Curiosity Spells The End of Obama

by Nancy Spannaus and Marsha Freeman

Aug. 8—From the inception of his Presidential campaign, and throughout his term in office, Barack Obama has qualified as the anti-science President. His consistent efforts to wreck NASA, especially its manned space exploration program, are the signature signs of that anti-science, pro-genocide campaign.

Thus, NASA's spectacular breakthrough, putting the Curiosity science laboratory on Mars—a project launched nearly a decade ago—represents a resounding defeat for the Obama policy. It remains for the American population to draw the obvious conclusion: namely, that the continuation of the Obama Administration is incompatible with mankind's destiny as a creature of the Solar System, using his mind to master the universe.

The following is a partial review of Obama's sabotage of the NASA program.

Feb. 2, 2010: The Obama Administration's first significant move against NASA comes in its FY11 budget request, cancelling the Constellation program, which had been proposed by President George W. Bush to replace the soon-to-be-retired Space Shuttle program. Instead, Obama redirects funds from NASA to initiate a commercial crew program—basically privatizing the crown jewel of the nation's scientific program—while heavily weighting the R&D budget to greenie pet projects.

The Administration's proposal is immediately understood by NASA's veteran astronauts to be a death blow to the space exploration program as a whole, and they denounce it as such.

On **Feb. 3, 2010**, Lyndon LaRouche responds to the Obama move by issuing a statement calling for Obama's removal from office: "President Barack Obama's stated intention, to shut down and destroy the

NASA program at its root, when added to the Hitlerlike health-care policy, and the general, destructive features of all other leading Obama policies, is one step too far to bear. There is no longer room on this planet for a United States and a President Obama to occupy the same space.

"The need for Obama's ouster, either by resignation or impeachment, is now an existential issue for both our republic and the welfare of the planet generally."

On March 2, 2010, Kesha Rogers, LaRouche Democrat in Texas, wins the Democratic Primary election on her campaign platform of "Save NASA, Dump Obama."

Spring 2011: NASA indicates to the European Space Agency that it might not be able to meet its commitment to the joint Exo-Mars missions, in 2016 or 2018, due to Obama's budget cuts.

Feb. 13, 2012: NASA releases its FY13 budget request, which, at \$17.7 billion, is a slight decline from FY12. The planetary science budget was reduced from FY12 by \$300 million, with more than \$200 million from the Mars program—a 40% cut (\$581.7 million in FY12). Instead, the Administration proposes to double NASA's support to private companies for commercial crew transport to \$850 million, as compared to the less than \$406 million Congress appropriated in FY12.

Feb. 27, 2012: NASA Associate Administrator for Science, former astronaut John Grunsfeld, announces at the meeting of the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group, made up of Mars scientists, that NASA is establishing the Mars Program Planning Group, to "reformulate" the Mars program, geared toward small, relatively inexpensive future missions. The Mars scientists angrily observed at the meeting that you can't solve big questions with small missions.

March 7, 2012: At House and Senate hearings, authorizing committees on the FY13 NASA budget request express their disagreement with the White House policy. Not only the Mars exploration budget, but the manned capsule, Orion, and the heavy-lift launcher are slated for \$362 million in cuts. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.) says Congress will never increase funding for the commercial crew, at the expense of the manned exploration program.

April 5, 2012: Hearings are held in the House and Senate, by both authorizing and appropriating committees, where OMB witnesses try to deny that they

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White House/Pete Souza

President Obama has done everything possible to tear down the NASA space program, and to prevent any future manned space exploration, in favor of the anti-science lunacy of solar power and similar wind-eggs. Here, with Veep Joe Biden, he examines solar panels at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in 2009.

had set a limit for spending on space science missions, flagrantly contradicting statements by NASA officials that they had been told the opposite by OMB.

April 7, 2012: Russian Space Agency and European Space Agency announce they have agreed to cooperate on the 2016 and 2018 orbiter and landers Exo-Mars missions, wherein Russia will provide capabilities NASA was to have contributed.

April 25, 2012: The House Committee on Appropriations bill for FY13 increases NASA's budget for future Mars missions to \$150 million, or \$88 million above Obama's request; Discovery and New Frontier programs (which could include a Mars mission) are given \$480 million, which is \$115.4 million above the request; planetary science research is increased by \$3.5 million.

May 7, 2012: Obama threatens to veto the proposed FY13 appropriations bill, in part due to its reduction to NASA's commercial crew program, which provides \$500 million for the commercial crew, from the \$830 million the White House requested.

May 10, 2012: Ignoring Obama's veto threat, the

full House approves its version of NASA's FY13 budget.

July 9, 2012: National Research Council meeting with former NASA Administrators on NASA's future. Former administrator James Beggs says that "there is too much program for the budget." The solution is simple he says: Increase NASA's budget by \$4-5 billion per year, which would give it enough money to carry out all of its programs.

Aug. 5, 2012: When the Curiosity rover successfully lands on Mars, President Obama cynically responds by claiming the extraordinary feat "parallels our major steps forward towards a vision for a new partnership with American companies to send American astronauts into space on American spacecraft. That partnership will save taxpayer dollars, while allowing NASA to do what it has always done best."

In fact, Obama's privatization program is part of his campaign to *kill* space science altogether, in favor of windmills and depopulation, as all NASA scientists and most policymakers know. To pursue the promise of Curiosity, Obama has to go.

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