

richment plant in Lanzhou, China—an important city on the Eurasian Land-Bridge route, Rosatom head Sergei Kiriyenko announced May 23 in Beijing. He said that the agreement includes deliveries of Russian uranium over the next ten years. Last November, Atomstroyexport, Russia's nuclear energy export agency, had signed deals to build two more nuclear reactors at the joint Russia-China Tianwan power station project, in addition to the two already built. Other Russia-China nuclear projects include the construction of the fourth stage of a gas centrifuge plant in China and the construction of an experimental fast neutron reactor. Medvedev was accompanied, among others, by the new Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko, formerly head of Atomstroyexport, and a large delegation of entrepreneurs.

Russia has also been a key source of aid to China in the incredible effort underway to deal with the Sichuan earthquake, whose death toll has now officially reached over 60,000. Russia has sent a special team of earthquake experts, a mobile hospital, special equipment, and many planeloads of relief material.

### Bridge to the Asia-Pacific

Before leaving for Beijing, Medvedev told Chinese journalists in Moscow May 20, that "Russia regards China as one of its foremost partners in its foreign policy." While bilateral trade is growing fast, he said, the two sides should emphasize optimizing trade structures. Current Chinese imports from Russia are mainly products from the energy and technological sectors, he said. Russia has paid close attention to the development of the Chinese economy, and its demands are totally different from those of 10-15 years ago. To meet these demands, Russia has to strengthen the competitiveness of its en-

terprises, and manufacture higher-quality products. "Such cooperation is beneficial for both sides," Medvedev said. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Li Hui said at a Beijing press conference that day, that "Russian exports of machinery and electronics [to China] have slowed down in recent years. China is ready to work with Russia to find a solution to this issue."

Two Russian scholars also pointed out how Russian-Chinese relations affect the entire Eurasian-Pacific region. Xinhua also interviewed Gennadi Chufrin, deputy director of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Science, who said that there is "a common interest between Russia and China: the development of Russia's Far East, Siberia, and the neighboring Chinese northeastern regions, which are all rich in economic potential." Russia and China have also carried out substantial cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). "The SCO has become, undoubtedly, an important factor in preserving the stability in the region," Chufrin said.

Andrei Ostrovsky, deputy director of the Institute of Far East Studies of the Russian Academy of Science, told Xinhua in an interview published May 21, that the Russian policy to shift and optimize its economic structure, would contribute to improved economic relations with China. "Russia is determined to transfer its economic drive force from natural resources to innovation, which will increase its exports of high-tech products to China and tap cooperation potential in joint research and development," Ostrovsky said, adding that China could even help Russia as "a window or bridge" to the Pacific-Asian and Southeast Asian markets, as well as those of Central Asia, where most nations are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

## Jiang Zemin: Creativity Is the Soul of a Nation

In Akademgorodok, Russia, on Nov. 24, 1998, where he visited after meeting then-President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov in Moscow, President Jiang Zemin told his Russian colleagues, of his conviction that the progress of human civilization had proven the importance of science and technology as a "driving force for economic development and social progress.... Human wisdom is inexhaustible. Science and technology are a shining beacon of this wisdom...."

"Creativity," Jiang said, speaking Russian, "is the soul of a nation and an inexhaustible source of a country's prosperity. The key to creation and innovation lies in human

resources, whose development depends on education." For China as well as Russia, education and science "have a glorious history," and China's leaders follow the conclusion of Deng Xiaoping that "science and technology constitute a primary productive force."

Lyndon LaRouche reflected that the only way to meet the challenge of development for all the people of Eurasia, "lies in a rapid explosion of scientific and technological progress, which has to be based, at the same time, on a large infrastructural base." In the West, the net level of technological progress was becoming *negative*; international relations based on current practices were worse than useless. There must be investment in infrastructure, but this must be the foundation for a scientific-technological revolution, to transform the world economy. The future belongs, LaRouche said, to those national leaderships which are capable of grasping that the world needs a global technological revolution to survive. —*Mary Burdman*