

Editorial

Mankind's punctum saliens

In December 1981, European Labor Party chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche made an urgent call for the creation of a "Club of Life" as a counterpoint to the genocidalists controlling policy-making who are intent on implementing the Global 2000 plan to eliminate 2 billion people from the face of the Earth by the year 2000.

One year later, and just two months after its birth at founding conferences in Rome, Wiesbaden, and 10 other cities, the Club of Life has already become a beacon of hope to people, particularly in the Third World, who otherwise would despair about the future of their nations. As Zepp-LaRouche reported at the 1982 year-end conference of the International Caucus of Labor Committees held in New York City, the creation of the Club of Life was necessary: right now, the continent of Africa faces a fight for survival against the IMF, World Bank, and BIS, whose policies declare that 350 million people on that continent must die.

The Club of Life was born not a moment too soon, for mankind is presently facing its *punctum saliens*—the point of no return at which we must decide, by our actions, whether the human race has the will to survive. The March 1 meeting of the Non-Aligned movement, to be chaired by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi, must be treated as that *punctum saliens*, because these nations—if they implement Lyndon LaRouche's Operation Juárez by declaring debt moratoria, and act to create a New World Economic Order—can provide the necessary "shock" to the advanced sector, to set them in motion in support of such a re-ordering of the world's financial institutions.

The Third World is staggering under the burden of \$300 billion in debt payments which come due in 1983, a debt which cannot be paid. The March 1 deadline may well be the last time that the combination of forces—of both North and South—can be pulled together before the world depression goes into a full-scale collapse and the opportunity to avoid world catastrophe will have been missed.

Helga LaRouche has outlined a three-tiered ap-

proach to ensure that the opportunity is not missed. The agenda for the March 1 meeting must be set early—preferably in January—so that the Non-Aligned speak with one voice in New Delhi. The Club of Life, in December, began an international campaign to educate the leadership of those nations in support of Operation Juárez. Special efforts are underway to encourage Indira Gandhi to act with this perspective; Club of Life emissaries across the globe are meeting with Indian diplomats to ensure that goal is met.

The Club of Life is simultaneously organizing to send a strong message to the non-aligned, particularly from the advanced sector, that its moves to drop the "debt bomb" and create a New World Economic Order would be supported. In February, conferences will be held throughout North America, Western Europe, and Japan which, in Helga LaRouche's words will be a "tremendous chorus, a big voice for the new world economic order." Two major conferences, in Paris and Washington, D.C., will be held in unison with up to 50 conferences worldwide, all with the same message. In the process, the Club of Life will be built as a mass institution, whose membership should reach 10 million by the end of the year. Helga LaRouche led the call for already existing institutions and governments to join.

The *Time* magazine Jan. 10 "Debt Bomb" cover story demonstrates that the enemy, meanwhile, has not been idle. The British plan, in collusion with the Swiss, to dump the weight of a \$1.4 billion world debt crisis onto the United States Treasury, added to the joint British-KGB campaign to prevent the U.S. development of beam weapons, means that the Club of Life's initiatives must be re-doubled.

In classical drama, tragedy occurs when the hero, faced with his *punctum saliens*, fails to act to change the course of world events. In the course of 1983, we can act, like a great poet does, to turn the tide of events and bring mankind from the point of no return into a future of prosperity. If this challenge is not met, there will be no hope for the future.