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# International Intelligence

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## ***Pasteur Institute: Universal Vaccination Needed vs. H1N1***

June 5—Interviewed by *Le Figaro* yesterday, Prof. Sylvie Van der Werf, who heads a research unit of the French Pasteur Institute, confirmed that France is preparing to vaccinate its entire population against the (A)H1N1 flu. Van der Werf stresses the unconventional behavior of the new influenza virus, which usually spreads in Fall and Winter. The current virus is spreading in the United States and Canada, while these countries are in Spring and early Summer. We're not in normal conditions of virus transmission, she says.

Another anomaly: Normally a new influenza virus substitutes itself for the virus of the seasonal flu. This is not taking place now. We're in an entirely new situation. It cannot be excluded that the virus will start circulating at an unusual time period.

Therefore, vaccination of everyone has to be undertaken—the sooner the better.

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## ***Was Air France 447 Crash Caused by an Explosion?***

June 6—After having consulted a number of airline pilots and other competent sources, the LaRouche-affiliated political party in France, Solidarity and Progress, has come to the conclusion that only an explosion could be responsible for the destruction of Air France Flight 447, traveling from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, overnight May 31-June 1.

All other hypotheses raised to account for the crash have been eliminated at this point:

1. Air France's first hypothesis, that the airplane was struck by lightning, is the weakest, since airlines and pilots are prepared to deal with this eventuality, as a matter of routine;

2. The hypothesis of exceptionally bad meteorological conditions is also to

be discarded. Three Lufthansa pilots travelling from São Paulo to Frankfurt, who crossed the same area half an hour before, declared that there was nothing special about the meteorological conditions in the area.

3. The hypothesis that a large hail stone destroyed the windshield of the cockpit is virtually impossible at an altitude of 11,000 meters.

4. The hypothesis of a computer bug in the automatic pilot system and other such key functions was also raised. Such malfunctions, however, could not have kept the pilots or assistants from communicating in some way.

Having eliminated all other hypotheses, only that of an explosion remains. According to most pilots consulted and other competent sources, "nothing, except an explosion, explains the fact that the pilots or assistants were not able to say anything." "A small package of explosives placed under the cockpit could have done the job," stated one of those sources.

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## ***The Tragedy of MacBroon Now in Its Final Act***

June 5—The "tragedy of MacBroon" is entering its final act, and the British population does not know whether to laugh or cry, states the leading commentary in the London *Daily Telegraph* today. ("Broon" is the Scottish pronunciation of Brown.) British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who is refusing to yield power, has fallen out with his former friend "Banquo" (Treasury Minister Alastair Darling), who is refusing to leave the stage; former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith is wandering about lamenting expense claims which cannot be undone; and even the supernatural powers of the "three witches"—Lord Mandelson, Alastair Campbell, and his (ousted) aide Damian MacBride—can do nothing to avert disaster.

But the tragedy goes way beyond the fate of Gordon Brown, whose Labour Party suffered nasty losses in yesterday's local elections. Labour came in in third

place, just managing to stay ahead of the smaller parties. However, the Tories' 38% share of the vote was "not as high as expected," even the pro-Tory *Telegraph* had to admit. Labour got just 23%, a historic low, below the Liberal Democrats 28%, and has lost about as many local council seats as the Tories won.

As Birnam Wood approaches, more ministers are fleeing. Brown announced his planned cabinet reshuffle today, not even waiting for the results of the European Parliament elections, which will be announced June 8.

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## ***Putin Orders Back Pay for Russia's Desperate Workers***

June 4—Dramatic protests by hundreds of unpaid industrial workers in the northwest Russian town of Pikalevo, brought Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin there today, where he asserted that the workers' back wages of 41,240,000 rubles (\$1.3 million) had to be paid immediately, Novosti reported. On June 2, up to 500 workers began blocking the highway near the town, some 200 km from St. Petersburg—where the "Russian Davos" on world financial policy began today—and caused a 300 km traffic jam. On May 22, hundreds of workers, many of whom cannot afford food, had stormed into the emergency meeting at a local administration building to demand payment.

Pikalevo, which has 22,000 residents, is a "monogorod," a Soviet-era city dependent upon one industry—a plant which produced alumina, a compound used both to smelt aluminum and to produce ceramics. This plant used to be an industrial leader in all of Russia. The price for alumina has crashed, and this factory, and the adjoining cement and potash plants, shut down late last year. Since then, workers have received nothing, and have been reduced to living on nettle soup and dandelion leaves, *Russia Today* reported.

Putin announced that the plants will resume operations, whether or not their owners agree.