

## Editorial

### *The punctum saliens*

It was exactly one year ago that Club of Life founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche identified a *punctum saliens*, a jumping-off point at which no existing policies of leading institutions can do anything but make crises more acute, but a political force, even one, with limited physical resources can inject the right policy and bring about an upward turn in civilization. The *punctum saliens* requires a decision which, made with the right force, in the right place, at the right time, can change the general direction in which the nation—and the world—is moving.

As we face the opening of 1984, let us draw the political map on which we must locate the spot corresponding to the *punctum saliens*.

First, as every sane adult knows, we are in a worsening economic depression.

Second, as our Economics report describes, the weeks ahead will tear away the veil from the IMF's fraudulent "rescue" package for the Brazilian debt and reveal a ploy to extend the bankruptcy of the developing sector to Europe, parts of the Persian Gulf, and Asia. In this context, the genocidal Club of Rome has come back into the limelight to campaign for its doctrine that populations must be cut, especially among darker-skinned peoples, to save "limited" natural resources.

Since August 1982, the financial collapse has been delayed by one fraudulent bookkeeping trick after another. Those tricks have run out, or nearly run out. Soon, a chain reaction of formal defaults of entire nations will become an accepted fact around the world. It won't stop in the developing sector. Italy, France, and other industrialized countries are on the edge of financial crises bigger than Latin America's. They will probably explode during 1984, and can't be postponed much beyond 1984 at the outside.

What will probably happen—judging from the policies in Washington that recently led to the signing away of a big piece of national sovereignty to the IMF—is that at the first sign of a chain-reaction collapse of major commercial banks, Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker will use the dictatorial powers he received un-

der emergency legislation in 1980. President Reagan and Congress will panic. Volcker will raid the U.S. Treasury to bail out the banks, and everyone else will throw up a sigh of relief. The majority of citizens will believe that the crisis has been licked—because they want to.

It will take more than the worsening of the depression and a financial crisis to tilt the political situation from its course toward disaster.

This brings us to the third leg of the crisis, the military-strategic crisis. Sooner or later it will become painfully clear that either the United States prepares to surrender to Moscow or it plunges into the biggest upsurge of economic mobilization since 1939-43. This is the real issue at stake in the current efforts in Washington among the Kissinger crowd, the KGB-beloved Manatt Democrats, and the "fiscal conservatives" in the GOP, all intent on forcing defense budget cuts in the face of the Kremlin's drive for confrontation.

It is useful to recall that technically, what the U.S. government did beginning in 1939 to mobilize the country to stop the Nazis could have been done anytime from 1929 on, or earlier. The fact is, it wasn't done until a significant number of forces saw the United States staring down Hitler's gunbarrels.

Although the Reagan administration's commitment to the new strategic doctrine is firm, the sense of a full-scale "crash program" is not there. The point at which that sense erupts in the right places around the White House and Congress defines the location of the *punctum saliens*. Once the need for such a crash program is recognized, the needed economic reforms and certain of the monetary reforms will be automatically dragged through the side doors.

Once both superpowers are committed to the doctrine of Mutually Assured Survival, we begin to break the grip of Nuclear Deterrence, and turn our attention to solving the political causes of general warfare. If that is accomplished, our focus upon the *punctum saliens* will have changed the world, perhaps durably, very much for the better.