

Editorial

Put the Eurasian Land-Bridge on the agenda

As we go to press, the world's financial pages are filled with discussion about the Feb. 20-21 meeting of the Group of Seven, which will take place in Bonn, Germany. Unfortunately, it is all too obvious that, despite the expressed fears of many that the global financial turmoil will eventually bring down even the United States, the agenda will be dominated by the traditional "boardroom B.S."

The finance ministers of the industrialized nations will not be looking at a pretty picture. Despite massive hyperinflation, Japan remains in a depressed condition. European unemployment, already more than 10%, is increasing, due to the collapse of exports to its traditional markets in Asia, Ibero-America, and eastern Europe. Russia is still on the verge of default, as is the continent of South America. Africa has gone from simply being looted financially, to being ripped apart by wars.

True, the American stock market continues to bloat, in a bubble which so-called economic experts and politicians are desperate to call "prosperity." This result comes not only from Greenspan's hyperinflation, but from capital flight from the rest of the world. The physical reality of the U.S. situation is more accurately reflected in the ongoing substantial layoffs in manufacturing industries (over a quarter of a million in 1998), and the record trade deficit. The latter has led the United States to embark on an aggressive campaign to compete for shrinking export markets, in a manner that is guaranteed to create increased tensions among its trading partners.

The global reality is the grim fulfillment of economist Lyndon LaRouche's Triple Curve Function: a hyperbolic increase in instruments of financial speculation and debt; an increase in the money supply to help cover these debts; and a hyperbolic decrease in the physical production and consumption for the world's population, which is being gouged to sustain the financial bubble. This reality cannot be addressed by small adjustments in favor of "currency stability," but requires a bankruptcy reorganization of the entire system.

But there is, as this magazine has consistently

pointed out, a palpable alternative. This is represented by what Lyndon LaRouche recently described as the emerging "three-cornered arrangement" between Russia's Yevgeni Primakov, China's Jiang Zemin, and the Indian government of A.B. Vajpayee. These three countries form the keystone of what could be called the Survivors' Club, a group of nations — which happen to encompass approximately two-thirds of the human population — which is committed to putting the fate of its people, before the prerogatives of the market.

There are some indications that certain factions in the industrialized countries realize the potential of working with Asia. Western European nations, led by Germany, have begun to orient toward opening up the markets in Asia, which they so vitally need. And President Clinton himself has taken an aggressive orientation toward economic cooperation with China, in particular. Upcoming meetings between the U.S. and Chinese leaderships, both in China and the United States, are slated to discuss a major expansion of trade and investment.

As we point out elsewhere in this issue, it is just this kind of cooperation, upon which world economic recovery depends, which has driven the defenders of the current failed system, the British-American-Commonwealth faction, into a frenzy of attacks on China, in hopes of breaking the relationship. This grouping is focussed more broadly upon trying to light enough local firestorms of conflict, to build into a new confrontation between Washington (or, the West), and the Chinese-led Survivors' Club.

Our message is to those who are willing to face the reality of the world financial-economic breakdown, and the consequences of letting it proceed. It is time, right now, to master the concepts behind LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge proposals and his New Bretton Woods. It is time now, to fight for a cooperative relationship with China and Russia to carry out economic development in the interest of all nations. If informed citizens do their jobs, the lunatics at the G-7 can be pushed aside — and the world put on a road to recovery at last.