

Editorial

Our Moral Debt to Haiti

Immediately upon hearing of the disastrous earthquake which hit the already miserably impoverished island nation of Haiti, Lyndon LaRouche called for a full U.S. commitment to the relief of the country. He said this should occur automatically, as a matter of human solidarity. It should be done both for the good purpose of helping the people of Haiti, and also to build up the capability of the United States for future possible crises such as this.

LaRouche emphasized that U.S. military capabilities are available for this purpose, and that it will be useful to do it in order to organize that capability on a higher level. This capability is presently attenuated, though it exists.

Thus, the necessary relief operation for the people of Haiti will, as a side benefit, give the U.S. an improved capability to deal with other crises—both abroad, as in the case of the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and at home, in such cases as the U.S. Gulf states, which have are still devastated following Hurricane Katrina, in August 2005.

As numerous public figures, Haitian and American, have pointed out over the course of this disaster, there is a deeper obligation which impels us to come to the aid of that nation, one written in the history of our relations over more than 200 years. On the positive side, Haiti became the second republic in this hemisphere, *with the aid of the fledgling United States republic*. That development was the direct result of the actions of Caribbean-born Alexander Hamilton, who wrote a model Constitution for Haitian leader Toussaint L'Ouverture, which framework became the core of the Constitution proclaimed by Toussaint in 1801, when St. Domingo became an independent nation, de facto.

The alliance between the Hamiltonian faction in the United States, and the first nation in the

modern world to be governed by blacks, was the lawful outgrowth of Hamilton's own commitment against slavery, and also of the collaboration which had developed between Haitians and Americans during the War of Independence. Many Haitians fought with America against the British at Savannah and Yorktown.

There is, unfortunately, a negative side to U.S.-Haitian relations which also dictates the U.S. responsibility to not only aid Haiti in its current extremity, but also to commit itself in the long term to rebuilding that nation. Following the high-mark of U.S.-Haitian relations, when Frederick Douglass was the U.S. envoy there in the late 19th Century, the pro-British faction in the United States largely determined U.S. policy. The occupation of Haiti by the Wilson Administration; the installation, sponsorship, and support for the murderous Duvalier government; the imposition of free trade and "Project Democracy" policies which made industrialization and modern agriculture impossible—all of these government policies make our nation morally responsible for the fact that Haiti stood nearly naked and defenseless before one natural disaster after the other.

It was in cognizance of this historical debt, that LaRouche declared in his many Presidential campaigns, that Haiti should become the exemplar of the commitment of the United States to provide *whatever is needed* to rebuild that nation. We have contributed to a policy of genocide, LaRouche said; we must now put all the resources required into providing the materiel, manpower, and expertise that nation needs to restore its health, and sovereignty, as the proud nation it must become again.

Now is the time to reiterate that commitment, until the job is done.