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## 'Operation Frederick Douglass'

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# Zepp-LaRouche Issues Call To Save Haiti

*Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the Civil Rights Solidarity party (BüSo) prepared the following statement for delivery to a conference to be held in Haiti Nov. 27. She authorized its early release on Nov. 18, because of the urgency of the situation now facing Haiti—and the world.*

I am sending greetings to your extremely important conference.

Let us start to make an international mobilization to save the Haitian people, and organize for a full reconstruction of Haiti, so that everybody in this country can have a decent life. And let's call it "Operation Frederick Douglass."

The unfolding catastrophe which is happening in Haiti right now is a mirror of what will happen to the rest of the planet if the attitude towards this beautiful country is not changed dramatically. Since the earthquake happened ten months ago, no significant aid has been sent, and instead you have cholera and a shootout between demonstrators and soldiers.

In February, Lyndon LaRouche made an urgent call to send the U.S. Army Corps of engineers and work with the Haitian government to relocate the 1.3 million homeless people, and he stressed very emphatically that this had to occur before the rainy season, or else there would be the danger of floods, mudslides, and the deadly sewage for 1.5 million people. Haiti did not have one single sewage treatment plant at that time, and LaRouche said that if there were not immediate action, that soon, there would be the danger of dengue fever, cholera, typhoid, and other plagues.

And LaRouche called on the U.S. President to act. In response to a webcast question on Jan. 30, he said that the United States has to take the approach to Haiti of Presidents like Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt. That not many countries should come in, but that it was important to respect the sovereignty of Haiti, and that, therefore, the United States must make a treaty arrangement with Haiti to re-establish full sovereignty after the



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*Haiti's desperate condition presents a mirror of what the rest of the world faces, warns Helga Zepp-LaRouche, unless we act immediately to rescue that beleaguered nation.*

aid and reconstruction of the country had been fulfilled.

LaRouche's call was supported at that time by many medical and military professionals on the ground. It was turned down explicitly by President Barack Obama, who pulled out the military, and so, therefore, one can say very clearly that he has the moral responsibility of what is now the situation in Haiti.

### An Urgent Appeal

On the 24th of March, Bill Clinton, who was, at that time, the U.S. Special Envoy to Haiti, made an urgent appeal to move the people sitting in the camps to higher ground, or else there would be the danger that many tens of thousands would die. Again, there was no response from the U.S. President.

On the 25th of October, after cholera had broken out, LaRouche issued an urgent statement saying: It is still not too late to save hundreds of thousands of lives. That the Obama Administration should immediately return the U.S. military to Haiti and coordinate emergency provisions of clean water supplies, a mass relocation out of the disease-infected hellholes for 1.5 million people, and end the ten-month period of complete negligence.

As of October, 1.3 million people were still in temporary camps, 40% had no access to clean water, 30% have no toilet at all, and the average number of people sharing one toilet in Port-au-Prince is 273. Only 10% of

families have tents, and not one cent of the \$1.15 billion pledged by the U.S. government has been sent.

Now you have cholera and chronic infections, malnutrition, hunger, and many, many people who are suffering from an untreated psychological trauma. The present horrifying conditions of the victims in Haiti are a total indictment of the U.S. Administration and the international community, a catastrophe which was visible for so long and predictable that it would happen, like the present cholera catastrophe.

Not acting when you can, amounts to genocide.

The actual aid given is, maybe, at most, \$1 billion of the \$10 billion pledged; compare that to the \$30 trillion in bail-out packages for high-risk speculation in investment banks and hedge funds. If you compare this, it is very clear that Haiti will be the fate of the rest of the world if this attitude is not changed.

The situation in Haiti is no natural disaster. In October 1989, San Francisco had a similar earthquake, of a similar magnitude, namely 7 on the Richter scale, which left 63 people dead, 3,000 wounded, and 12,000 homeless. In Haiti, it was 300,000 deaths, and 1.5 million people homeless.

### **Build NAWAPA and PLHINO**

Now this is all due to a lack of infrastructure and of a solid foundation of urban development. Therefore, the reconstruction of Haiti has to build up infrastructure, cities, industries, and agriculture. And this has to occur in the context of building the NAWAPA and PLHINO water-management projects. It has to be in the context of building the World Land-Bridge as the reconstruction after the collapse of the present system. And we have to think in terms of 25 years of development, of one generation of development for Haiti. And we have to have a solemn commitment to do that. We should call it "Operation Frederick Douglass," because there is no better name to give Haiti a better future.

Haiti declared independence on the 1st of January, 1804. This was the first successful rebellion of slaves in the Americas, which occurred after the American Revolution, and defeated the military of the colonial powers of Spain, England, and Napoleonic France. And since that time, the fate and history of Haiti has been extremely closely connected to that of the United States. Haiti supported the American Revolution and was allied with Alexander Hamilton. Haiti was punished for this through blockades and quarantines. This was changed again when Lincoln became President in the 1860s, and then the U.S.

finally offered diplomatic recognition to Haiti. At that time, Douglass became the U.S. minister to Haiti.

With President Woodrow Wilson, this changed again for the worse, and Haiti was invaded in 1915, and subject to a brutal occupation, until 1934. Franklin D. Roosevelt ended that occupation and started the Good Neighbor era. With the death of Roosevelt, the situation worsened again. And you can see that the situation in Haiti, for more than 200 years, has been the direct reflection of whether the U.S. identity was that of the American Revolution and Constitution, and Declaration of Independence, or if the American identity was that of a de facto British colony, guided by the so-called special relationship between U.S. and Great Britain acting as an empire. . . .

*See below for an excerpts from a speech that Frederick Douglass gave about Haiti, on Jan. 2, 1893, in Chicago.*

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## **Frederick Douglass**

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# **Haiti's Liberty Will Shine on Forever**

*On Jan. 2, 1893, the 89th anniversary of Haiti's 1804 independence, Frederick Douglass, former Minister and Consul General to that nation, addressed an audience of 1,500 people in Chicago. Here are excerpts of that speech. Emphasis is in the original.*

No man should presume to come before an intelligent American audience without a commanding object and an earnest purpose. In whatever else I may be deficient, I hope I am qualified, both in object and purpose, to speak to you this evening. My subject is Haiti, the Black Republic; the only self-made Black Republic in the world. I am to speak to you of her character, her history, her importance and her struggle from slavery to freedom and to statehood. I am to speak to you of her progress in the line of civilization; of her relation with the United States; of her past and present; of her probable destiny; and of the bearing of her example as a free and independent Republic, upon what may be the destiny of the African race in our own country and elsewhere.