Urge Clinton to convene new Bretton Woods

By acclamation, the following “Appeal to President Clinton to Convene a New Bretton Woods Conference” was voted up by the participants in the Schiller Institute/ICLC conference held in Reston, Virginia. The first two signers of the call are the founder of the International Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp LaRouche, and Natalya Vitenko, a member of Ukraine’s Rada (parliament) and the former chairman of a subcommittee on economic policy. The Schiller Institute has begun circulation of the call worldwide for endorsement by government and other leaders.

The world economy, with the exception of China, is faced with an accelerating collapse of industrial capacity and the skyrocketing of unemployment, which has led to a political mass-strike process, shaking the foundations of many governments and social institutions around the world.

The unavoidable bursting of the international derivatives bubble, or any relevant political event, could trigger a chain-reaction of stock market crashes and banking crises in many countries, leading toward the vaporization of the international financial system within a matter of days. The political, social, and military consequences of such a systemic crash would be incalculable.

Meanwhile, the tragedy of the so-called IMF reform policies in the former Soviet Union is now playing out, in the form of a monstrous collapse of production, a demographic disaster, and an unprecedented criminalization of society, which has resulted in an even worse and more rapid catastrophe than has already occurred in Ibero-America and Africa. If the present course of these international policies is not changed, entire nations will vanish from the map of the earth, as is already demonstrated in Africa. And, as the conditions in Bulgaria and Albania illustrate, even Europe can plunge into a new dark age in a very short time. Germany, for example, has reached de facto the same level of unemployment as when Hitler came to power.

Thus, many governments, parliamentarians, and leaders of social institutions are confronted with the unacceptable dilemma, that if we are to fulfill the conditionalities of the IMF, or such requirements as those of the Maastricht Treaty or the Balanced Budget Amendment in the United States, we would have to act against the most vital interests of the people, whom we represent. But the international financial institutions have no right to require that the debt to them be paid with a pound of flesh of each of our citizens.

The U.S. Declaration of Independence states:

“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the Earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

In this spirit we say, that not for “one people,” but for the peoples of the world, it has become necessary not to dissolve the political, but the financial bands with the presently hegemonic financial institutions.

In the Declaration it is further stated: “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide New Guards for their future security.” Such a condition has emerged, threatening to throw our entire human civilization into chaos and barbarism.

Therefore, we appeal to you, President Clinton, to use the Powers of the Presidency of the United States, to convene, on an emergency basis, a new international Bretton Woods conference, to replace the present bankrupt monetary system with a new one. A global debt reorganization, the establishment of fixed-parity exchange rates and a new set of trade and tariff agreements are the absolute precondition for stability in world economic and financial relations, which are required for a return to economic growth.

It is also required that sovereign governments have exclusive responsibility for the emission of currency and
The issue is this. The power of modern European civilization emerged from the middle of the fifteenth century. It emerged. It was long-prepared, long-prepared; the whole history of humanity tells us how this happened. But, the center of this was the understanding of the nature of man, that man is a creature with creative powers, set apart from and above all species. And, it is man, by transforming the world around him, and transforming his own powers and his own culture, who can meet these challenges which life presents.

As a result of that resolution in Europe, the population of the world, not just Europe, but the world, between, say, 1461, when the first modern nation-state was established in France, until 1966, when we began the countercultural downturn into the New Age, which has destroyed us since; the total human population of this planet increased from several hundred million, to over 5 billion.

The demographic characteristics overall, on this planet, of population and household life, in demographic terms; the productive powers of labor, and the available conditions of life within the family and for the individual, including the defeat of diseases which had plagued mankind almost helplessly in times past; this great achievement. And, this great achievement was based on an understanding that every individual has this potential, that this potential can be educated, nurtured. This potential can be organized in such a way, with a purpose: to uplift society in each nation, and in the world as a whole.

And, despite all the evils which have occurred in those past 500-odd years, this was, by and large, a success. It’s the greatest success in all history. More progress was made in the human condition, in the past 500-odd years of the modern nation-state and its influence upon the planet, than in all human existence, perhaps going back a million to 2 million years before. This is the greatest success in all human existence, a realization of all the things that had gone before, to make it possible.

1966: The post-industrial paradigm shift

1966: we decided to throw it away. And, I’ll just sum up what the difference is. I’ve written about it, but I’ll just call your attention to the point.

I said earlier, that until 1966, we were culturally a production-oriented culture. And most of the developed nations of the world were. We had been that, for numbers of generations. We looked at everything from the standpoint of production. When looking at production, we looked at it in terms of increasing the productive powers of labor. Everybody wanted to increase their own productivity. They wanted to master new skills, new knowledge. They wanted to broaden horizons.

The conquest of space: Remember that when Kennedy proposed the manned Moon landing within the decade, and

The outline of a new world economic system is already taking shape. Led by the initiative of the Chinese government, several countries of Asia are currently engaged in the construction of the “New Eurasian Land-Bridge.” By integrating all of the Eurasian continent economically, a similar “land-bridge” development is planned which will soon also connect the United States, via the Bering Strait, and Africa, via the Near East, bringing economic development and prosperity to all previously landlocked areas of the world.

As a cornerstone of this global reconstruction program, the economist Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized what he terms the “Machine-Tool Principle.” This principle is the recognition that the economy must be based on the fact, that it is solely the creative reason of the individual which is the source of wealth in society. It is the continued ability of creative reason to formulate adequate hypotheses about the laws of nature, which leads to scientific and technological progress. These discoveries are applied in the form of new, improved machine tools and in upgrading the skills of the labor force, resulting in increasing productivity of the productive process. The global economic reconstruction must therefore put absolute priority on Classical, universal education and the strengthening of the creative powers of the individual.

The building of the Eurasian Land-Bridge as the cornerstone for similar infrastructure and economic programs for Africa, Australia, and the Americas is the only way that economic development can bring peace and stability to all corners of the world. Such a policy is therefore in the strategic security interest of the United States. It is also in the tradition of the Founding Fathers as a policy for a community of principle among nations.

We appeal to you with the utmost urgency to take the necessary steps, so that your Presidency does not mark the beginning of a new dark age, but that of a new golden era of mankind.