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From the Managing Editor

The lid is blowing off the pot of lies and cover-stories with which the financier oligarchy has attempted to convince people that “recovery is just around the corner.” Our *Feature* quotes the IMF itself, from its April *Global Financial Stability Report*, that a \$3.8 trillion meltdown of the Eurozone banks is imminent. In fact, the situation is much, much worse: A senior finance ministry source told us that an earlier draft of the report concluded that the true figure was *at least \$9 trillion*.

Complementing Dennis Small’s article on this financial blowout is our interview with Antonio Maria Costa, the former head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. He presents the evidence that top banks have been and still are being kept solvent by drug-money.

In *Economics*, we document the hideous cost in human lives of the policies of the financier oligarchy: specifically the starvation of millions in Africa’s Sahel region, even as U.S. corn supplies that could feed people are being diverted to ethanol production! The starvation is not due only to indifference on the part of those who could help: It is a deliberate policy of population reduction.

Meanwhile the danger of global war escalates, with madman Obama at the helm in the United States. The ghoulish quote of the week award has to go to the Bush Administration’s top torture advocate, John Yoo, who wrote on April 30 that “the President should ignore [the UN] when authoritarian nations try to veto wars that are necessary to preserve the peace...” See *International* for our report on both the drive for war and the actions of those opposing it.

Lest you conclude that this week’s issue is all bad news, I emphasize several excellent reports on what the LaRouche movement and others are doing internationally to fight for a new financial system and a Renaissance. Most critically, LaRouchePAC has launched a renewed mobilization for Glass-Steagall, national banking, and NAWAPA. And don’t miss the *Music & Culture* section, with reports from the Schiller Institute’s Berlin conference, remarks by Lyndon LaRouche, and a thoughtful piece on “thinking,” from the LPAC Basement Team.

