Korean and Chinese financial technocrats agree. Politicians come and go; but we three nations have increasingly close coordination.

"You tell me the Washington Consensus on 'free trade fundamentalism' is also breaking down, with the end of the Cheney regime. That is very important." The better it goes, he said, the more likely the Asian side would start discussing the New Bretton Woods in a more aggressive way.

He took Helga Zepp-LaRouche and United Auto Workers leader Mark Sweazy's Berlin Call to "Save the American Auto Sector" to use as a model for "constructive criticism," and said they would consider a way to contact Sen. Hillary Clinton's office to support her call for saving the U.S. auto industry, since the world needs the U.S. industrial base for great projects.

Indian Army Chief in Yangon on Goodwill Mission

A goodwill delegation led by Indian Army Chief J.J. Singh arrived in Myanmar at the invitation of the Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Vice-Senior Gen. Maung Aye, *India Daily* reported Nov. 1.

At the airport, the Indian Army chief was received by Gen. Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Adm. Soe Thein, Commander-in Chief (Air) Lt.Gen. Myat Hein; Chief of Military Affairs Security Lt.Gen. Myint Swe, and other high-ranking military officials.

The visit is related to India's ongoing negotiations with Myanmar for joint military operations along the India-Myanmar border, where a number of Indian secessionist groups have set up camps. In addition, New Delhi is moving ahead with building a deep sea port at Dawei along the Myanmar coast, facing India's Andaman Islands.

This Week in History

November 8 - 14, 1620

The Mayflower Compact:

The Plymouth Pilgrims Form a 'Body Politick' To Carry Out the 'General Good of the Colony'

On November 11, 1620, the ship *Mayflower* out of Plymouth, England, anchored off Cape Cod. The passengers were divided between a group of English Separatists who planned to settle and improve the land, and another group, more diverse, of Englishmen who had sailed to America for a number of reasons. Some of the second group declared, now that they were safely across the ocean, "that when they came ashore they would use their owne libertie; for none had power to command them."¹

The Separatists, later called Pilgrims, knew what damage had been done to the Jamestown, Virginia settlement by adventurers who refused to fish or till the soil even if it meant starvation, and so they drew up what has become known as the "Mayflower Compact." By signing the document, 41 heads of households agreed to combine into a civil body politic, to frame laws and appoint officers, and to follow those laws and obey their elected officers. The form of the Compact was based on the agreement which the Separatists had used to bind themselves into a church, and now it was applied to the political purpose of ensuring the unity of the settlement in a wild and often dangerous wilderness.

As difficult as the first years at Plymouth were to be, the Pilgrims had endured such hard trials in England and Holland, that they were determined to succeed in the New World. Their story began in the early years of the 17th Century, when a number of English Protestants formed their own local churches, and rejected the Church of England. Unlike the Puritans, who then remained within the Church of England, these Protestants were known as Separatists. Because the English monarch was the head of the Church of England, the Separatists were thus challenging royal authority in the sphere of religion.

King James did not take this lightly, and many of the Separatists—and there were various sects—were arrested and jailed. As an account of the time describes what happened: "For some were taken and clapt up in prison, others had their houses beset and watcht night and day, and hardly escaped their hands; and the most were faine to fly and leave their houses and habitations, and the means of their livelehood.... [S]eeing themselves thus molested, and that there was no hope of their continuance there, by a joynte consente they resolved to goe into the Low-Countries, where they heard was freedome of Religion for all men...."

Families such as the Brewsters, Bradfords, and Robinsons around the village of Scrooby in northern England began to talk of emigrating to Holland. But the ports were closed to the Separatists, and they had to hire ship captains who were willing to pick them up at isolated spots on the English coast. During one such venture in 1607, the master of the ship betrayed them and they were seized, hauled into the English town of Boston to be a spectacle for jeering mobs, and thrown into jail.

The next year the Separatists tried again, this time joined by others who were eager to leave England. A Dutch ship captain agreed to pick them up on the lonely marshes of the Humber River. The women, children, and household goods were ferried there by boat, while the men walked. The boats went aground when the tide went out, so the men arrived first. Just as the Dutch captain was loading the first group of men on his ship, armed Englishmen on horseback bore down upon them, and the captain set sail, stranding the women and children and remaining men. Again, the Pilgrims left behind were arrested and imprisoned, and harried from place to place, for they had already given up their homes and farms.

Finally, public sentiment rose in favor of the Separatists, and they were allowed to join the others in Holland. But Amsterdam was a difficult place to make a living, and they saw "the grime and grisly face of povertie coming upon them like an armed man." Finally, most of the group moved to Leyden, a quiet university town. Because they were not citizens, however, the Separatists could not work in many occupations, and they suffered economically.

William Bradford, who would become the governor of Plymouth Colony, wrote that other Separatists were loath to join them in Holland, for they would not have been able to "endure that great labor and hard fare.... Some preferred, and chose the prisons in England, rather than this libertie in Holland, with these afflictions." Bradford also wrote of another problem, "that which was more lamentable ... was that many of their children, by these occasions, and by the great licentiousness of youth in that countrie, and the manifold temptations of the place, were drawne away by evill examples into extravagante and dangerous courses." The dissolute culture which was gradually taking root in Holland was due to the ascendancy of the slave-trading Dutch East India Company and its Venetian financiers.

When news of the English colony at Jamestown reached the Separatists, they began to consider emigrating to the northern part of the Virginia grant, which at that time reached to New England. "After they had lived in this citie about some 11 or

12 years," two events helped to decide the group to emigrate. First, in April of 1619, 63-year-old James Chilton and his daughter were stoned by a group of about 20 Dutch boys. Second, just three months later, the Dutch government published an edict prohibiting separatist religious gatherings. It was not aimed at the English Separatists, but it could have affected them in the future.

Captain John Smith, forced to leave Jamestown after he was injured by a suspicious gunpowder explosion, had mapped the coast of New England in 1616. Many place names on that map, including "Plimoth," had been chosen by Prince Henry, the heir to the throne. Henry had been tutored by Sir Walter Raleigh and was the hope of the English humanists, but he died mysteriously at age 18. Captain Smith, hearing of the Pilgrims' possible voyage to Virginia, offered his services, but they turned him down, "saying my books and maps were much better cheape to teach them, than myselfe."

The Pilgrims chose instead an English soldier living in Holland named Myles Standish, but they took Smith's map with them as well. The first part of their lengthy journey took them from Holland to the English port of Southampton, where they stayed while they endeavored to obtain permission from the King to establish a settlement in Virginia. This was eventually granted, and the Pilgrim leadership also obtained financial backing from a group of "adventurers," comprised of around 70 gentlemen, merchants, and craftsmen.

An unfortunate feature of this loan was the provision that all the settlers would work together on common land for seven years, and only after the loan and interest was repaid could they obtain farms and houses of their own. The Pilgrims were very unhappy with this provision and tried to have the agreement annulled, but necessity eventually forced them to accept it. It was only after the expiration of the seven years that the Plymouth settlement began to stabilize and bring in bountiful harvests.

The Pilgrims and the other passengers embarked on the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell*, but the latter leaked constantly, and the group had to turn back several times to have it repaired. The Pilgrims' sojourn at Plymouth, England, was very pleasant, for from this port many of Raleigh's expeditions had left for the New World, and at that very moment, many of Plymouth's sailors were fishing off Newfoundland and New England. In Plymouth, the Puritans could hear many details about New England, and receive encouragement for their journey.

Leaving the *Speedwell* and some of their group behind, the Pilgrims finally left Plymouth on September 6, and arrived off Cape Cod on November 9, 1620. They tried to sail further south, but were turned back by rip tides, and so returned to Cape Cod Bay. Exploring further, they came to the "Plimoth" shown on Captain Smith's map, which had a small, somewhat shallow harbor. It had formerly been a Wampanoag Indian village, but had been wiped out, as had many southeastern New England Indian towns, by an epidemic which could have been smallpox. One of the few Plymouth Indians who survived was Squanto, who had been taken to Europe and England before the epidemic hit. He returned in time to aid the Pilgrims in planting their crops in the spring.

But before they built their town at Plymouth, the Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact on the ship in Provincetown Harbor. As William Bradford wrote, the Compact was "occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship." Edward Winslow, one of the Pilgrims, wrote that "some [were] not well affected to unitie and concord, but gave some appearances of faction [and thus] it was thought good ... that we should combine together in one body, and to submit to such government and governours, as we should by common consent agree to make and choose." All important positions were elective, and even Myles Standish had to be elected to his office as head of the militia.

The 41 signers to the Compact stated that "Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together

into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, Anno Domini, 1620."

1. The spelling which appears in quotations is faithful to the original.

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