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Angelique G. Eupheme Weeks, II



Benoni Urey

Urey, Weeks defend bonds

-EX-CBL officials

Lawmaker joins June 07 chorus



Representative Samuel Kogar

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P11



Continental News

Ethiopia PM hosts 'most expensive dinner'

Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed has hosted a lavish fundraising dinner as part of a drive to secure \$1bn (£750m) for infrastructure projects in the capital. The dinner, dubbed "the most expensive in the country", saw about 300 business people and representatives gather in Addis Ababa.

Guests paid \$173,000 (£136,000) to dine at the former emperor Menelik's palace.

Since coming to power last year, Mr Abiy has pushed for wide-scale economic reform in Ethiopia. The glitzy event was held to help pay for the regeneration of an area in the capital, Addis Ababa.

Beautifying Sheger, as the project is called, involves cleaning the rivers and building recreational parks in the capital. Some 300 business people and representatives from different organisations attended the dinner, held in the lavish palace of a former emperor.

Guests began arriving at 15:00 local time (10:00 GMT) and were given a tour of the palace, according to some of the attendees who spoke to the BBC. After the tour, they attended a cocktail reception and were personally greeted by Mr Abiy.

"I was happy to take

pictures with him [Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed] and to talk to him like a normal friend. Not just me, but everybody else [got to experience that]," one guest, Ali Hussen, said.

He felt proud to be able to help his city:

"I don't know how much

money they collected [from the dinner]. But I am ready to pay again and again to finish the project", Mr Hussen said. The guests described the food as traditional. "There was raw meat. And I appreciate the way they prepared it. There was Tej (honey wine), coffee, very special coffee," Mr Hussen said.

Businesswoman Solome

Tadesse said Mr Abiy was making the rounds to the tables, encouraging people to eat. According to her, the prime minister did not sit in a special place but sat among the guests and ate and drank with them.

"We were satisfied by a lot of things, not just the dinner. I came out with hope," Ms Tadesse said. -BBC



Angola to re-bury body of rebel chief

The exhumed body of Angolan rebel chief Jonas Savimbi, who was killed in 2002, will be reburied in his hometown next month, authorities said after DNA tests confirmed the identity of the remains.

The charismatic warlord, who fought Angola's socialist government in a 27-year civil war, was killed in a battle against the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola

conducted by laboratories in South Africa, Argentina, Portugal and Angola, confirmed that the body was Savimbi's. "All tests agree," Minister of State Pedro Sebastiao told reporters on Monday.

The rebel leader will be reburied in his hometown Lopitanga on June 1. "It is a relief to know that it is his body, and that we will bring



(MPLA) forces on February 22, 2002.

His death paved the way for a peace deal that brought an end to one of Africa's longest and bloodiest conflicts, which erupted after independence from Portugal in 1975.

He was buried the day after he died in Angola's eastern Moxico province.

Six weeks after his death, his Unita movement signed a peace treaty with the MPLA government. DNA tests,

him back where he wanted to be buried," one of his sons, Alleluia Sakaita-Savimbi, told AFP. Unita has campaigned for Savimbi to be given a dignified funeral, and President Joao Lourenco last year set up a commission to exhume and rebury his remains. Lourenco came to power in 2017 as head of the MPLA party, succeeding Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who ruled for 38 years. AFP

Uganda to create nine cities

Cabinet has approved the creation of nine cities, five of which will become operational on July 1, 2020.

These cities include Arua, Gulu, Jinja, Fort Portal, and

Mbarara. These will be elevated from municipal to city status by July 1, 2020. The other two cities that will become cities on July 2021 are Hoima and Mbale.

The move is part of a government plan to turn nine

municipalities into regional cities.

Fort Portal, Mbarara and Hoima will be regional cities in western Uganda; Entebbe city in the central region; Lira, Arua and Gulu in northern region while Mbale and Jinja cities will serve the eastern region. According to the Minister of Local Government, Mr Tom Butime, the Cabinet meeting that was chaired by President Museveni in Entebbe on Monday, resolved that the municipalities will be elevated in a phased manner.

He said that a budget of Shs130 billion will be set aside for the operationalisation of the cities after meeting all the requirements.

In February, a technical team led by the Commissioner of Urban Administration in the Ministry of Local Government, Mr Justinian Niwagaba, said in Fort Portal that all regional cities will have two divisions. Mr Niwagaba said that each division will get a Member of Parliament (MP) and an overall MP for each city. -BBC



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EDITORIAL

Tuition-free education program lacks realistic policy

FROM ALL CALCULATIONS, it seems like President George MannehWeah's much publicized tuition-freed education program for undergraduate students at the University of Liberia and in all public universities, community colleges and tertiary institutions across the country took off without any clear policy to make it workable. Ever since the President made the pronouncement in October 2018 in the auditorium of the Capitol Hill campus of the University Liberia, the government is yet to fulfill its promise, leaving heads of public universities here strangled financially.

FOR NEARLY TWO semesters at the University of Liberia after this pronouncement, the government hasn't paid a dime against tuition for thousands of undergraduate students enrolled particularly at the UL and in other public institutions across the country. The University of Liberia is currently in a serious deficit, unable to fund its operations.

SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY the National Legislature to have authorities from both the Ministries of Finance and Education to provide detail on funding process of the scheme have proved futile with nothing said and done.

IN FACT, SENATORS at the Capitol expressed their frustrations last week over what they described "hasty" manner in which the President made the pronouncement without a blue print for implementation. This paper also gathers the UL Administration was not even consulted, as its President, Dr. Ophelia Weeks, was reportedly out of the country when President Weah, who is also Visitor to the University, announced the program.

LAST WEEK, THE Senate Committee on Education and Public Administration chaired by RiverCess County Senator Dallas Gueh reported to plenary, noting there was no consultation made on the introduction of such policy statement with serious public concern about its source of funding.

SENATORS VARNEY SHERMAN of Grand Cape Mount County, Milton Teahjay of Sinoe County, and Daniel Naatehn of Gbarpolu County, respectively argued that criteria should be set up to acquaint beneficiaries of the program on the need to contribute their quotas upon graduation from the University.

IN EARLIER DEBATE, some senators note that President Weah might have been wrongly advised on the introduction of the tuition-freed program without taking into consideration source of revenue to fund the exercise.

MEANWHILE, PLENARY HAS mandated the Senate's Committee on Education and Public Administration to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah to give detail on the scheme, including sources of funding.

INDEED, THE FINANCE boss should provide clarity on the ambitious plan that is going to cost government millions of dollars in such a time when the economy is at rock bottom with walloping inflation, sky-rocketing prices and uncontrollable depreciation of the Liberian Dollar.

UNLESS A REALISTICALLY workable plan is drawn out for the scheme and funding identified, we think the government should muster enough courage to modify the program or suspend it for now until the economy is restored, for as it is, the University of Liberia, including other public universities and colleges are in the 'red'.

COMMENTARY

By Nouriel Roubini

The Global Consequences of a Sino-American Cold War

What started as a trade war between the United States and China is quickly escalating into a death match for global economic, technological, and military dominance. If the two countries' leaders cannot manage the defining relationship of the twenty-first century responsibly, the entire world will bear the costs of their failure.

NEW YORK - A few years ago, as part of a Western delegation to China, I met President Xi Jinping in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. When addressing us, Xi argued that China's rise would be peaceful, and that other countries - namely, the United States - need not worry about the "Thucydides Trap," so named for the Greek historian who chronicled how Sparta's fear of a rising Athens made war between the two inevitable. In his 2017 book *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?*, Harvard University's Graham Allison examines 16 earlier rivalries between an emerging and an established power, and finds that 12 of them led to war. No doubt, Xi wanted us to focus on the remaining four.

Despite the mutual awareness of the Thucydides Trap - and the recognition that history is not deterministic - China and the US seem to be falling into it anyway. Though a hot war between the world's two major powers still seems far-fetched, a cold war is becoming more likely.

The US blames China for the current tensions. Since joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, China has reaped the benefits of the global trading and investment system, while failing to meet its obligations and free riding on its rules. According to the US, China has gained an unfair advantage through intellectual-property theft, forced technology transfers, subsidies for domestic firms, and other instruments of state capitalism. At the same time, its government is becoming increasingly authoritarian, transforming China into an Orwellian surveillance state.

For their part, the Chinese suspect that the US's real goal is to prevent them from rising any further or projecting legitimate power and influence abroad. In their view, it is only reasonable that the world's second-largest economy (by GDP) would seek to expand its presence on the world stage. And leaders would argue that their regime has improved the material welfare of 1.4 billion Chinese far more than the West's gridlocked political systems ever could.

Regardless of which side has the stronger argument, the escalation of economic, trade, technological, and geopolitical tensions may have been inevitable. What started as a trade war now threatens to escalate into a permanent state of mutual animosity. This is reflected in the Trump administration's National Security Strategy, which deems China a strategic "competitor" that should be contained on all fronts.

Accordingly, the US is sharply restricting Chinese foreign direct investment in sensitive sectors, and pursuing other actions to ensure Western dominance in strategic industries such as artificial intelligence and 5G. It is pressuring partners and allies not to participate in the

Belt and Road Initiative, China's massive program to build infrastructure projects across the Eurasian landmass. And it is increasing US Navy patrols in the East and South China Seas, where China has grown more aggressive in asserting its dubious territorial claims.

The global consequences of a Sino-American cold war would be even more severe than those of the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union. Whereas the Soviet Union was a declining power with a failing economic model, China will soon become the world's largest economy, and will continue to grow from there. Moreover, the US and the Soviet Union traded very little with each other, whereas China is fully integrated in the global trading and investment system, and deeply intertwined with the US, in particular.

A full-scale cold war thus could trigger a new stage of de-globalization, or at least a division of the global economy into two incompatible economic blocs. In either scenario, trade in goods, services, capital, labor, technology, and data would be severely restricted, and the digital realm would become a "splinternet," wherein Western and Chinese nodes would not connect to one another. Now that the US has imposed sanctions on ZTE and Huawei, China will be scrambling to ensure that its tech giants can source essential inputs domestically, or at least from friendly trade partners that are not dependent on the US.

In this balkanized world, China and the US will both expect all other countries to pick a side, while most governments will try to thread the needle of maintaining good economic ties with both. After all, many US allies now do more business (in terms of trade and investment) with China than they do with America. Yet in a future economy where China and the US separately control access to crucial technologies such as AI and 5G, the middle ground will most likely become uninhabitable. Everyone will have to choose, and the world may well enter a long process of de-globalization.

Whatever happens, the Sino-American relationship will be the key geopolitical issue of this century. Some degree of rivalry is inevitable. But, ideally, both sides would manage it constructively, allowing for cooperation on some issues and healthy competition on others. In effect, China and the US would create a new international order, based on the recognition that the (inevitably) rising new power should be granted a role in shaping global rules and institutions.

If the relationship is mismanaged - with the US trying to derail China's development and contain its rise, and China aggressively projecting its power in Asia and around the world - a full-scale cold war will ensue, and a hot one (or a series of proxy wars) cannot be ruled out. In the twenty-first century, the Thucydides Trap would swallow not just the US and China, but the entire world.

O-PED

By Michel Barnier

In Defense of Europe

BRUSSELS - The geopolitical chessboard is back. Following a post-1989 interlude in which the direction of history seemed to tilt toward a peaceful liberal international order, we now witness mounting great-power competition, quests for hegemony, and quasi-imperial expansion.

Russia is brazenly breaking international law and asserting its regional influence. China is engaging in strategic competition across the board and promoting an alternative international model. And the United States has chosen to defend its interests with unilateral action and pressure.

Faced with this violent geopolitical awakening, Europe must take its future into its own hands. If we do not stand up to voice and defend our interests and values, the European Union and its member states will become others' prey in the new global (dis)order. The time has come for Europeans collectively to build their sovereignty in all areas where they want to be actors, rather than spectators: foreign policy and defense, economy and trade, digital technology, and environmental sustainability.

Under the leadership of European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the EU has taken significant steps in this regard. We have sharpened our trade policy in response to the prospect of trade wars, and made our economy less vulnerable to foreign takeovers of strategic assets. In addition, we have invested in resilience to protect critical networks and infrastructure against cyber attacks.

Perhaps most surprisingly, we have taken big strides in pooling our defense efforts. Once a taboo, defense has become a political priority for the Commission. The €13 billion (\$14.6 billion) European Defense Fund, for example, will break new ground in joint planning and the procurement of common equipment.

But Europe can, and must, do more in this area. Outsourcing Europe's security is no longer an option. And although increased expenditures will make us stronger, they are not enough on their own. Europe needs a plan - a political compass - and our citizens expect one, too.

The EU's Global Strategy - spearheaded by Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission - set a new collective level of ambition for external European action back in 2016. But now, with other global powers racing ahead, and cross-border threats, from Riga to Nicosia, becoming increasingly common, this strategy needs to be updated and translated into foreign policy and defense planning.

The time is therefore ripe for a Strategic Defense Review, consisting of the joint assessment of the core threats Europe will face between now and 2030; strategic guidance about common priorities for the EU and its member states; and the translation of this into joint equipment and institutional structures.

While reaffirming NATO's core role in collective defense, this Strategic Defense Review must develop Europe's capabilities and enhance our readiness for common external action. We need unified capabilities to face new asymmetric challenges such as terrorism; cybercrime; disinformation campaigns; and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Cyber, in particular, is an area where our civil and military capacities must be scaled up to match future challenges. In addition, such a review should provide guidance to the European defense industry as a core component of our security.

To sustain these efforts and deliver on a renewed level of ambition, we must also build our Foreign Policy and Defense Union. EU institutions and member states form one team. The aim is not to erode the sovereignty of member states, but rather to make all - and each - of us stronger.

A common foreign and defense policy takes advantage of the diversity of intelligence services, armed forces, equipment, and combat experience, together with the different regional outlooks - toward Africa, the Middle East, the Western Balkans, and Europe's Eastern flank - bequeathed to them by history and geography.

Within this framework, willing and capable member states should also act as ambassadors or lead countries in different areas. This would permit flexibility and consistency in regional formats or initiatives, and would also enable member states to use their influence to support both national and European interests.

In parallel, defense should be properly institutionalized at the EU level: a Defense Council to provide a platform for coordination among defense ministers, an Operations Headquarters to plan and conduct the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy, a responsive and efficient chain of command, and a full-fledged defense academy.

These practical steps will help foster a common European strategic culture and make European defense an operational reality. They will also better equip the EU to engage with strategic partners - first and foremost the United Kingdom, which will remain a key ally and strong partner after it leaves the bloc.

For too long, however, internal matters such as Brexit have monopolized European leaders' agenda at the expense of pressing security challenges. Stability in Africa, the peace process in Syria, the crisis in Libya, the Western Balkans, the Eastern Neighborhood, and the Arctic also deserve more of our attention, in addition to our capacity to engage with strategic partners.

Common security challenges should be on the European Council's agenda every three or six months. Through regular, structured discussions, leaders would address strategic trends and define a common course of action, using the EU's full foreign-policy toolbox.

At the same time, the EU must wield its foreign-policy tools - diplomacy, trade, development aid, and defense - in a more coherent manner. To meet the coming challenges of a world in which Africa and Asia will play an ever-larger role, Europe must break out of its silos and align its external instruments. In March, for example, Tusk initiated a discussion among EU leaders about the EU-China relationship. This should be a top priority for the coming years.

But the key to a successful foreign policy is the power to back it up. Europe still wields significant soft power, but we remain a hard-power minnow. The return of great-power politics means this imbalance is no longer sustainable. Europe needs a second leg to stand on - and our citizens expect a union that protects, that is more capable, and that is sovereign. We can achieve this only if member states and EU institutions join forces.

OPINION

By Richard N. Haass

Looking Back at 100

NEW YORK - This is my 100th column for Project Syndicate. It comes nearly 20 years after my first. As is the case with most milestones, it offers a good opportunity to take stock, to look back on what I have written, and to see what it says about the world over these two decades and where we may be heading.

Three themes stand out. The first is how much the Middle East consumed the world's attention, including mine. Think about it: This is a region that is home to around 6% of the world's people, and, despite possessing vast amounts of oil, accounts for less than 5% of global economic output. Yet it manages to account for a large share of the world's headlines, conflicts, terrorists, and refugees.

Some blame the Middle East's many problems on the European colonial powers. But that era is too distant from our own to explain today's failures. After all, many former colonies elsewhere in the world are thriving.

That said, outsiders have made things worse over the past two decades, both by what they did (the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 comes to mind, as does NATO's intervention in Libya and Russia's in Syria) and by what they failed to do.

Here I would list US reluctance to act in Syria even after the government there defied warnings and used chemical weapons. While the intervention in Libya was misguided, once that decision was made, it was incumbent upon the United States and its European partners to mount an effort to stabilize the country following the ouster of Muammar al-Qaddafi.

Yet the lion's share of the responsibility for the Middle East's terrible record lies with the region's leaders, who have largely failed to provide economic opportunity or political rights at home and who have refused to compromise in the cause of peace. Instead, what we have seen are prolonged and costly conflicts in Syria and Yemen, stagnation in Egypt, and fading prospects for any lasting settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The second theme that emerges from the past two decades is Asia's emergence as the central arena of modern international relations. If Europe was the principal venue of much of twentieth-century world history, including two hot wars and one cold war, now it is Asia's turn. The region is where one finds the bulk of the world's population, the majority of its economic output, and increasingly its military might. It is where the major powers of this era face one another.

The good news is that for the past 20 years - in fact, since the end of the Cold War - Asia has remained stable, underpinned by America's steady hand and buoyed by rapid economic growth. The question now is whether stability will continue to be the rule, given China's rise, the near-certainty that North Korea will not just retain but possibly expand its nuclear and missile capabilities, and lingering disputes over the South and East China Seas, Taiwan, and numerous islands and borders.

The third theme that runs through many of the previous 99 columns is the demise of the world that we knew. The titles of several commentaries say it all: "Liberal World Order, R.I.P.," "Cold War II," "Europe in Disarray," "The Era of Disorder."

One reason for this downbeat assessment is the growing prominence of a China that remains illiberal at home, engages in myriad unfair practices that boost its trading position, and is mostly unwilling to assume global responsibilities commensurate with its strength. Another is President Vladimir Putin's Russia, which seeks to violate sovereignty - the most basic norm of what international order there is - with traditional and digital armies alike. Moreover, the gap between global challenges, such as climate change, and the willingness of the world to deal with them has widened. The thesis of my 2013 commentary, "What International Community?" still holds: the phrase stands for a concept that is more aspiration than reality.

One factor stands out amidst this deterioration: the refusal of the United States to continue to play its traditional role in the world. The last two decades have made clear that no post-Cold War US foreign policy consensus exists. What exists is wariness born of costly military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a populist surge fueled by the 2008 global financial crisis, growing inequality, and reduced upward mobility.

This is the context that gave rise to the election of President Donald Trump. Over the past two-plus years, Trump has added to global turbulence through his own unique mix of hostility to multilateral institutions and alliances; sustained use of tariffs and sanctions on behalf of goals that are so ambitious as to be unrealistic; increased military spending but decreased military action; a much-reduced emphasis on promoting democracy and human rights, coupled with a penchant for strongmen; and a faith in his own personal diplomacy but not in professional diplomats.

As suggested above, all this has contributed to the fading of the post-World War II, post-Cold War world. What will take its place is unclear; Trump is much more a disrupter than he is a builder. The next 20 years thus promise to be even more disorderly than the last 20. Sad to say, there will be more than enough material for at least a hundred more commentaries.

Liberian musician urges Weah to invest in agriculture

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A veteran Liberian musician Ben O. Gibson urges President George Manneh Weah to prioritize agriculture in making Liberia self-sufficient in food.

He gave the suggestion on Monday, 20 May in Sinkor, Monrovia while speaking to reporters on his latest album coming soon titled: "The Hunger Solution."

Ben is producer of the famous Disarmament, Demobilization



Liberian musician Ben O. Gibson

Resettlement and Reintegration or DDRR song and another called 'Nobody Fine Pass Money.'

According to him, when the country returns to the soil, it would be hunger-free as everyone would have food to eat and stop depending on other countries for the nation's stable food rice.

He emphasizes that any nation that is unable to feed itself, risks going through severe hunger.

He indicates that in this proposed green revolution, the President, Vice President, the Speaker and members of the National Legislature, the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Universities professors, market women, taxi drivers, and medical doctors, among others, Liberia would no longer experience hunger.

Ben recommends that government should establish farms in all 15 counties, adding, "All Liberians will be hunger free if we join hands and go back to the soil."

He notes that Liberia is too old enough to continue to depend on other countries to feed her citizens, adding that 'Green Revolution' is the only answer to Liberia's hunger.

He calls on international partners to assist the country to resolve its current food problem, which is an age-old problem that needs drastic solution.

Ben discloses that he intends to create necessary awareness and also advance solutions in his upcoming musical album.

He reveals that some countries around the world are much more powerful and strong simply because they can adequately and consistently feed themselves without depending on others.

He promises to work along with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensuring that all government officials gets involved in Green Revolution, which is the surest way to save the nation from hunger.

Slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe launched a Green Revolution program in the 80s with instruction to his officials to farm, an exercise that saw Liberia grew enough food, especially rice, for local consumption. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MCC dedicates 14 hand-pumps in Chessemanburg

The Monrovia City Government has dedicated 14 modern hand-pumps to the people of Chessemanburg Township in Bomi County.

In a news release issued Monday 20 May in Monrovia, the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) says the hand-pumps were constructed by the City Government of Monrovia with support from the World Bank and the European Union (EU).

The release says the construction is part of MCC's corporate social responsibilities to residents of Chessemanburg, Bomi County as the Corporation draws closer to having a new landfill site and the subsequent closure of the Whein Town landfill in Montserrado County.

The City Government of Monrovia on February 19, 2016 completed the payment of US\$200,000.00 for the purchase of 100 acres of land to be used for the construction of a new landfill in Chessemanburg.

The amount was disbursed as final payment to four family heads or land owners in the township of

Chessemanburg, according to the release.

The current landfill site is located in Whien Town, Paynesville, Montserrado County, but it is expected to be relocated to Bomi County in two years.

The MCC says the hand-pumps were dedicated and turned over to communities in Chessemanburg by the Mayor of Monrovia Jefferson T. Koijee with World Bank Country Manager Larisa Leshchenko and EU Representative as well as community leaders and dwellers of Chessemanburg in full attendance.

Speaking during the dedication ceremony, Mayor Koijee cautioned community dwellers to take full charge of managing the hand-pumps.

According to him, the safety and health condition of residents of Chessemanburg remain a paramount concern to the MCC and its partners.

He notes that that the Chessemanburg landfill site project encourages the full participation of residents of communities within the Township which is geared towards enhancing a smooth partnership.

Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)
20th Street Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING - NCB
Invitation for Marine Sensitivity Survey
IFB NO.LiMA/NCB/010/18/19



7 May 2019

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), has allocated a portion of its Corporate Budget funding for its **Marine Sensitivity Survey**. The Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) now wishes to invite sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the **Marine Sensitivity Survey** of Liberia

Interested firms that are fully qualified and capacitated to perform this service are required to obtain Bid Documents at no cost from the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority 20th Street office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00p.m., Wednesday, 8th May to Friday, 7th June 2019.

All qualified bidders should have a Current Business Registration, Current Tax Clearance, Business Profile and a list of previous clients, and a permit to operate from the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia. Discount will be an added advantage.

Final submission date is 1:30p.m. on Monday, 10th June 2019, to be followed by the bid opening ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

All interested entities should submit a sealed bid to the Procurement Section of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), 20th Street, Sinkor.

Signed: _____
PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

CHANGE OF NAME



This is to notify the general public that the name of the person identified as Raphael Kpissay (Pictured) has been changed to Pusu Kpissay. Additionally, all documents bearing his previous name, Raphael Kpissay should remain valid. This announcement should claim the attention of the general public.

Signed: Pusu Kpissay

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

The Monrovia City Mayor further explains that the MCC along with its partners will ensure that regular environmental studies are done to uphold safety standard and cautions against the reselling or encroaching on the premises of the project.

The release further quotes World Bank Country Manager Larisa Leshchenko and European Union Representative of reaffirming the World Bank and EU's continuous support to the Monrovia City Government under the leadership of Mayor Koijee.

Both partners lauded Mayor Koijee

for the level of work done at the MCC since his ascendancy.

According to the press release, the partners encouraged Mayor Koijee to continue to forge ahead with his agenda to transform Monrovia.

Residents of the community assured the full protection of the new landfill site, noting that the people of Chessemanburg would serve as watchdogs for the project.

The says indicates that the residents thanked the MCC for taking the project to the community.-- **Press release.**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah submits Tree Crops agreement for ratification

By Bridgett Milton

President George Manneh Weah has submitted the Financing Agreement Tree Crops Extension Project II between the Republic of

Submitting the agreement, President Weah says the total amount of the agreement is US\$23,826,000. Of this amount, President Weah explains that US\$11,913,000 is a loan, and the remaining

poor smallholder coca producers and their households.

He adds that it will target Lofa and other counties, and it is expected to benefit around 15,000 households.

President Weah indicates that 10,000 households will be coca smallholder farmers and the remaining 5,000 rural households will benefit from improved roads, input supplies, market linkages and spillover effects along the value chain.

He reveals that the project agency shall be the Ministry of Agriculture, while the loan shall be free of interest but bear a service charge of three fourths of one percent per annum, payable semiannually in United States currency and shall have a maturity period of 40 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Meanwhile the plenary has forwarded the communication to the committees on Ways, Means and Finance and Development Planning, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Judiciary to report in one week.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Liberia and International Fund for Agriculture Development to the House of Representatives for ratification.

US\$11,913,000.00 is a grant. According to him, the objective of the agreement is to increase income and improve the livelihoods of

Major hospitals receive medical supplies in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Two members of the Bong County Legislative Caucus over the weekend donated huge consignments of medical supplies to Bong Mines, Phebe and the C.B. Dunbar Maternity hospitals in Bong County.

Items donated by the lawmakers include hand-gloves, hospital beds, mattresses and drugs, among other things.

The donation is in response to the continuous public outcry about the shortages of meaningful hospital equipment for the smooth operations of the health facilities in Bong and parts adjacent.

Bong Electoral District#1 Rep. Albert Hills made the delivery of the medical supplies to the three government - run health centers in the County.

According to him, the the supplies are some benefits from a visit to the United States of America by he and



Deputy House Speaker Prince Kermue Moye upon the invitation of US Congressman Eric Paulson in 2018.

Rep. Hills indicates that he and Rep. Moye's visit to the United States was also intended to strengthen bilateral ties between Liberia and the US Congressman.

He explains that while in

the US, they were able to lobby with international partners and permanent Liberians residing in the US to help the Liberian health sector with medical supplies.

The Bong District #1 Rep. indicates that a son from Kokoyah District Mr. Dennis Garsini was very instrumental during the negotiation for a

Senate probes high exchange rate

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate in its 32nd day sitting here Tuesday, 21 May mandated the committees on Ways, Means and Finance, and Banking and Currency to investigate reasons behind the rapid increasing strength of the United States Dollar against the Liberian Dollar.

Lofa County Senator George T. Tengbeh in a written communication notes that the high increase of the United States Dollar against the Liberian Dollar is a serious impediment to the general public, particularly ordinary Liberians and the current status of the country's

to take prompt action in having this matter resolved.

Grand Gedeh County Senator G. Alphonso Gaye, says the Liberian Senate has committees to address these issues, so they should take charge immediately and conduct investigation with the Central Bank of Liberia and the Technical Economic Management Team to report to plenary.

On the contrary, Senator J. Gle-blo Brown of Maryland County says the CBL and TEMT should appear before plenary to discuss wider issues of the Liberian economy.



economy.

He further observes that the rapid increase in the exchange rate poses untold suffering to the Liberian people.

Therefore, Senator Tengbeh asks plenary to summon the Central Bank of Liberia and the Technical Economic Management Team constituted by President Weah to appear before full plenary this Thursday, May 23, to explain mechanisms being put in place in addressing the situation.

One United States Dollar currently costs One Hundred and Eighty-five Liberian Dollars or more, far above the LRD150 to US\$1.00 set by the Central Bank of Liberia sometimes last year.

The Senator urges plenary

"We were here when we talked about L\$16 Billion, US\$25 million and we were here when reports were given out. We have not invited anyone from the Central Bank to address the two audit reports. Let's invite the CBL to hear their response on the two audit reports." Sen. Brown tells his colleagues in the senate.

In conclusion, Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay, moves that the communication be accepted and forwarded to the appropriate committees to report Thursday, next week, noting that if the committees can't bring something tangible to plenary, they will have to invite the CBL and the TEMT. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

forty - foot container filled with medical items from a US - based company MATAL.

Rep. Hills says on behalf of him and Deputy Speaker Moye, the donation is their way of contributing immensely to the appalling health sector of the Country.

He believes that the donation of the materials will help to reduce some of the challenges faced by the hospitals and clinics in the Country.

C.B Dunbar Hospital Medical Director Dr. Elma Kou Geah, Bong Mines Hospital

Administrator Alvin Sirleaf and an official of the Phebe Hospital George Barbu took delivery of the medical supplies.

Receiving the supplies, the health officials expressed joy over the provision of the medical items by the lawmakers, promising to use the items for the purpose intended.

They also appealed to Reps. Moye and Hills to continue the initiative for the overall improvement of Liberia's struggling health system.-- *Edited by Winston W. Parley*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Put Liberia first

-Pastoral Network cautions June 7 protesters

By Lewis S. Teh

A local group, National Wings of Success Pastoral Network INC, cautions would-be protesters here to put Liberia first in their planned demonstrations on June 07.

“We are not against the Constitution, neither the group planning to protest, because the Constitution gives everyone the right to peacefully assemble, but let them be reminded that Liberia belongs to every citizen, and as such, the interest of the state should be first during the time of protest”, it stresses.

Reading a three-page press statement in the edifice of the Children of Light Chapel in Old Plank Field, Frog Island community, Paynesville Red-light, the President of the group, Bishop G. Sylvester G.T. Wallace says the impending protest is something that is cardinal to

the peace of the country, so the Network does not support such protest.

Bishop Wallace notes though organizers of the protest say their plan is predicated on prevailing

economic situation in the country, the Pastoral Network wants all Liberians to get involve, including the government, protesters and well-meaning citizens in finding a solution to the

economic situation that has created hardship in the country for which some citizens want to take the streets.

“We respect the protesters; they are citizens and we strongly believe that they will listen for us to sit around the table to dialogue in order to let go of the planned June 7 protest”, he asserts.

According to the Bishop, the Network comprises of 3,500 pastors from all 15 political sub-divisions of Liberia, saying the love for country remains key in the heart of the Network, and it should not in any way be over looked.

He continues that as a Christian organization that works with pastors across the country, they cannot remain silent when there are troubling statements on the air waves.

He emphasizes the current peace Liberians are enjoying cannot be sustained in the midst of conflict, adding that the Network wants to call for a

peaceful dialogue among amongst protesters under the banner Council of Patriots, the government through the leadership of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change, national youth leaders, the Liberia Council of Churches, and Traditional Leaders, among others to formulate strategies through which they can all converge to save the country from another bloodshed.

“As you may be aware, peace is one of the values that is costly and cannot be bought; therefore the one we all are enjoying today was obtained through the grace of God, and as such it must remain in order to improve the citizens’ lives”, Bishop Wallace pleads.

Recently, President George Manneh Weah met with protest leaders in Monrovia and asked to present their concerns, but the leadership under the banner Council of Patriots insists they will do so during their June 7th assembly. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



GFC caters to vulnerable adolescents

The Executive Director of Girls for Change (GFC), Mrs. Ora Barclay Keller says her organization has been keeping sleeves above elbow to provide lifesaving skills to teenage mothers, nurturing them to form a self-image, manage emotions, build relationships, strengthen social skills, and deal with peer pressure.

She notes that adolescents are more prone and vulnerable to high risk, considering the fact that more than half of Liberia’s population is under age 18, adding that these scaring status are further compounded by limited educational opportunities,

training and employment, which render this age group particularly vulnerable.

It is such situation, she says GFC is working to address with support from those who believe in Liberia’s future.

Speaking in a exclusive interview on Monday, May 20, 2019 at her Thinker’s Village office, Mrs. Keller explains that GFC is prepping these young women, most of whom are school dropouts due to early pregnancy through the provision of scholarship, health clubs in schools, training and awareness on teenage pregnancy, early childhood development for teenage mothers’ children while they are in school and mentoring.

According to the GFC Executive Director, this initiative grew out of the realization that many young women who dropped out of school would go back but not stay in school because there are no facilities to cater to their children while they are in school.

It is based on this that the Girls for Change organization began running a childhood development program, providing care for these kids in order to sustainably keep their mothers in school.

“This allows the mother to be settled in school and pay attention to her studies because her child is being taken care of at our child development center. Most of the girls we are providing opportunities for are victims of sexual abuse and some got pregnant while in school. Retaining them in school is a primary concern for us. We saw a gap in the lack of a safe environment for those children to play and learn,” Mrs. Keller stresses.

During non-school period, beneficiaries of GFC scholarship program and other community residents are encouraged to attend skill training activities such as tailoring, graphic design, knitting of African slippers, painting that would keep them busy during vacation. Mrs. Keller says more than 500 teenage mothers and their children have benefited from

NADA Chair Wants Consolidated National Support for Electoral Reform

By OlandoKolliemelling, Radio Totota, Bong County

The local chairman of National Association of Disabled Advocate (NADA), in Totota, Bong County, is calling for a consolidated national support on electoral reform issues in Liberia.

Dakukai Nan wants recent recommendations presented by the Election Coordinating Committee (ECC), be considered as an essential component in sustaining Liberia’s emerging democracy.

Speaking in an interview, NADA’s local chairman, Mr. Nan told journalists that he supports the ECC post 2017 elections observation report that was backed by international observers in recommending electoral reform to enhance smooth election in the country.

According to Nan, the ECC recommended among others

that Liberians of 17 years turning 18 years in election year should be allowed to register, being that the Liberian constitution provides that persons 18 years can vote in election.

Also change in Election Day from second Tuesday in October of each election year to later time during the dry season, because the rainy season poses a challenge during election.

Mr. Nan backed the ECC recommendations claiming that it is realistic and called on citizens and major civil society actors to put hands-on-deck in engaging the national legislature and other stakeholders to see reason to make the needed constitutional

adjustment to avert problems



the organization’s programs. Some of the students who completed the training are being used as ambassadors to teach their peers about the importance of healthy living, prevention of teenage pregnancy and peer-to-peer coaching.

Girls for Change is a non-profit self-supported civil society organization based within Thinker’s Village community. It operates within Montserrado, Bong and Lower

Margibi Counties with focus on supporting teenage mothers, less fortunate girls and under-privilege and marginalized youth through the provision of scholarships in formal and informal education.

Over the years, the program has supported over 300 girls in formal and vocational education thereby, making them productive citizens some of whom are currently giving back to the entity. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

Le Président de la cour suprême du Libéria rappelle Me Gongloe à l'ordre

La Cour suprême a été le théâtre d'un fait inédit le lundi 21 mai lorsque le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor s'en est pris au président du barreau libérien, Me Tiawan Gongloe, alors que celui-ci prononçait encore son discours à l'occasion d'une cérémonie d'installation du nouveau juge associé de la cour suprême nommé récemment par le président Weah.

Me Gongloe appelait la cour suprême à se lever contre les actions inconstitutionnelles des deux autres pouvoirs de l'Etat qui tenteraient d'intimider les juges, lorsque le juge Korkpor l'interrompit brusquement, qualifiant ses propos de provocateurs.

« Si vous continuez de cette façon, je ne vous permettrai pas de prendre la parole à l'ouverture des débats. Vous l'avez fait l'autre jour, vous étiez assis ici et vous avez écouté, vous étiez avocat dans une affaire devant ce tribunal et vous avez perdu. La Cour suprême a parlé... », a déclaré le juge en chef

Korkpor.

Me Gongloe avait pris la parole au nom du barreau libérien lors de la cérémonie. Il tentait de mettre en garde contre les actions des personnes ou des institutions influentes qui tentent d'intimider les juges. Il a condamné « la destitution inconstitutionnelle » du juge

associé Kabineh M. Ja'nehde la cour suprême par le sénat libérien.

« Le LNBA met en garde les membres de la magistrature contre les actions illégales de l'exécutif ou du pouvoir législatif, car il va sans dire que la violation des droits d'une personne est le début de la

violation des droits de tous », a prévenu Me Gongloe.

« L'adestitution d'un juge pour avoir exercé ses fonctions légales crée un précédent susceptible de pousser d'autres juges, en particulier des juridictions inférieures, à craindre de s'acquitter librement de leur obligation légale dans les cas où les intérêts du gouvernement, des personnes ou des entités puissantes sont impliqués, allant ainsi à l'encontre de l'objectif pour lequel les tribunaux existent dans notre système de gouvernement », a-t-il ajouté.

Mais pour le juge en chef, ce n'était pas l'endroit où il fallait évoquer la destitution du juge Ja'neh, car l'affaire avait été jugée par l'Assemblée législative.

Le parlement libérien avait destitué le juge Kabineh M. Ja'neh, juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria.

Le Sénat avait voté le vendredi 29 mars en faveur de la destitution du juge Ja'neh pour avoir pris la décision d'accorder un bref d'interdiction empêchant le gouvernement de percevoir une taxe imposée à des entreprises pétrolières et gazières.

Après sa destitution, l'un de ses avocats, Me Lavala Supuwood, avait dit que son client ferait appel de la décision du sénat devant la Cour suprême. La défense estimait que la décision

qu'avait prise le juge Ja'neh en chambre dans l'exercice de ses fonctions constitutionnelles avait été ensuite validée par les cinq juges de la Cour suprême, y compris par le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, celui-là même qui avait présidé le procès en destitution devant le sénat.

Il avait été jugé au Sénat libérien pour plusieurs chefs d'accusation dont incompétence, abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire, fraudes, détournement de fonds et corruption.

Pourtant, le Sénat ne l'avait reconnu coupable que d'un seul chef d'accusation, à savoir abus de pouvoir discrétionnaire pour avoir émis une ordonnance qui portait suppression d'une taxe pétrolière imposée par le gouvernement du Libéria sur des entreprises privées. Pour les autres charges retenues contre lui, il avait été reconnu non-coupable. Il était soupçonné d'avoir notamment utilisé son influence pour obtenir de la Cour suprême une décision favorable lui permettant de prendre possession d'un terrain litigieux revendiqué par une citoyenne ordinaire âgée de 94 ans, Mme Annie Yancy Constance.

Quelques jours après son limogeage, le Président Weah avait nommé le juge Kaba, ancien juge du tribunal des droits civils du Temple de la justice.



President George M. Weah

La France aux côtés de la Côte d'Ivoire dans la lutte contre le terrorisme

Le ministre français de l'Intérieur est arrivé dimanche soir pour une visite en Côte d'Ivoire visant à renforcer la coopération en matière de lutte contre le terrorisme et l'immigration. Christophe Castaner a annoncé que la France contribuerait financièrement à la construction de l'Académie internationale de lutte contre le terrorisme, un

projet en gestation depuis le sommet UE-Afrique de 2017.

Dimanche soir, à l'issue d'une rencontre avec le président Alassane Ouattara, Christophe Castaner avait fait part du « soutien de la France » à la Côte d'Ivoire dans la lutte contre le terrorisme. « Le terrorisme existe partout dans le monde (...) et il faut sur ces sujets améliorer notre coopération en matière de coopération et de

lutte contre ce risque-là », avait-il indiqué, insistant également sur la nécessité de trouver « ensemble la manière de réguler l'immigration irrégulière » et de « combattre trafiquants et passeurs, en matière migratoire et en matière d'armes ».

Ce lundi, la France s'est donc engagée à apporter un soutien matériel, une aide à la formation et son expertise en termes de renseignement pour renforcer la lutte contre le terrorisme.

Christophe Castaner a d'abord rencontré son homologue, le ministre de l'Intérieur ivoirien Sidiki Diakité. « Nous avons pris un engagement commun sur un sujet qui pourrait se développer et contre lequel nous voulons lutter ensemble, a annoncé le ministre français de l'Intérieur, celui des enlèvements, pour que nous puissions sur ce sujet nous doter et doter la Côte d'Ivoire des meilleurs moyens en matière de formation, de techniques, mais aussi de matériel pour lutter contre ce fléau-là. »

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18 millions d'euros pour le chantier de l'Académie

Après un entretien avec le ministre de la Défense, Hamed Bakayoko, Christophe Castaner a annoncé que la France contribuerait à hauteur de 18 millions d'euros à la construction de l'Académie internationale de lutte contre le terrorisme, implantée à Jaqueville, près d'Abidjan. « Même si la Côte d'Ivoire n'est pas aujourd'hui un pays cible, ce qui se passe dans le concert régional que nous connaissons montre qu'il y a toujours un risque, a-t-il déclaré. Il y a des tentatives qui ont été

déjouées sous l'autorité des forces de sécurité intérieures de Côte d'Ivoire, avec lesquelles nous avons eu l'occasion de coopérer. »

Le chantier devrait débuter à l'automne, mais les premières formations seront délivrées dès le mois de juin. Cette Académie, qui comprendra une école à vocation régionale et un centre d'entraînement, sera aussi un centre d'analyse et de réflexion sur la menace terroriste dans la région.

Christophe Castaner est arrivé ce lundi soir à Dakar pour poursuivre sa mini-tournée en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Français

La mise en œuvre des recommandations de la CVR est une bonne chose pour la paix, selon l'ONU

L'Organisation des Nations Unies est fermement convaincue que la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR) constitue l'un des moyens essentiels pour instaurer une paix durable et favoriser une réconciliation totale au Libéria, selon le coordonnateur résident de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU) au Libéria, Yacoub El Hillo.

M. El Hillo a récemment pris la parole à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, lors du colloque national sur la mise en œuvre des recommandations de la CVR au Libéria.

Le colloque est impératif car il s'efforce pour réunir toutes les parties prenantes afin d'accorder leurs voix sur la voie à suivre en ce qui concerne les recommandations de la CVR.

M. El Hillo a rappelé que le Libéria a connu jusqu'à présent 15 années de stabilité ininterrompue, couronnées par l'achèvement réussi, en mars 2018, d'une longue mission de maintien de la paix, d'où la nécessité, selon lui, de panser les plaies du passé afin de réconcilier les uns et les autres. « Nous, aux Nations Unies, estimons que, pour que les gains réalisés soient durables, il faut prendre en compte les griefs du passé », a-t-il déclaré.

Lors du colloque, M. El Hillo a exprimé la détermination de l'ONU à continuer d'appuyer le gouvernement et le peuple libériens dans leur quête d'une stabilité, d'une paix et d'une réconciliation durables.

La série de conversations qui aura lieu dans le colloque, a-t-il affirmé, « contribuera, espérons-le, au discours ».

"J'exhorte donc tous les participants à être francs, constructifs et à rechercher des solutions, tout en gardant à l'esprit que l'objectif primordial de paix, de stabilité, de progrès et de développement économique du Libéria ne peut être effectif que si les Libériens s'expriment et dialoguent sur les moyens de panser le passé », a-t-il dit.

M. Yacoub El Hillo a également déclaré aux participants que, pour

parvenir à une paix durable, les Libériens doivent continuer à respecter le droit et la dignité de l'autre, promouvoir l'accès à la justice, assurer une croissance équitable, augmenter les services de base de qualité pour tous, et mettre en place des institutions capables de résoudre les conflits et d'appliquer les lois de manière équitable.

A l'émissaire de l'ONU de mettre en garde que « Dans tous les pays où l'Etat de droit n'est pas effectivement appliqué, les injustices, la violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles, la corruption et la criminalité générale sont souvent endémiques ».

Il a insisté sur le fait que l'Etat de droit présuppose, dans ce cas précis, le recours et les réparations en cas de violation, ainsi que les efforts résolus qui consistent à panser les plaies du passé et forger un avenir pacifique.

En ce qui concerne la question de la situation des responsabilités des crimes commis, il a dit que tous les Libériens ont le droit et la possibilité de discuter et de s'entendre sur le mécanisme qu'ils veulent mettre en place pour régler cette question importante.

« Ce mécanisme n'a pas besoin de venir de l'extérieur ni d'être mis en place à l'extérieur. Cela peut être ici, dirigé et appartenant à des Libériens », a-t-il dit, et ensuite ajouté que pour qu'un pays atteigne des sommets enviables parmi les nations, il doit y exister une paix durable.

Selon lui, l'objectif de l'Organisation des Nations Unies est d'aider le Libéria à devenir un pays réconcilié, transformé et prospère, ancré dans des institutions responsables et un développement durable équitable et inclusif.

« Cette vision n'est réalisable que si tous les Libériens jugent nécessaires de placer les intérêts de la nation au-dessus de tout autre intérêt », a-t-il déclaré.

Il a ensuite réitéré l'engagement de l'ONU à accompagner le gouvernement et le peuple libériens sur la voie de la paix, de la stabilité, de la réconciliation et du développement.

COMMENTAIRE

By Nouriel Roubini

Les conséquences planétaires d'une guerre froide entre la Chine et les États-Unis

NEW YORK - Il y a quelques années, en tant que membre d'une délégation occidentale en déplacement en Chine, j'ai rencontré le président Xi Jinping à Pékin, au palais de l'Assemblée du Peuple. Ce jour-là, Xi nous a expliqué que la montée en puissance de la Chine s'opérerait dans la paix, et que les autres pays - comprenez les États-Unis - ne devaient pas s'inquiéter du fameux « piège de Thucydide », phénomène ainsi baptisé par l'historien grec qui relate comment la crainte à Sparte d'une ascension Athénienne rendit inévitable la guerre entre les deux cités. Dans son ouvrage de 2017 intitulé *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?*, Graham Allison de l'Université d'Harvard se penche sur 16 rivalités historiques entre une puissance émergente et une autre bien établie, et révèle que 12 de ces imités ont conduit à la guerre. Xi préférerait évidemment que nous prêtions attention aux quatre autres.

Toutes deux conscientes de l'existence de ce piège - ainsi que du caractère non déterministe de l'histoire - la Chine et l'Amérique semblent y succomber malgré tout. Si une guerre ouverte entre les deux plus grandes puissances de la planète semble aujourd'hui peu probable, une guerre froide s'annonce de plus en plus plausible.

Les États-Unis considèrent la Chine comme responsable des tensions actuelles. Depuis son accession à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en 2001, la Chine tire pleinement profit du système mondial régissant le commerce et les investissements, tout en manquant à ses obligations et en suivant ses propres règles. Aux yeux de l'Amérique, la Chine s'est forgé un avantage déloyal en enfreignant les droits de propriété intellectuelle, en obtenant des transferts technologiques forcés, en subventionnant ses entreprises nationales, ainsi qu'en usant d'autres instruments du capitalisme d'État. Dans le même temps, son gouvernement est devenu de plus en plus autoritaire, métamorphosant la Chine en un véritable territoire orwellien sous surveillance de l'État.

De leur côté, les Chinois suspectent les États-Unis d'avoir pour objectif réel de les empêcher de monter davantage en puissance, ou de projeter à l'étranger leur puissance et influence légitime. De leur point de vue, il est tout à fait naturel que la deuxième plus grande économie planétaire (en termes de PIB) cherche à étendre sa présence sur la scène mondiale. Les dirigeants chinois pourraient d'ailleurs faire valoir que leur régime a permis d'améliorer le bien-être matériel d'1,4 milliards de Chinois, bien davantage qu'y sont jamais parvenus les systèmes politiques paralysés de l'Occident.

Quelle que soit la recevabilité de l'argumentaire des uns et des autres, l'escalade des tensions économiques, commerciales, technologiques et géopolitiques était peut-être tout simplement inévitable. Ce qui a débuté comme une guerre commerciale menace désormais de se changer en un état permanent d'animosité mutuelle. On l'observe dans la Stratégie de sécurité nationale de l'administration Trump, qui considère la Chine comme une « concurrente » stratégique nécessitant d'être endiguée sur tous les fronts.

Conformément à cette stratégie, les États-Unis restreignent aujourd'hui très nettement les investissements directs étrangers chinois dans les secteurs sensibles, et entreprennent d'autres actions pour assurer une domination occidentale au sein d'industries stratégiques telles que l'intelligence artificielle et la 5G. L'Amérique fait pression pour que ses partenaires et alliés ne rejoignent pas l'initiative de la nouvelle route de la

soie, programme chinois colossal visant à bâtir des projets infrastructurels sur tout le territoire eurasiatique. Les États-Unis renforcent également les patrouilles de la marine américaine dans les mers de Chine orientale et méridionale, où la Chine se montre de plus en plus agressive dans l'affirmation de ses revendications territoriales discutables.

Les conséquences planétaires d'une guerre froide sino-américaine se révéleraient encore plus sévères que celles de la guerre froide entre l'Amérique et l'Union soviétique. Car si l'URSS était à l'époque une puissance déclinante au modèle économique en échec, la Chine deviendra bientôt la première économie mondiale, et continuera de croître. Par ailleurs, Amérique et Union soviétique échangeaient très peu sur le plan commercial, tandis que la Chine est pleinement intégrée au système mondial du commerce et des investissements, ainsi qu'étroitement interconnectée précisément avec les États-Unis.

Une guerre froide totale risquerait ainsi d'engendrer une phase nouvelle de démondialisation, ou à tout le moins une scission de l'économie mondiale en deux blocs économiques incompatibles. Dans l'un ou l'autre de ces scénarios, le commerce des biens, ainsi que les services, travailleurs, technologies et données feraient l'objet de restrictions majeures, et l'univers numérique deviendrait un « splinternet », dans lequel les nœuds occidentaux et chinois ne seraient plus connectés les uns aux autres. Les États-Unis ayant désormais imposé des sanctions à ZTE et Huawei, la Chine va s'empresse de veiller à ce que ses géants technologiques puissent au niveau national s'approvisionner en intrants essentiels, ou à défaut auprès de partenaires commerciaux amis, indépendants de l'Amérique.

Dans ce monde balkanisé, Chine et Amérique attendront toutes les deux des autres pays qu'ils choisissent leur camp, tandis que la plupart des gouvernements jongleront pour maintenir de bonnes relations économiques avec les deux. En effet, nombre des alliés de l'Amérique concluent aujourd'hui davantage d'affaires avec la Chine (en termes de commerce et d'investissements) qu'avec les États-Unis. Or, dans une économie future au sein de laquelle Chine et Amérique contrôleront séparément l'accès aux technologies essentielles telles que l'IA et la 5G, le compromis deviendra de plus en plus insaisissable. Chacun devra faire un choix, et le monde pourrait entamer un long processus de démondialisation.

Quoi qu'il arrive, la relation sino-américaine constituera la problématique géopolitique majeure de notre siècle. Un certain degré de rivalité est inévitable. Pour autant, dans l'hypothèse optimiste, les deux camps parviendraient à gérer cette opposition de manière constructive, en permettant à la fois une coopération sur certaines questions et une concurrence saine sur d'autres. La Chine et les États-Unis créeraient ainsi de fait un nouvel ordre mondial, fondé sur la reconnaissance du fait qu'une nouvelle puissance (inégalement) montante devrait nécessairement avoir un rôle à jouer dans le façonnement des règles et institutions mondiales.

En revanche, si cette relation est mal gérée - si l'Amérique s'efforce de contrecarrer le développement de la Chine et d'endiguer son ascension, pendant que la Chine projette agressivement sa puissance en Asie et dans le monde - une guerre froide totale s'ensuivra, et une guerre ouverte (ou une série de guerres par procuration) ne pourra plus être exclue. Or, au XXI^e siècle, le piège de Thucydide risquerait d'engloutir non seulement les deux puissances, mais également le reste du monde.

FEATURE

FEATURE

Analysis of the Impact of China-Liberia 42 Years of an Amazing Friendship and Cooperation

By: Josephus Moses Gray

Cont'd from last edition

According to Anshan (2007), China's engagement in Africa in the 1960s during the Cold war was seen as expansionist and aggressive by the West - a similar comparison to the Chinese current engagement. China's relations with Africa from the mid-1950s to 1970s was purely ideological than anything else, since the 1990s, China's engagement in Africa has shifted to being more economic than ideological.

Currently, China current engagement with Liberia has been productive evident though the numerous visibility of tangible projects in the country. Over the 42 years of mutual friendship and brotherly relations, both capitals Monrovia and Beijing have since adjusted their selves from just being friends but strategic partners guarded the clear shift in the nature of win-win cooperation and policy of core principles.

According to MOFA (2014), China has had no negative impact on the political development of Liberia. If contrary, it could be argued to have strengthened it. This is so because the bilateral relations between the two sovereign states have drawn attention to the need for vibrant and vigorous political institutions and respect for each nation's core principles.

In the 1960's, followed independence, the pan-African vision for developing the continent was envisioned to be possible through the instrumentality of the developmental state. Development became the passion of African leaders and the expectation of the people. After independence of most African states, in the 1980's, the post-independence nation states bolstered its apparatus, both structurally and ideologically to enable it to deliver on this mandate.

After decades independence, the Liberian state, the oldest in Africa and second black independence state in the world, next to Haiti, needs greater economy recovery and massive development both infrastructure, institutions and human. Liberia is heavily burdened with debt, failing in its developmental objectives, is still recovering from the weakening of the capacity to deliver public and social goods directly to its citizens due to 14 years of devastated wars, ailing economic, brain-dream, fragmental public and private institutions, and importantly unpatriotic and disunity among political institutions and state actors and non-state actors.

Even though numerous concrete effects have been made, the Liberian state is economically weak and hampered to meet the demands of 21st century contemporary challenges to upliftment citizenry from poverty.

Liberia and China are both developing countries facing common challenges of development and sharing broad common interests. It is incumbent on the Liberian state to continue to consolidate China-Liberia friendship, deepen strategic collaboration and enhance practical cooperation between the two countries. China-Liberia cooperation development is blessed with shared needs, advantages and opportunities, which make Liberia an important foothold. China-Liberia admired relationship makes it possible for bilateral cooperation to expand in scope and depth, and for mutual interests and win-win cooperation to grow.

The bond of friendship marks a new milestone for the China-Liberia relations ushering in a new blueprint to realize opportunities for future mutual development, and contribute to promoting bilateral cooperation between our two countries. China-Liberia relations have been developing on a fast track and significant. China is a major development partner of this country and has played a growing role in Liberia's socio-economic development.

Nowadays, China remains a shining and deeply admired posture in the realm of mutual respect for others to be master of their own destiny and captain of their own future. In 2014 during the outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, China did not walk away and instead made the leading efforts and contribution to deliver Ebola Virus Disease emergency support Liberia. China was the first to



response with medical aid and cash. China was the first to respond to former President Sirleaf's call, and sent 4 batches of aid, including emergency materials, equipment, and food by nine chartered airplanes. China helped build a State-of-the-art ETU, receiving 177 patients, including 10 Ebola patients. More than 400 Chinese medical personnel came to Liberia, fighting against Ebola side by side with the Liberian people. Their commitment truly reflected that China is a good friend of Liberia and Africa.

In July 2011, the project of Bang Iron Mines in Liberia undertaken by Wuhan Iron and Steel (Group) Corporation was put into operation. In September 2011 China, for the first time, sent a 140-strong riot squad to Liberia for the UN peacekeeping operation. Other projects include the renovation of the SKD Stadium, the construction Ministerial Complex, annexes to the Capitol Hill building, the New Terminal at RIA. "Chinese Building" University of Liberia Fendall Campuses, the Jackson Doe's Medical Hospital in Tapita in Nimba County, the rehabilitations of the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex, the Extension of MVTC, rehabilitations and refurbishing of roads and bridges, peacekeeping mission, warding fellowships to public and private sectors, and support to the national army and security apparatus.

Some other projects related to infrastructure, human resources and manufacture are being undertaken to help Liberia achieve economic independence and self-reliant sustainable development with China's development for win-win cooperation and common development.

On the front of people-to-people exchanges, the two countries have maintained close ties on public health, medical care, education and human resource training. Intensive cultural exchange and people-to-people bonds have brought the people of the two countries closer.

The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Liberia established bilateral relations on February 17, 1977. In 1989 Beijing broke diplomatic ties with Liberia after the Liberian Government signed Joint Communiqué with Taiwan authorities. But in August 10, 1993, China and Liberia resumed diplomatic ties. Again in September 1997, the diplomatic ties broke due to former president Taylor's recognition of "Two Chinas". While in October 2003, the two governments resumed diplomatic ties; with the Chinese Embassy in Liberia reopening in January 12004. Since then China remain strategic and true partners of Liberia.

The 42 years of relationship and cooperation have witnessed major visits exchanged by Liberian and Chinese leaders and other state actors including the June 1978 state visit of former President William R. Tolbert and in May 1982 ex-President Samuel Kanyon Doe paid a state visit to China. While in October 2006, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid a state visit to China, and on February 1, 2007, former President Hu Jintao paid a historic state visit to Liberia reciprocating, the first visit to Liberia by a head of state from China.

Accordingly, both leaders during their exchange of visits, the two chartered the direction for future development of bilateral relations and the two sides signed several agreements on bilateral economic and technical cooperation, cancellation of Liberia's debts

owed to China, provision of financial assistance to Liberia for its post-war reconstruction. On November 3, 2015, President Xi Jinping held talks with ex- Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia at the Great Hall of the People. The two heads of state agreed to make joint efforts to build China-Liberia comprehensive cooperative partnership so as to better benefit the two peoples.

Also in August 2018, President Weah at the head of a high-powered delegation paid a state visit to China to participate in FOCAC and held bilateral talks with his Chinese counter-parts, President Xi Jinping. President George Manneh Weah spoken positively of his trip to China and the benefit Liberia stands to accrue with specific reference to the US\$54 million grant and other largesse soon to be revealed. And the gains made in the area of re-strengthening its relations with China as well as its support for agriculture, road, health and technology under the government's Pro-Poor Agenda.

The 42 years ties also witnessed the visitations from both countries of other senior officials. In January 2006, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing attended the Inauguration of President Sirleaf as Special Envoy of President Hu Jintao and paid an official visit to Liberia. In March, Deputy Commerce Minister Wei Jianguo visited Liberia. In June, Ma Wenpu, Vice Minister of International Department of the Chinese Communist Party paid a visit to Liberia.

In November 1986, former Foreign Minister Bernard Blamo, while Chinese leaders including Vice Premier Tian Jiyun in December 1984 and Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei in August 1994 visited Liberia. China's Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng visited Liberia in November 2003.

While in August 2004, former Foreign Minister Thomas Yaya Nimely led a delegation consisting of Commerce Minister, Agriculture Minister, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Chairman Bryant and other Liberian senior officials visited China.

Since the resumption of bilateral relations in October 2003, the Sino-Liberian ties have witnessed sound development with frequent exchanges of high-level visits. In March 2006, a delegation of five political parties namely the Unity Party, the Congress for Democratic Change, the Liberty Party, the National Patriotic Party and the Coalition for Transformation of Liberia visited China.

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Urey, Weeks defend bonds

By Winston W. Parley

Indicted former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor Milton Weeks' sister Angelique G. Eupheme Weeks, II and businessman Benoni Urey faced tense questionings Tuesday, 21 May in a crowded courtroom to justify the value of bonds they proffered for the ex-official's release from the Monrovia Central Prison early this year.

Prosecutors in Monrovia say a US\$909,319 bond proffered by businessman Benoni Urey as part of three sureties filed to secure the release of Mr. Weeks from detention is inadequate.

Mr. Weeks and the son of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, Charles E. Sirleaf, also a former Deputy CBL Governor are on trial along with Mr. DorborHagba, CBL Director for Banking; Mr. Richard H. Walker, Director for Operations and Mr. Joseph Dennis, Deputy Director for Internal Audit in relation to their roles in Liberia's LRD\$16



Angelique G. Eupheme Weeks, II



Benoni Urey

billion scandal.

Montserrado County Attorney Cllr. Edwin K. Martin indicates that as part of three sureties [for Mr. Weeks], businessman Benoni Urey posted a bond in the amount of US\$909,319, while the amount in the indictment against Mr. Weeks is at the value of US\$835,367.72 and

LRD\$2,645,000,000.00.

From the legal calculation provided by law to justify and provide sufficiency of bond value, the County Attorney Cllr. Martin says it [the bond value] seems to have been in the tune of USD\$1,673,735.44 plus LRD\$5,290,000,000.

According to Cllr. Martin, prosecution deems the

US\$909,319 bond value proffered by Mr. Urey for defendant Weeks as insufficient and inadequate to secure his release.

However, Cllr. Martin's further attempt to have Mr. Urey explain how he would justify the insufficiency of the bond value was disallowed by the Court because presiding Judge Peter Gbenewelleh says the prosecution's question invades the province of the presiding judge and it is purely an issue of law.

In response to court's concern about Mr. Urey's confidence in defendant Weeks' appearance in court when requested by the court, the surety says he has confidence in the integrity of the indigtee.

He says he prays that Mr. Weeks will continue to be a law abiding citizen with the integrity he has built for himself over the years, concluding that he has "no doubt that Mr. Weeks will honor his obligation to the court and the people of Liberia."

Later during the hearing, Mr. Weeks' sister Angelique Weeks similarly faced questioning over a property bond she filed with the court.

She says the property was conveyed to her by her mother, the late Eupheme G. Cooper Weeks who had earlier acquired it in the year 1959.

Madam Weeks explains that the property was valued through an appraisal by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in 2012, adding that she has been paying taxes on the property from that time of valuation to present.

Due to the absence of co-defendant Milton Weeks' third

witness in court on Tuesday, Judge Gbeneweleh granted defense lawyer Cllr. Abraham B. Sillah's request to allow the hearing to continue today, Wednesday, 22 May to enable an insurance company and the Central Bank of Liberia to appear.

Mr. Weeks and the rest of the other four indigtees along with family and friends were in court for the hearing Tuesday.

The ex-officials have been indicted for multiple charges, including economic sabotage, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation following their arrests for their alleged roles in the billions of Liberian dollars scandal.

The Presidential Investigative Team (PIT) set up by President George Manneh Weah found that the CBL reported receiving a total of LRD\$15,506,000,000 from its contracted firm Crane Currency AB, but analysis of the packing list submitted by the CBL to PIT actually reveals that 18,151,000,000 was printed and shipped by the firm.

They are expected to give account for an excess amount of LRD\$2,645,000,000, which is yet to be fully accounted for.

The indictment indicates that the indigtees had no authority to print an excess amount of LRD\$2,645,000,000 to infuse it into the Liberian market.

Upon being indicted, they were initially incarcerated between Monday and Tuesday, 4 to 5 March this year by prosecutors. But the defendants gradually got released from the Monrovia Central Prison following the submission of separate bonds.

Lawmaker joins June 07 chorus

By Thomas Domah / Nimba

Nimba County District # 5 Representative Samuel Kogar, says he is in full support of the pending June 7 protest.

He says citizens have right to converge and protest peacefully if they feel things are not going right with them in the country.

He explains that the Constitution gives citizens the right and power to assemble and inform their leaders about their plight.

The Nimba lawmaker laments that since President George Weah was elected to the Presidency, living condition of Liberians both in rural and urban areas of the country has worsened rather than improve.

He gave his position on the impending June 7 protest over the weekend in a live radio talk show relayed on several community radio stations in Nimba County.

Representative Kogar's position on the planned protest runs contrary to his mentor Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, who has warned Nimbaians here not to get in the street to protest.

According to Senator PYJ, President George Weah just assumed the Presidency a year ago, so he should be given enough time to develop Liberia.

In reaction to the pending demonstrations, President George Manneh Weah terms opposition and critics' plan to stage a protest beginning June 7 as "machinations and

trickery to divert attention from ongoing national developments."

According to an Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia Monday, 20 May, President Weah spoke on Friday, 17 May in New Kru Town at the ruling CDC's primaries to choose candidates for the pending Montserrado County Senatorial and District #15 Representative By-elections.

The President maintains that the June 7 protest is a ploy shrouded in hypocrisy only to distract Liberians' attention from many positive interventions his government is making to improve lives and develop the country.

"Yes, there are challenges, but what we are doing here is to cover the dark holes that have been dug," says the President.

"Today, they are accusing you for the economy that was bad under their leadership," President Weah continues, in an apparent reference to his predecessor, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

"But let me say that the only reason any Liberian will get into the street is simply because they were defeated and don't want you to lead", he informs cheering partisans.

Allegations of corruption, the poor state of the economy and a US\$25m mop - up exercise are among several reasons why opposition and critics of the regime are planning to protest to demand reforms here. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Representative Samuel Kogar

NADA Chair Wants

Starts from page 7



experienced in the 2017 elections which prompted ECC's recommendations.

He believes that cementing effort to ensure that ECC electoral reform counts are realized will help to improve the electoral process and build the confidence of citizens in the governance system in the country.

Electoral reform issues in Liberia has attracted the attention of international and local development partners which have triggered huge conversation on this discourse

across the country.

Currently, the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative (LMDI) is carrying on public awareness on Electoral Reform under Internews' CLEAR project, educating citizens on the importance of Electoral Reform in the country.

The CLEAR project media component is led by Internews to give citizens the opportunity to engage government and its functionaries on the need for electoral reform in Liberia.

Chelsea's £58m Pulisic wants to emulate Hazard



Chelsea's new £58m forward Christian Pulisic wants to reach the same level as Stamford Bridge favourite Eden Hazard - and hopes he gets a chance to play in the same side as the Belgian next season.

Pulisic signed a five-and-a-half year contract with the Blues in January but was immediately loaned back to Germany to finish the

campaign at Borussia Dortmund.

The 20-year-old United States international has just spent a couple of days in England getting to know his new surroundings and, in an interview with BBC Sport, made it clear the size of the expectations he places on himself.

"It is incredible to see what Eden can do," he said. "He is a guy to look up to and what I

would love to become.

"It is definitely a goal. Any player would be dumb not to want to be in the same team as him."

Pulisic may not get his wish given Hazard's likely move to Real Madrid after Chelsea's Europa League final with Arsenal on 29 May.

Pulisic owes his love of football to his father Mark, who played indoor football professionally before moving into coaching.

When his wife, Kelley, got a teaching scholarship in the UK, Mark came over with then seven-year-old Pulisic, and got his Uefa A licence coaching qualification.

For his part, Pulisic played junior football at Brackley Town and soon started to realise how different football was treated in England compared to the United States.

"Initially I was a little bit confused and wondered why my family was going to England. I didn't really want to leave home," he said.

Mkhitarian to miss Europa League final against Chelsea

Arsenal midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarian will not play in the Europa League final against Chelsea on 29 May.

It is understood the Armenian, 30, feared for his safety on the pitch in Baku, Azerbaijan.

"Having considered all current options, we had to take the tough decision for me not to travel with the squad to the Europa League final," said Mkhitarian.

"It's the kind of game that doesn't come along very often and I admit, it hurts a lot to miss it."

As a result of political tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Mkhitarian has missed club matches played in Azerbaijan in the past.

"We have written to Uefa expressing our deep concerns about this situation," read an Arsenal statement.

"We have thoroughly explored all the options for Micki to be part of the squad but after discussing this with Micki and his family we have

collectively agreed he will not be in our travelling party.

"Micki has been a key player in our run to the final so this is a big loss for us from a team perspective.

"We're also very sad that a player will miss out on a major European final in circumstances such as this, as it is something that comes along very rarely in a footballer's career."

Uefa responded to Arsenal with a statement that said: "Working alongside Arsenal FC, Uefa sought and received assurances regarding the player's safety in Azerbaijan from the highest authorities in the country.

"As a result of these guarantees, a comprehensive security plan was developed and given to the club.

"While the club acknowledges the efforts that Uefa and the Azeri government have gone to in this matter, we respect the personal decision not to travel with the player."

'Impossible' for Bale to stay at Real Madrid - ex-president Calderon

Former Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon says it is "impossible" for Gareth Bale to remain at the Bernabeu.

Bale was an unused substitute as Madrid signed off a dismal campaign with a home loss to Real Betis and he did not acknowledge the home fans as he left.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane said he "did not know" whether Bale had played his final game for the club.

The Frenchman, reappointed Madrid boss in March, offered no assurances to their former world-record signing after the disappointing defeat to Betis.

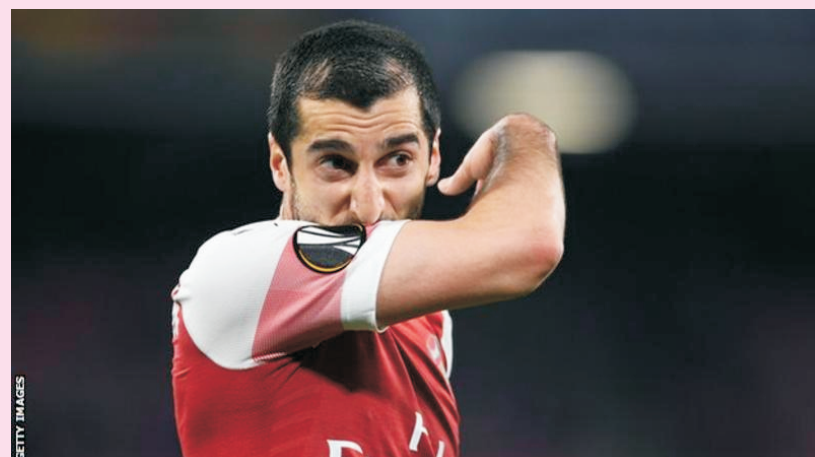
"I'm sorry he didn't get to play, but no one knows what will happen," Zidane said.

"If I think a player doesn't fit in the team, I have to do what I think works best.

"No one can change what Bale has done for the team, but as a coach I have to live in the present."

Asked about the future of Bale and goalkeeper Keylor Navas, who has also been linked with a move away, he added: "I don't know if it's the last game for them or not. I don't know what's going to happen."

Calderon believes Bale's time at Madrid will come to an end this summer after six years following his record £85m switch from Tottenham, as his relationship with Zidane is so poor.



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