

'Nerobama' Has Haitian Blood on His Hands

by Cynthia R. Rush

July 23—On the six-month anniversary of Haiti's Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, which killed an estimated 250,000 people and wounded 300,000 more, this devastated nation and its people have been condemned to death. While a crisis-ridden "international community" has produced only a tiny fraction of the \$5.3 billion pledged on May 31, to aid in Haiti's reconstruction, it is particularly U.S. President Barack "Nerobama" who has Haitian blood on his hands.

Thanks to him, nothing that statesman Lyndon LaRouche proposed in the immediate aftermath of the deadly quake has been done. LaRouche had called for emergency relocation of 2 million people to higher ground before the rainy season, which could have been accomplished by deploying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' logistical capabilities, among other things. He also proposed creating a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), modeled on that created by Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s, by which young people, both in Haiti and the United States, could be mobilized as an emergency force to assist in the rebuilding.

Viewing the catastrophe produced by the earthquake, LaRouche warned in February that Haiti is the image of what awaits all of humanity under the current, crumbling British-imperial international financial system. It is the face of the New Dark Age. "We must stop it in Haiti," he said, "if we are to have the moral fitness to survive on this planet."

To prevent another wave of mass deaths and total national disintegration, LaRouche advocated that the United States sign a 25-year bilateral treaty agreement with Haiti, by which the U.S.A. would become its major partner in reconstruction, premised on full respect for Haiti's sovereignty.

Earlier, in his Jan. 30, 2010 webcast, LaRouche replied to a question, noting that Haiti "is a small nation, of people who have been subjected to all kinds of terrible history; who have been promised this, and betrayed, and promised that, and betrayed, and promised and betrayed. Never delivered. It's in a group of national territories which has also tended to be somewhat of a mess,

in one way or the other. So therefore, it's a model approach: We make a contract with the government, as a treaty agreement between the United States and Haiti, to assure the rebuilding of their country, in a form in which it will actually be a functioning country which can survive."

Yes: Impeach Obama

In late February, reliable sources informed this news service that leaders within the institution of the U.S. Presidency, and "old hands" on Haiti, all agreed that the Army Corps of Engineers should be deployed to immediately evacuate 1 million Haitians to higher ground, out of Port-au-Prince's squalid and unsafe camps, which are a breeding ground for infectious and contagious diseases. The approaching rainy season, which usually begins in April, dictated that the relocation begin right away.

But, according to the same sources, when this proposal was put to President Obama, he firmly replied "No." As *EIR* reported in its March 12, 2010 feature, "Move to Safe Ground; Build the Nation of Haiti," the resources, personnel, logistics capability, and technological know-how required to respond effectively to the Haitian disaster, *are available* in the United States. Thus, Obama's refusal to act was not incompetent—it *was criminal*. By refusing to make the *command decision* that would have mobilized necessary resources and personnel to accomplish this mission, the U.S. President condemned Haiti's people to a future of hopelessness, disease, and death.

Every day he remains in office, pushes Haiti closer to national extinction.

In the chaos resulting from the lack of a centralized command structure, the country is crawling with NGOs that often work at cross-purposes. In a report issued this month, Doctors Without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières/MSF) observed that while it provides water free of charge, some NGOs have begun to charge a fee for clean drinking water, which impoverished and jobless Haitians can hardly afford.

The Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, co-chaired by former President Bill Clinton and Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, is supposed to be coordinating reconstruction projects, and channeling \$5.3 billion in financing pledged by donor nations at a meeting May 31 in New York. But the Commission is barely functioning, due to the fact that less than 10% of the \$5.3 billion pledged has materialized. Only three



UN/Logan Abassi

President Clinton told reporters that, every morning, he wakes up “sick at heart that we aren’t doing more to help Haiti.” Less than 10% of the \$5.3 billion pledged for rebuilding has materialized. Here, Clinton speaks with a doctor outside the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, just after the January quake.

countries have actually come through with their pledges, while others say that the international financial debacle, and its domestic ramifications, prevent them from delivering promised funds.

Clinton told reporters in New York July 19 that, every morning, he wakes up “sick at heart that we aren’t doing more to help Haiti.” He announced that he intends to call every donor government, personally, to find out when they intend to release promised funds.

Human Desolation

Meanwhile, on the ground, at least 1.5 million *still* homeless people in Port-au-Prince, are distributed among 1,300 “temporary” and very precarious camps, while a grand total of 28,000 people have been moved into new homes. A few camps have been provided with latrines and improved health-care facilities, but the vast majority are turning into permanent slums, and will become death camps when hit by torrential rains or hurricanes. The hurricane season begins in August.

Doctors without Borders warns in its report that the *one* waste dump in the city is full to overflowing, and that latrines that should be emptied daily are not; rains will wash sewage through the camps, auguring a health catastrophe. “No alternative” for the single waste dump has been decided on, the agency reports.

MSF also reports that while there has been improve-

ment in the provision of health care, due largely to international efforts, this is not a sustainable system. *Everything* “is dependent on external funding and the reconstruction of lasting facilities,” the group states. As a result of the quake, 60% of Haiti’s health facilities were destroyed, and 10% of its medical staff killed.

The enormous amount of debris—25 million cubic yards worth—filling every street in the capital and all other affected cities, is a huge obstacle to rebuilding. Although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers devised and began to implement an aggressive debris-management program right after the quake, it was later stalled. Some debris removal is taking place with a small number of trucks, but many more trucks, plus heavy equipment, are required to

get the job done in a reasonable period of time. In the meantime, thousands of Haitians, equipped only with pails and shovels, often without even gloves or other sanitary protection, have been recruited to “cash for



UN/Eskinder Debebe

Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, in a July 9 New York Times op-ed, co-authored with President Clinton, argued that the Haitian government “has done everything it’s been asked to do by international donors to inspire confidence, maintain transparency and ensure that not one single cent is lost to corruption.”

work” programs paying \$5 a day, removing the rubble at a rate that could take 20 years.

Moreover, the debris represents a serious health hazard. Haitian-American engineer Reginald DesRoches of Georgia Tech points out that daily downpours in the rainy season leach toxic chemicals and carcinogens into the storm water system, and ultimately, into the drinking water. Disaster debris is often dumped into any available space, including drainage canals, the blockage of which causes localized flooding whenever it rains.



UN/Sophia Paris

Huge amounts of debris fill the streets, as the daily downpours leach toxic chemicals and carcinogens into the storm water system, and ultimately, into the drinking water. Shown: victims of the January 12 earthquake line up for water.

Enter the Vultures

Absent the aggressive U.S.-directed centralized and focused relief and rebuilding effort that LaRouche proposed, the same spineless wonders who have allowed Obama to assault the American population on behalf of Wall Street and London, seem to have found the courage to assail the besieged government of President René Prével government for “corruption” and “lack of leadership.”

In a June 10 report entitled “Haiti: No Leadership—No Elections,” Massachusetts Democrat Sen. John Kerry’s Foreign Relations Committee threatened Prével, demanding he meet U.S. criteria for “democratic” elections as early as November, or forfeit financial aid from international donors.

As if the earthquake and its aftermath hadn’t already plunged Haiti into chaos and instability, the Committee’s Ranking Republican, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, had the audacity to lecture Prével, that failure to hold elections in November to produce a “democratically-elected successor, could potentially plunge the country into chaos.” The report blames the government for “the lack of visible improvements in conditions on the ground or official communication regarding reconstruction plans,” which it says has caused a “lingering crisis of confidence in the government among many Haitians.”

Holding elections under existing chaotic conditions, with millions of sick and homeless, no infrastructure to

speak of, and the streets filled with debris, would be a logistical nightmare for the Prével government. The earthquake killed 17% of its workforce, destroyed all ministry buildings but one, and wiped out all the vital infrastructure required for functioning—including phones, vehicles, and computer systems.

In a July 9 opinion piece published in the *New York Times*, President Clinton and Prime Minister Bellerive argued that the Haitian government “has done everything it’s been asked to do by international donors to inspire confidence, maintain transparency and ensure that not one single cent is lost to corruption.” So why is the government being made to jump through hoops to be treated with the respect it deserves?

Particularly disturbing, is the Senate Foreign Relations Committee’s insistence that former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s Famni Lavalas party be counted among those that could put up a candidate to run against Prével. Aristide is a genocidal maniac who, as President, appealed to the most backward tendencies among the Haitian population, and let brutal Lavalas street gangs engage in the practice of “necklacing” opponents—placing a burning tire around the victim’s neck while his hands are tied. Is this what the Senate Foreign Relations Committee would consider a “democratically elected successor” to the current government?