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diplomaticcourier@gmail.com

Is Zika propaganda a "virus of the mind"?



Threat or Hoax

A health writer digs into the headlines and concludes that the Zika propaganda is a 'virus of the mind' rooted in fabricated hysteria, government junk science and dark political agendas

— by Mike Adams, the Health Ranger —

Zika: A Masterpiece of Public Mind Control

It's been nearly nine months since the word "Zika" flashed like a lightning bolt in the headlines of mainstream news. Before January 1, 2016, Zika was just one of many viruses that public health officials monitored. But suddenly in January of this year everything changed, as a nearly harmless virus was transformed into a worldwide threat.

As we will see, the Zika propaganda machine was turned on in October of 2015 and it has been running wild ever since. This is a classic example of a mind control program, a public brainwashing project, or a high powered marketing campaign.

Regardless of what you call it, it is clear that the mainstream news media, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Big Pharma, Big Chem, and both Republicans and Democrats have joined forces to sell a Zika eradication program to the people of the United States and to the rest of the world. This has been and continues to be one of the best orchestrated programs of propaganda in recent history. This

article will discuss how the program started, how it has been developed, and where it is going.

Zika is not a Threat to the Babies of the World

Just to be absolutely clear from the beginning, there is no solid evidence that Zika is a threat to humanity. It is a minimally dangerous viral infection, which does not cause microcephaly.

In the almost 70 years since the Zika virus was patented by the Rockefeller Foundation, [1] no one ever notice any association between Zika infection of pregnant women and their babies being born with abnormally small heads or with defects in brain development. But in 2015, we were suddenly made aware of this supposed problem. This claim, based on nothing more than circumstantial evidence, was the beginning point for the propaganda campaign. A propaganda claim doesn't need to be true; it just needs to be repeated over and over again until people believe it is true.

After half a year of fear and hysteria in the mainstream media, even officials in Brazil admit that Zika is an unlikely cause of their microcephaly...

Continued on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

- Venezuela Hosts 17th Non-Aligned Summit – Pages 2 and 10
- Big Brazilian Business Mission Coming in November – Page 3
- Mexico seeking 'Greater Caribbean' Business Talks – Page 3
- The Prime Minister Hails the King! Page 3

- Was a Saint Lucia Ambassador denied a US visa? – Page 6
- Taiwan ready for Montreal Aviation Summit – Pages 8 and 12
- Morocco helping promote Climate Smart Agriculture – Page 9
- Clinton Campaign regrets not telling the whole truth – Page 12

Editorial

The Margarita Summit

This weekend's summit in Venezuela comes at a good time for the nation -- and for the Nicolas Maduro administration. It will show solidarity with and for the Venezuelan government, which has assumed the Presidency of the NAM.

Over 120 world leaders, representing governments, organizations and people in Africa, Arabia, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America, will gather in Margarita to review the state of the world today and where the NAM stands in the current global dispensation.

The leaders will review everything from the implications of recent world political, economic and social developments for developing countries to the consequences of failing to adapt to Climate Change fast enough.

They will examine the effects of instability in the world oil market on both producing and non-producing states.

They will look at the latest developments in Europe -- from Brexit and the Refugee Crisis, to the implications of the rise in right wing nationalism and racism in Britain and Europe for non-European nations and people.

They will examine the War on Terrorism that is causing more deaths the world over 15 years after 9/11, than ever before.

The leaders will assess and analyze, predict and propose in Margarita. But they will also have to pay much attention to what is happening in the host nation, where the government remains under intense US-backed opposition pressure.

The Caribbean is well represented, all CARICOM and OECS nations being member-states. They will have to consider the implications for the future of Latin American and Caribbean political and economic cooperation if the PetroCaribe and ALBA initiatives are to fail.

They will note recent developments in Brazil and Argentina and implications of other political changes for the flag-bearers of the Non-Aligned Movement in the hemisphere.

But most of all, the movement will, once again and for a third time, gather in the Caribbean for the leaders to determine the future of the second largest group of countries in the entire world, representing more than half of Mankind.

It will not be a tourist outing in Margarita. But it will be the most significant gathering of world leaders since the G-20 in China last week and ahead of the upcoming 2016 UN General Assembly.

If the Caribbean does not take this opportunity as a common host of the leaders of the world to make its voice heard and put its issues on the table in Venezuela this week, it will not know when next.

Venezuela Hosting 17th Non-Aligned Summit This Week



Security personnel tighten up a street in Margarita Island, Venezuela on September 12, 2016 ahead of the summit to be attended by delegations from 120 nations.

The 17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is under way in Venezuela, where several Caribbean and Latin American Heads of State and Government from 120 countries have gathered on a Caribbean island -- for the third time -- to come to grips with the myriad problems facing the world's second largest grouping.

The September 13 to 18 summit, being held in the island of Margarita, got under way Tuesday with a welcome address by Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Nelcy Rodriguez.

Hosting representatives from nations worldwide, the small Venezuelan ward island is home -- for the rest of this week until Sunday -- to delegations from the second largest international body after the United Nations (UN).

The 55-year-old body today comprises 54 members from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and one from Europe. It also has 17 observer countries and 10 observer organizations.

Ahead of the meeting, the NAM's Coordinating Committee held its last session on September 11 at the UN headquarters in New York, chaired by Iran, to make arrangements for the Margarita summit.

The meeting, which was held at the level of ambassadors of NAM member states, was chaired by Iran's UN Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo.

The session produced a 194-page draft final document that includes an introduction, three chapters and 907 articles, all of which explain NAM stances on different international and regional issues.

The NAM is a group of states not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. But it constantly defends its members everywhere.

Ahead of the meeting, it firmly rejected the latest set of sanctions imposed by the United States against Venezuelan officials.

The group issued a statement denouncing the sanctions as "an intervention" in Venezuelan affairs.

It said the sanctions were "intended to undermine Venezuela's sovereignty, its political independence and its right to self-determination."

The NAM said it considers the unilateral sanctions a "violation of international law, including the United Nations Charter and the basic principles of international law of relations between states."

It also said the measure was "coercive" and expressed its solidarity with the Venezuelan people and government.

Tuesday's meeting was the start of three stages of the summit, which begins with officials, to be followed by a later meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers and then the summit of Heads of State and Government to take place this weekend.

Brazilian Business Mission Coming in November

The Embassy of Brazil in Saint Lucia is preparing to host a major investment mission with numerous opportunities for business that will also strongly strengthen ties between the giant South American nation and its tiny Caribbean neighbor.

According to Ambassador Sergio Couri, the mission will comprise investors and parliamentarians bent on doing business with Saint Lucian entrepreneurs and other business persons, in a wide range of sectors.

The Brazilian Business Mission to Saint Lucia is scheduled for November 11-17, 2016 and it will comprise some 15 members anxious to grab new and open opportunities to invest in Saint Lucia.

The wide range of business opportunities that will come with the Mission will include prospects for investment partnerships in: Construction and Infrastructural Development, Tourism and Hotel Development, Agriculture and Agro Industries, Farming and Food Production, Nutrition, Medicine, Sports, Physical Fitness, Health and Beauty, Cultural Development, Training and Investment Consultancies, Language Development, Alternative Energy, Water and Electricity.

International Business Forum of The Great Caribbean set for Mexico in November



Cancún
FORUM
2016



The Embassy of Mexico to the Eastern Caribbean States is glad to announce that the 2016 Cancun Forum "Creating Synergies to Strengthen the Competitiveness of the Greater Caribbean" will be held from the 16th to the 18th of November at the Peninsula Convention Center in Cancun, Mexico.

This event is the most important business forum in the Greater Caribbean and is designed to foster regional economic development and competitiveness by increasing trade and investment flows.

The forum also seeks to promote Mexican exports and investment, and explore potential value chains within the region.

The central activity of the Cancun Forum is a business round where Mexican exporters and buyers from the Greater Caribbean countries have the opportunity to make contact and start business relationships.

The program also includes business seminars and workshops on the main challenges and opportunities for the region.

For more information, please visit the official event website <http://www.promexico.gob.mx/en/mx/foro-cancun> or contact the Embassy of Mexico at +1 (758) 451 4254 or via email mexicanembassy@candw.lc.

According to Ambassador Couri, "This Brazilian Business Mission will offer this wide range of opportunities to the Government and People of Saint Lucia, through the business community."

He said during their week here, the visiting investors "will meet with members of the local business community and their organizations, to discuss how to merge their synergies to create new investments that both countries and people will be proud of."

The Ambassador says planning is well under way in Saint Lucia and Brazil for the mission's arrival. "But," he added, "ahead of their arrival, interested Saint Lucian business persons and entities will be given the opportunity to indicate their interest and arrange interviews."

Ambassador Couri said the Brazilian Mission "is also interested in doing business with businesses in other member-states of the OECS that may also be present in Saint Lucia."

He also said information on participation "will be made available soon, so that interested persons and entities can know how to get involved in this new opportunity for expansion of business ties between Brazil and Saint Lucia."

Prime Minister Hails The King!



The annual reception in honour of the 17th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Mohammed 6 of Morocco to the throne was hosted here on July 31st 2016, by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco to Saint Lucia. Ambassador Mohammed Benjlany and Mrs Benjlany (right and left, respectively) that night hosted several government dignitaries, led by Prime Minister Allen Chastanet (centre) and Minister in the PM's Office with responsibility for Foreign Affairs Mrs Sarah Flood-Beaubrun. Also present at the royal reception held at the Royal Saint Lucian Hotel were other Saint Lucia government ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and other specially invited dignitaries.

France commits US \$33M to fund Caribbean Climate Change adaptation

Officials from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) have signed an agreement to provide US\$33,000,000 toward the financing of sustainable infrastructure projects in the Caribbean.

The agreement supports the improvement of the resilience of Caribbean economies through the development of sustainable infrastructure projects with significant environmental or climate impacts.

The funds are being provided by AFD under a Credit Facility Agreement with the CDB. The AFD is the primary agency through which the Government of France provides funding for sustainable development projects.

The facility will be used by the CDB to augment financing for infrastructure projects in several areas: renewable energy, water and sanitation, waste management, adaptation of infrastructure to the effects of climate change, and protection of coasts and rivers.

At least 50 percent of the funds will be used to fund climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

The agreement was signed last month at the CDB headquarters in Barbados, by French Ambassador to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and Barbados, Eric de la Moussaye, in the presence of CDB Vice-President of Operations, Patricia McKenzie.

Countries able to benefit from this facility are Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. This marks the first time that CDB has accessed financing from AFD. (AFD)

Taiwan counting on air safety record to attend world aviation summit in Canada

Continued from page 12

The civil aviation authorities in Beijing and Taipei have established three direct flight routes between the island and the mainland. As a result, cross-strait communication has virtually gone through the skies in recent years. Example: Taiwan has opened 10 airports for cross-strait flights, while mainland China has opened 61.

In an exchange of documents in August 2015, the two sides confirmed that the number of scheduled cross-strait passenger flights operated by their respective airlines could increase to a total of 890 per week and the number of scheduled cross-strait cargo flights could increase to a total of 84 per week.

Counting on the facts...

With only two weeks left before the Montreal ICAO 2016 Assembly gets going, Taiwan is counting on its impressive air safety record to encourage Beijing to support its bid to be present at the Canada aviation summit for a second time.

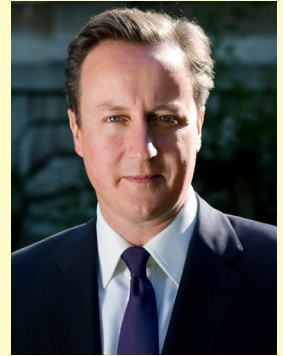
Held every three years, Taipei attended the 2013 Assembly, with Beijing's permission, as 'Chinese Taipei'. It's ready to do the same again this year – and has assured it is prepared to do what Beijing asks to be able to not only attend again, but to also get more shared responsibility for the shares skies above and between the island and the mainland.

Caribbean and Latin American ally governments are all expected – within the next week -- to confirm their support for Taiwan's attendance at the ICAO Assembly this month-end.

David Cameron quits as MP to 'avoid being a distraction' to PM

David Cameron has stepped down as an MP after 15 years saying that he does not want his presence on the Conservative backbenches to serve as a “distraction” to Theresa May.

The previous Conservative leader, who has ended his career in Westminster politics just two months after leaving Downing Street, hinted that he did not want people to pore over any differences in opinion between himself and his prime ministerial successor.



David Cameron

His departure will trigger a by-election in his Witney constituency in Oxfordshire.

Asked about whether his decision opened up the possibility that he was “snubbing” May, Cameron said he thought she had got off to a “cracking start”, before conceding: “Obviously I have my own views about certain issues. People know that. That’s really the point.

“As a former PM it’s very difficult to sit as a backbencher and not be an enormous diversion and distraction from what the government is doing. I don’t want to be that distraction.”

He denied that his decision was linked to the controversial policy to increase the number of grammar schools, an idea that he has spoken against in the past and that has caused concern among many education experts, opposition politicians and even a number of Conservative MPs.

Cameron said there were “many good things in the policy”, and that he had not meant for his decision to come on the same day that the new government introduced a consultation paper on the school policy.

“This decision has got nothing to do with any one individual issue and that way the timing, I promise, is coincidental,” he told ITV news, adding that the reason was a “bigger picture” issue.

“I support Theresa May. I think she’s got off to a great start. I think she could be a strong prime minister for our country ... I wish her well, I wish the government well.”

Cameron, who would be earning £74,962 for his work as an MP rather than the £143,462 current salary for being prime minister, did not announce details of what he would do next but spoke of hoping to “still contribute in terms of public service and to the country”.

He said he would “start to build a life outside Westminster” and noted “I’m only 49”.

There was immediate speculation that he could earn considerable sums if he followed the path of predecessors, including Tony Blair, to take corporate money from directorships, lucrative book deals and speechmaking.

(More world news on Pages 6, 9 and 12)

CARICOM Reparations Baton now in Saint Lucia

The CARICOM Reparations Baton is now in Saint Lucia. The symbolic baton, which is officially recognized and adopted by the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC), is this year moving across the region to help spread the CARICOM Reparations Message. First released in and held by the Barbados Reparations Committee, the baton has since moved to Guyana and neighbouring Surinam, before arriving here last week.

Hand-delivered by Guyana Reparations Committee member Mrs Penda Guyan during the August 17 Colloquy on Slavery and Emancipation, Reparations, Marcus Garvey and the UN Decade for People of African Descent, held at the UWI Open Campus at Morne Fortune, the baton will be used in activities to promote awareness of the Reparations cause in Saint Lucia.

Mrs Guyan handed the baton at the event to mark the 129th birth anniversary of Marcus Garvey to Deputy Governor General Mc Donald Dixon, who then passed it on to Acting Prime Minister Dr Gale Rigobert.

The Acting Prime Minister then handed the baton



Acting Prime Minister Dr Gale Rigobert passed the CARICOM Reparations Baton over to National Reparations Committee Chairman Earl Bousquet after having received it from Deputy Governor General Mc Donald Dixon. (Photo Courtesy: UWI Open Campus Saint Lucia)

to Chairman of the National Reparations Committee (NRC) Earl Bousquet, who then handed it to National Youth Council (NYC) Representative Marnus Cherry.

Mr Bousquet says the baton was symbolically passed from the heads of state and government to the NRC and the Youth, "because while the state and government have their roles today, it is the NRCs and the youth who have to carry that Reparations message in a continuous way, today and tomorrow, next year and beyond, until Reparatory Justice is attained." The NRC Chairman says the CARICOM Secretariat and the CRC have agreed to work with the Government of Saint Lucia's Ministries of Youth and Education, the NRC, the NYC, the National Students Council (NSC), the Folk Research Centre (FRC) and other stakeholder entities, to put the baton to use in the period leading to a major youth rally to be held here on October 30.

Among activities to be organized, he said, are "various Baton Relays in various parts of the island, as well as discussions in communities about what the baton represents."

According to the NRC Chairman, "CARICOM has also pledged to work with the Government of Saint Lucia, to officially assign local Youth Advocates to work here for the Reparations cause," including the local CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, of which Saint Lucian Chard Desir is the current Dean. Mr Bousquet said that following Saint Lucia, the baton will be sent to whichever next CARICOM territory will host a regional Reparations youth rally.

Is Zika propaganda a "virus of the mind"?

Continued from Page 1

Most people who get Zika, will be completely unaware of being infected. For those who do get sick, it is similar in many ways to having a cold or a mild case of the flu. People experience fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Infection is thought to provide lifelong immunity. Severe disease requiring hospitalization is uncommon. Deaths are rare.

The fact that almost no one dies from Zika infection made it a very unlikely candidate for the development of a vaccine. For those who actually feel sick from a Zika infection, they can receive comfort care and rest while their immune systems overcome the viral illness.

Zika Press Releases Set the Stage for a Propaganda Campaign

However, if Zika could be connected to some other horrible consequence, such as microcephaly or paralysis (Guillain-Barré syndrome) for example, then people would insist that we create a Zika vaccine and would insist that every person on planet Earth take it. They would be willing to give up basic individual freedoms for the benefit of society, which is always the goal of mind control programs.

In 2015, a number of press releases and reports were released by the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the CDC, to set the stage for the unfolding of a grand mind control project.

The documents they published raised the red flag of alarm that a Zika epidemic was unfolding throughout South America and Mexico. The conventional media got excited about the epidemic when they saw the word "microcephaly." The prospect of large numbers of babies being born with abnormally small heads and brains was a story that would really grab the attention of their audience.

The media used pictures of deformed babies to build fear in the hearts of people and to create the perception that we better watch out or Zika is going to get us and our babies! They worked really hard to instill public panic about Zika in January and February of 2016.

Continued on Page 11

Saint Lucia adopts UN Decade for People of African Descent on Marcus Garvey's birthday

Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Dr Gale T. Rigobert, says Saint Lucia is proud to have officially adopted and launched the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent.

The Acting Prime Minister spoke following her presentation of an official declaration adopting the UN Decade last week, during a Colloquy on Slavery and Emancipation, Reparations, Marcus Garvey and the UN Decade for People of African Descent.

The event, held at the UWI Open Camps Saint Lucia on August 17th, was organized by the Saint Lucia National Reparations Committee (NRC).

Dr Rigobert, who is also minister responsible for Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, said her government stands by to observe the relevant protocols the country adopted when the decade was launched at the UN in New York last year.

Speaking before reading the declaration, the Acting Prime Minister said she was also proud to have been part of the historic event, which also observed the 129th Birthday of Marcus Garvey, launched a Reparations Lecture Series and saw the passing of the CARICOM Reparations Baton from Guyana and Surinam to Saint Lucia. Dr Rigobert traced the history of the UN's adoption of the Decade back in 2013, when the General Assembly agreed to observe the decade from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2024. The Acting PM also reiterated Saint Lucia's commitment, within its means, to implement the agreed UN resolution.

Saint Lucia Ambassador denied US visa?

Saint Lucia's Ambassador to UNESCO and The Holy See is a billionaire who donated to the Clinton Foundation. Last year, he was denied entry into the US!

— By Joseph Tanfani, LA Times —

Nigerian billionaire Gilbert Chagoury, one of Africa's richest men, has built a reputation as a giant of global philanthropy. His name is on a gallery at the Louvre and a medical school in Lebanon, and he has received awards for his generosity to the Catholic Church and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He owns a seven-bedroom hilltop mansion in Beverly Hills, and he has a high-level network of friends from Washington to Lebanon to the Vatican, where he serves as an ambassador for the tiny island nation of St. Lucia. His website shows him shaking hands and laughing with Pope Francis.



Gilbert Chagoury has contributed US \$1 million to US \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation, according to its list of donors.

"I never imagined what the future would hold for me," Chagoury once said of his boyhood in Nigeria. "But I knew there was a vision for my life that was greater than I could imagine.... I consider it a duty to give back."

Since the 1990s, Chagoury has also cultivated a friendship with the Clinton family — in part by writing large checks, including a contribution of at least \$1 million to the Clinton Foundation.

By the time Hillary Clinton became secretary of State, the relationship was strong enough for Bill Clinton's closest aide to push for Chagoury to get access to top diplomats, and the agency began exploring a deal, still under consideration, to build a consulate on Chagoury family land in Lagos, Nigeria.

But even as those talks were underway, bureaucrats in other arms of the State Department were examining accusations that Chagoury had unsavory affiliations, stemming from his activities and friendships in Lebanon. After a review, Chagoury was refused a visa to enter the U.S. last year.

Chagoury is a prominent example of the nexus between Hillary Clinton's State Department and the family's Clinton Foundation, which has come under renewed scrutiny during her presidential run. The organization, founded as a way for the Clintons to tap their vast network for charitable works, has tackled some of the steepest challenges in the developing world, including rebuilding Haiti and fighting AIDS in Africa. It has also come under fire for its willingness to accept money from foreign governments with interest in swaying U.S. policy during Clinton's time as secretary of State, and the controversial histories of some donors.

Part of a dictator's inner circle

Chagoury was born in 1946 in Lagos to Lebanese parents, and as a child attended school in Lebanon. He sold shoes and cars in Nigeria, according to a biography on his website, before marrying the daughter of a prominent Nigerian businessman.

During the rule of Gen. Sani Abacha, who seized power in Nigeria in 1993, Chagoury prospered, receiving development deals and oil franchises.

In the 1990s, Chagoury portrayed himself as an Abacha insider as he tried to influence American policy to be more friendly to the regime. Soon after President Clinton named Donald E. McHenry a special envoy to Ni-

geria in 1995, Gilbert and brother Ronald Chagoury visited McHenry in his office at Georgetown University in Washington. The U.S. was pushing for the return of democratic rule in Nigeria; Abacha, meanwhile, was eager to have his country taken off a U.S. list of nations that enabled drug trafficking, McHenry said.

"Their effort was to try and influence anyone who they thought could influence the U.S. government," McHenry said, adding that the approach was heavy-handed. "They tried every key on the piano."

Abacha turned out to be "one of the most notorious kleptocrats in memory," stealing billions in public funds, acting Assistant Atty. Gen. Mythili Raman later said.

After Abacha's death in 1998, the Nigerian government hired lawyers to track down the money. The trail led to bank accounts all over the world — some under Gilbert Chagoury's control. Chagoury, who denied knowing the funds were stolen, paid a fine of 1 million Swiss francs, then about \$600,000, and gave back \$65 million to Nigeria; a Swiss conviction was expunged, a spokesman for Chagoury said.

Ties to the Clintons

In the years afterward, Chagoury's wealth grew. His family conglomerate now controls a host of businesses, including construction companies, flour mills, manufacturing plants and real estate.

He has used some of that money to build political connections. As a noncitizen, he is barred from giving to U.S. political campaigns, but in 1996, he gave \$460,000 to a voter registration group steered by Bill Clinton's allies and was rewarded with an invitation to a White House dinner. Over the years, Chagoury attended Clinton's 60th birthday fundraiser and helped arrange a visit to St. Lucia, where the former president was paid \$100,000 for a speech. Clinton's aide, Doug Band, even invited Chagoury to his wedding.

Chagoury also contributed \$1 million to \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation, according to its list of donors. At a 2009 Clinton Global Initiative conference, where business and charity leaders pledge to complete projects, the Chagoury Group's Eko Atlantic development — nine square kilometers of Lagos coastal land reclaimed by a seawall — was singled out for praise. During a 2013 dedication ceremony in Lagos, just after Hillary Clinton left her post as secretary of State, Bill Clinton lauded the \$1-billion Eko Atlantic as an example to the world of how to fight climate change.

"I especially thank my friends Gilbert and Ron Chagoury for making it happen," he said.

By last summer, U.S. diplomats had selected a 9.9-acre property at Eko Atlantic as the preferred site for a new Lagos consulate, State Department documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times show. Two months ago, James Entwistle, then the U.S. ambassador to Nigeria, wrote to Washington, asking permission to sign a 99-year lease.

No deal has been signed, State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said. She did not answer questions about whether the Clintons recommended Eko Atlantic. She said at a recent briefing that she was unaware of whether Hillary Clinton knew the site was under consideration; it was on a list of possibilities submitted by a real estate firm in 2012, Trudeau said in response to questions from The Times. A spokesman for Clinton's campaign noted that the State Department has said the process has been managed by "career real estate professionals."

Continued on Page 7

Saint Lucia Ambassador denied US visa?

Continued from Page 6

Chagoury declined requests for an interview. A friend and spokesman, Mark Corallo, said Chagoury was a generous and “peace-loving” man unfairly scrutinized because of his association with the Clintons. He said Chagoury last saw Hillary Clinton at a 2006 dinner. The Clinton Foundation and a spokesman for Bill Clinton did not respond to requests for comment.

Chagoury also has given to Republicans: He and his brother, along with Eko Atlantic, are listed as sponsors for a 2014 art exhibit at the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

Suspicious emerge in the U.S.

In spite of his network of powerful friends, Chagoury has aroused the suspicions of U.S. security officials. In 2010, he was pulled off a private jet in Teterboro, N.J., and questioned for four hours because he was on the Department of Homeland Security’s no-fly list. He was subsequently removed from the list and categorized as a “selectee,” meaning he can fly but receives extra scrutiny, Homeland Security documents show. The agency later wrote to Chagoury to apologize “for any inconvenience or unpleasantness.”

That letter did not explain why Chagoury was on the no-fly list, but another Homeland Security document shows agents citing unspecified suspicions of links to terrorism, which can include financing extremist organizations; Chagoury later told reporters that agents asked him what bank he used in Nigeria.

Chagoury believes it was unfair for government officials to disclose the episode and to “suggest that he was a potential threat,” Corallo said. He said that Chagoury’s lawyers resolved the issue and that he never asked anyone else for help.

Gilbert Chagoury’s response to the Los Angeles Times

Chagoury told ABC News and the Center for Public Integrity at the time that he was miffed because his travel problems made him miss seeing the Lakers in the playoffs. “I just love the Lakers,” he said.

His visa troubles stem at least in part from his involvement in the tangled politics of Lebanon. Chagoury has contributed to charitable projects there, advocated on behalf of the country’s Christians and formed political alliances, including with Michel Aoun, a Lebanese Christian politician who served as army commander and prime minister during the country’s civil war.

For a decade, Aoun’s party has been part of a political coalition with Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim group backed by Iran that has seats in Lebanon’s parliament. Hezbollah is classified as a terrorist organization by the U.S., which holds the group responsible for the 1983 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut and a Marine barracks blast that year that killed 241 American servicemen. Drug Enforcement Administration investigations have also found that Hezbollah is in league with Latin American cartels to launder hundreds of millions of dollars in drug profits.

Chagoury was “known to have funded” Aoun, a Lebanese government minister told then-Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman in 2007, according to a cable published by WikiLeaks that didn’t go in detail about Chagoury’s relationship with Aoun. The minister suggested that the U.S. “deliver to Chagoury a strong message about the possibility of financial sanctions and travel bans against those who undermine Lebanon’s legitimate institutions.”

Chagoury never got a scolding, though. Instead, Band, Bill Clinton’s aide, pushed for new access for Chagoury after Hillary Clinton took over at the State Department. In 2009, Band wrote his friends in the department. “We need Gilbert Chagoury to speak to the substance guy re Lebanon. As you know he’s key guy there and to us and is loved in Lebanon. Very imp.” Huma Abedin, a longtime aide and confidante to Clinton and now vice chairwoman of her presidential campaign, suggested Feltman.

When Band’s email was made public this month, Donald Trump pounced, calling the Chagoury episode “illegal” and a “pay-to-play” scheme.

But no meeting ever happened, according to both Feltman and Chagoury’s spokesman. Chagoury wanted only to pass along insights on Lebanese politics, Corallo said, adding that “nothing ever came of it” and that Chagoury never talked to anyone at the State Department. Band declined to comment for this story.

A Clinton campaign spokesman said Judicial Watch, the conservative organization that sued to make the emails public, “has been attacking the Clintons since the 1990s.”

“No matter how this group tries to mischaracterize these documents, the fact remains that Hillary Clinton never took action as secretary of State because of donations to the Clinton Foundation,” spokesman Josh Schwerin said.

This month, the foundation announced that it would stop accepting donations from foreigners and corporations should Clinton win the presidency.

Denied a visa

After Clinton left the State Department, Chagoury again found himself under suspicion by U.S. security officials. A 2013 FBI intelligence report, citing unverified raw information from a source, claimed Chagoury had sent funds to Aoun, who transferred money to Hezbollah. The source said Aoun was “facilitating fundraising for Hezbollah.” The U.S. put Chagoury in its database used to screen travelers for possible links to terrorism, interagency memos show.

The ties between Chagoury and Aoun ended years ago in a dispute over oil franchises, said Michel de Chadarev, an official with Aoun’s party. Chagoury now backs an Aoun rival for the presidency. De Chadarev said Aoun “categorically denied” any arrangement where he shared money with Hezbollah or passed funds from Chagoury: “No, no, no. Of course not. It is not in his principles to act as transporter to anyone.”

Last summer, when Chagoury planned a trip to Los Angeles, he applied at the U.S. embassy in Paris for a visitor’s visa and was refused, according to interviews and government documents. Based on the FBI report and other allegations from intelligence and law enforcement sources, the State Department denied the application. It cited terrorism-related grounds, a broad category that can apply to anyone believed to have assisted a terrorist group in any way, including providing money.

Chagoury has denied ties to Hezbollah. Two years ago, he helped pay for a conference in Washington on the persecution of Christians in the Middle East; some attendees supported Hezbollah, but the director of the group that organized the conference said that didn’t mean Chagoury or other conference organizers were among them. “Hezbollah is part of the political reality of the country,” Andrew Doran told the National Review.

Corallo did not answer questions about the visa denial, but said Chagoury “has been a friend and supporter of America all his life” and that “any allegation that Mr. Chagoury is involved in any way with providing material support to any terrorist organization, of any stripe, is false, outrageous and defamatory.” He said Chagoury has no business interests in Lebanon.

The visa decision process is opaque and provides little recourse for those who are denied entry. Typically, the person is told of the grounds for refusal, but not the details. The secretary of State can grant a waiver, but that is often difficult when the evidence used to block entry is terrorism-related.

For the last three decades, Corallo said, Chagoury spent at least a few months each year in Beverly Hills, where he owns an 18,000-square-foot estate, once the home of actor Danny Thomas, with commanding views of West Los Angeles and the ocean.

A year ago, after his visa application was denied, Chagoury’s mansion was put on the market, with an asking price of \$135 million. It’s still for sale. (joseph.tanfani@latimes.com, August 29, 2016).

Special Report

Taiwan is ready for 2nd Montreal international aviation assembly

But Taipei calls on mainland China to ‘set aside baggage of history’ to share responsibility for safe skies across the Taiwan Strait

Taiwan's President is calling on mainland China to "set aside the baggage of history" and work with it to develop "a new direction and new approaches" to sharing responsibility for the safety of the skies across the Strait that has historically both divided and unified the island and the mainland.

The call comes from Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), the leading agency involved in exchanges between the two sides on matters pertaining to everything from air and sea transport, aviation and tourism, business and trade. The MAC's call also comes ahead of an upcoming meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization's 2016 Assembly, to be held from September 27 to October 5, at the world agency's leading aviation authority's headquarters based in Canada. This is not the first ICAO meeting Taiwan will attend, if invited or allowed.

Taipei sent a delegation in 2013 when the island's Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) was invited by the ICAO to that year's assembly. But that year everything was different – there was a different Government in Taipei with a different President.

Beijing, known to favour the demonstrably reformed policies to Mainland and Cross Strait ties pursued by Kuomintang (KMT) President Ma Ying-jeou, had no problem not opposing Taiwan's attendance of the 2013 Assembly in Montreal, providing it did so under "a proper name".

In keeping with the 1992 Consensus that drives its Taiwan policy, China refuses to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations as the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC).

But Taiwan will not participate under the flag of the People's Republic of China (PRC). So the two sides have agreed on a mutually agreeable formula: Taiwan will only participate in non-political word bodies and activities where China has a say as "Chinese Taipei".

Taiwan indeed got China's blessings to participate in the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) and to participate in the Olympic Games in Beijing as "Chinese Taipei".

But this upcoming ICAO meeting is different, taking place three years later – and under a President and ruling Democratic People's Party (DPP) that replaced the KMT just over six months ago.

President Tsai only took office three months ago on May 20. Her language ahead of and during the Presidential campaign rejected outright the 1992 Consensus as the common denominator for maintenance of Cross Strait ties in the manner forged under the KMT in its eight years under her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou.

But her policy position became clearer on May 20 when she appealed during her inaugural address for Beijing and Taipei "to set aside the baggage of history for the benefit of the people of both sides and to develop positive cross Strait interaction."

Where she had been accused of demanding that the 1992 Consensus be shelved and looking in the direction of inviting Washington to invoke cross Strait military protection agreement clauses to harden Taipei's position, Washington's insistence on supporting continued warming instead of freezing of cross Strait ties blurred those lines.

Following the President's first hint at a policy decision on Cross Strait ties, the MAC said in a public statement that it believes that "the differences in social systems exist in cross Strait relations can be resolved through communication, consultation, increased exchanges and improved understanding." In the August 4 statement the MAC also said it "welcomes the peaceful and stable development of cross strait relations" and expressed

hope that "the two sides can trust and support each other to jointly usher in a new era in cross Strait relations."

It said, "Based on setting aside differences to seek common ground and showing mutual respect, the two sides should discuss and consider a new direction and new approaches on which both sides can agree."

But, all that said, Taipei is still uncertain about Beijing's attitude to its request to be invited or allowed to (again) attend an ICAO Assembly.

Taipei has done all it expects to be asked to. The MAC says it has "fully exchanged views with the Taiwan Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) on participation in the upcoming ICAO meeting next month. Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA), under and through the MOTC, has also submitted an application to the ICAO Assembly President. Noticeably, the CAA applied to participate in this year's ICAO Assembly "as the authority in charge of international aviation safety and safety of cross-Strait travel." The CAA's application was also submitted under "a proper name" (Chinese Taipei) – and it also says it "is willing to follow the relevant rules for participation in ICAO meetings."

Taipei also says it "will seek support from the ICAO members and believes that this issue could be resolved through cross-Strait negotiations" – and, it also says, it "hopes that mainland China could show goodwill to the people of Taiwan."

The MAC has also reiterated that it "will work closely with the CAA and provide necessary assistance with cross-Strait interactions."

The MAC also says it "hopes that Taiwan could continue to participate in this year's ICAO Assembly, based on mutual goodwill from both sides of the Taiwan Strait."

A skilled negotiator who negotiated Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Centre (WTC), a lawyer and economist trained in the USA and the UK, and also a former head of the MAC, President Tsai and her administration say they have said and done everything they could have thought of being required or expected to do to secure another legitimate entry pass -- and a sure seat -- at the ICAO Assembly in Montreal on September 27th.

Will Beijing again agree to allow Taipei to participate in an ICAO Assembly under "a proper name", or will China play Cross Strait Ping Pong with a Taiwan relatively new DPP-led administration that, like the KMT, has also shown it too can shed the excess baggage of history.

Under Tsai, the DPP has not pursued the pro-independent foreign policy that the previous DPP President, Chen Shui-bian, followed. Her more diplomatic language in cross-Strait talk since winning the election in January and taking office in May also sounds markedly more peaceful than she was credited for during the closing days of the Presidential campaign than made her the first elected woman president in her part of Asia.

The extent the which the two sides in Taiwan have both expressed willingness to shed harmful foreign policies that further divided in favour of those that support peaceful negotiations and coexistence across the Taiwan Strait will impress and affect Beijing's response to Taipei's ICAO request will soon be known.

But Taiwan will not sit by and wait. It is again lobbying its allies and friends in the Caribbean and Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa for support for its bid to be present at the 2016 ICAO Montreal Assembly.

Not that other nations can be expected to influence China to take any position it does not want to. But the hope in Taipei is that any and all expressions of support will or may help persuade Beijing not to oppose Chinese Taipei's presence in Montreal at the end of this month.

Climate Smart Agriculture

Morocco committed to helping Small Island Developing States resist Climate Change

I accepted IICA's proposal because of climate change and its linkage with agriculture. My country is affected by the negative impact of climate change which translates into more desertification, irregularity and even scarcity of rainfalls -- and some years two seasons literally disappear from the calendar, moving us from summer into winter without transiting by spring and autumn.

I can assure you that a year without rainfall and without the four seasons that secure agricultural production is heavily and tangibly felt in Morocco. Therefore, we absolutely understand the concerns expressed by our friends in the Caribbean region when it comes to the impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Yet, Morocco has made the firm choice of not letting climate change be a fatality and has, thus, engaged in the global effort to fight its negative effects. Most of you have noticed the logo saying 'COP 22 Marrakech 2016'. In fact, after Lima -- where the parties engaged in the negotiations and Paris where an agreement had been reached -- the Kingdom of Morocco aspires to make COP 22 the conference of the implementation of what was agreed to a year earlier.



Ambassador Mohammed Benjilani and the representative of the Belle Vue Farmers Cooperative at the awards ceremony for the competition on Climate Smart Agriculture held on July 31

I did speak earlier of Small Island Developing States on purpose. In fact, on September 20th, 2015, His Majesty King Mohammed 6 and French President Francois Hollande launched the Call of Tangier for a United and Strong Action in favor of the Climate. And I wish to quote here three passages of this important document to depict how committed my country is in this regard.

The first quote reads: "While the international community is preparing to adopt, this September (2015) in the United Nations, the sustainable development goals, it is imperative to take advantage of the conferences due in Paris and Marrakech to speed up the transition towards a 'green global economy' joining the legitimate development aspirations to the imperatives of sustainability of resources and the reduction of environmental risks."

The second quote reads: "The battle against climate change is one for development. It can and must be integrated into national sustainable development policies, whether in the perspective of food security, access to renewable energy or the fight against insecurity."

In the last quote, His Majesty and President Hollande stressed that: "Special attention should be paid to developing countries, including the least developed countries and SIDS, which are most vulnerable to climate change... The efficiency and level of ambition of the actions of developing countries against climate change will be even stronger as complementary, consistent and stable resources will be mobilized in their favor."

Concern over Brexit in vulnerable Commonwealth states

—By The Commonwealth Secretariat—

Key industries in some Commonwealth nations could take massive hits if appropriate steps aren't taken following the UK's departure from the EU. The forecast over so-called Brexit comes from policy experts' analysis in two new research papers published by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

"Brexit is a journey into unknown trading arrangements, both for the UK dealing with the EU, and the UK's trading relationship with a large number of developing countries. Many have benefited from EU trade preferences," said Dr Mohammad Razzaque, head of the Secretariat's international trade policy section.

The analysis is part of the Secretariat's peer reviewed 'Trade Hot Topics' series. The latest papers suggest that the uncertainties caused by Brexit may weaken the chances of world economic recovery. This in turn will have severe implications for many developing and so called least developed countries or LDCs.

The EU provides special trade deals to support these vulnerable countries, using often complex mechanisms. Dr Razzaque warns that if equivalent provisions are not provided while the UK leaves the EU, it could mean additional annual export duties of more than £600 million for these countries.

"For 36 Commonwealth developing countries, this potential tax hike could be as high as one percent of their total exports to the UK," he said. "For the likes of Bangladesh, Mauritius, Seychelles and Swaziland this could be more than 10 percent." So what could this mean for some countries?

"Let's take Bangladesh as an example," said Dr Razzaque. "Unless similar EU trade preferences are maintained by the UK, Bangladesh will have to pay £220 million in tariffs to UK customs. That would put even more pressure on the 4 million, mainly women, workers facing already appalling conditions."

Strong historical ties mean at least 20 Commonwealth developing countries rely on the UK for 10 percent or more in trade. The UK is often a niche market in certain sectors.



Dr Razzaque warns, "More than 80 percent of St Lucia's exports, mainly bananas, to the EU is bound for the UK. Remember that the country's banana industry has witnessed tremendous competitive pressure. Unless it secures the same level of market access provision as in the EU, post-Brexit trading could deal a further blow to the sector. Similarly, Fiji, a Pacific Island state, sources almost two-thirds of its European export from the UK alone. In 2014, 95% of Fiji's exports to the UK was raw sugar."

The Commonwealth's developing countries export a total of about £25 billion to the UK. A weak pound, following the Brexit referendum, will have resulted in a significant loss in export value for these countries.

"It's not just trade Brexit will affect," Dr Razzaque said. "The impact of a weaker pound will affect overseas aid from the UK. So imagine a 10 percent depreciation of sterling. \$20 billion UK aid is only worth \$18 billion. Think about how that extra \$2 billion could have been spent. We're talking about here, among other things, the UK's helping 13.4 million people with emergency food assistance and supporting 11 million children with their education in the past five years."

But all is not lost. The Secretariat's policy papers have used scenario analysis to produce four options which could help avoid the most vulnerable countries being put at risk. According to one of the papers, the UK's commitment to promoting trade-led development has been globally influential. It has always recognised and championed the special needs and challenges facing such vulnerable country groups as the LDCs, sub-Saharan Africa and small states.

"The UK is one of the few high-income countries which fulfils the UN target of providing 0.7% of gross national income as overseas development assistance", Dr Razzaque pointed out. "It's in this spirit that the UK's newfound trade policy sovereignty should result in continuity and improvements over the currently existing trade preferences for vulnerable countries." (Courtesy: thecommonwealth.org)

Non-Aligned Leaders 3rd Caribbean Summit to re-examine global body's role and identity

— By Earl Bousquet, Editor, The Diplomatic Courier —

The 17th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement currently taking place in Venezuela isn't the first to be held in the Caribbean. And Margarita isn't the first island to host the heads of government of the largest world grouping after the United Nations.

In fact, one Caribbean island state has hosted two NAM Summits. And another Caribbean nation has also hosted the Non-Aligned Foreign Affairs Ministers. Originally scheduled for last year, the Venezuela NAM summit was postponed in July 2015, as was the meeting of foreign ministers scheduled for Tehran.

The 16th summit of NAM, held in Tehran in August 2012, was attended by leaders and high ranking representatives of the movement's 120 full members, including 24 presidents, three kings, 6 prime ministers and 50 Foreign ministers.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also present. Founded in 1961 as colonialism collapsed and people took charge of their destinies in new nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions, has played a fundamental role in preserving world peace, the NAM held its First Summit Conference in Belgrade, September 1-6, 1961.

The Belgrade Conference) was held under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Sukarno of Indonesia.

The inaugural conference was attended by 25 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

During its five decades of existence, the NAM has united governments and anti-colonial, pro-independence movements across ideological, political, economic, social and cultural boundaries.

As the NAM gathers for its 55th birthday in the sunny Caribbean, all independent Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) member-states are members, along with Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Venezuela, as well as other Latin American states.

Venezuela has become the second Caribbean nation to assume the Presidency of the NAM, President Nicolas Maduro taking over from his Iranian counterpart.

In Margarita these next few days, heavy security will protect what will be a busy summit on a small tropical Caribbean island better known for its sandy beaches and sunny skyline.

But the NAM leaders have met in the sunny Caribbean before – and twice in Cuba. And the Foreign Affairs ministers have also met in Guyana – even though long before CARICOM was born.

Guyana's then Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, after attending the 1970 NAM Summit in Lusaka, Zambia, paid official visits to several African countries – Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia – in September that year. The Guyana government identified with and supported the African liberation movements throughout the 1970s and Burnham sent more than a hundred Guyanese public servants to various departments of the Zambian Government.

Many Guyanese doctors, engineers, lawyers and secretaries worked in Southern African states throughout the 1970s.

The Conference of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers was then held in Georgetown, Guyana two years later, from 8 to 11 August 1972.

During the conference, a monument to the four founders of the Non-Aligned Movement – Egypt's Nasser, Ghana's Nkrumah, India's Nehru and Yugoslavia's Tito – was erected in 'Company Path Garden' in Georgetown and was unveiled by the then President, Arthur Chung.

The Guyana conference adopted a NAM Action Programme for Economic Cooperation (APEC) between member-states.

The first NAM Summit in the Caribbean took place in Cuba in October 1979, where it was attended and addressed by Grenada's Prime Minister



The 14th NAM Summit was held at the Palace of Conventions in Havana in 2006, where then Vice President Raul Castro (at left) led the Cuban delegation. (Photo courtesy: NNN, Non-aligned News Network)

Maurice Bishop, alongside Cuba's President Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega. Jamaica's Michael Manley and Guyana's Forbes Burnham also attended.

Saint Lucia was represented by then Government Advisor for (and de facto Minister of) Education, Kenny D. Anthony.

The NAM Heads returned to Cuba more than a quarter-century later in September 2006, where they reaffirmed their commitment to the ideals, principles and purposes the movement was founded upon.

Cuban President Fidel Castro was elected Chairman of the Movement at the second Havana NAM summit, but he was unable to attend the meeting due to a hip operation earlier, leaving his younger brother Raul (now President) to lead the Cuban delegation.

The 14th Summit in Havana – also attended by Saint Lucia's Dr Kenny D. Anthony, but this time as Prime Minister -- adopted a document outlining the purposes and principles of the movement in the present International juncture.

The movement continues to advocate for international cooperation, multilateralism and national self-determination. It has also been increasingly vocal against the inequities of the current global economic order.

The NAM sees its role today as protecting principles of international law, eliminating weapons of mass destruction, combating terrorism, defending human rights, working toward making the United Nations more effective in meeting the needs of all its member-states, working to preserve international peace, security and stability, as well as to realize justice in the international economic system.

On the other hand, some long-standing goals remain, among them world peace, development, economic cooperation and the democratization of international relations.

In Margarita, the NAM will seek to maintain its prominent and leading role in current international relations, in defense of the interests and priorities of its member states and for achievement of peace and security for mankind. It will also have to reassess its identity and purpose in the post-Cold War era.



The founding Belgrade conference was held under the leadership of the NAM's Founding Fathers (left to right): India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, Indonesia's Sukarno and Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito.

Is Zika propaganda a "virus of the mind"?

Continued from Page 5

In the timeline that follows, you will see the word "autochthonous." Public Health agencies use the word autochthonous to say that an infection was locally generated. An autochthonous case of Zika is one that was acquired in the local area where a person lives. This is in contrast with a Zika infection that was acquired while visiting another region or country.

I will list a few of the key points from some press releases to show how a foundation for the Zika campaign was built and how momentum was established to project the campaign into mainstream media. May 2015: Brazil confirms first autochthonous cases of Zika. October 2015: Columbia confirms first autochthonous cases of Zika.

October 2015: Brazil reports unusually high number of babies with microcephaly.

November 2015: El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Suriname, and Venezuela report autochthonous Zika infection.

November 17, 2015: WHO calls upon member states to watch for the occurrence of microcephaly.

December 1, 2015: PAHO/WHO issued the first of dozens of reports, which chronicled the history of the growing Zika epidemic and warned of microcephaly.

December 21, 2015: WHO reports autochthonous Zika infections in Honduras.

December 22, 2015: WHO reports autochthonous Zika infections in Panama.

December 31, 2015: US CDC reports autochthonous Zika infections in Puerto Rico, and makes note of microcephaly in Brazil.

Counting Babies with Microcephaly

The mainstream media suddenly picked up on the Zika/microcephaly story in January of 2016 and began sensationalizing it. General concern was quickly transformed into alarm as officials in Brazil reported a steady increase in the number of microcephaly cases. As of January 30, 2016, they reported 4,783 cases of microcephaly and/or Central Nervous System (CNS) malformation suggestive of congenital infection. They compared this with 2001 – 2014 data where there was an average of 163 microcephaly cases. [14]

The Brazil data about the babies was poor. We didn't know their definition of microcephaly. We didn't know how many of the mothers actually tested positive for Zika. We didn't know how the data was collected. We also didn't know why there was a strong level of insistence that the only thing that could cause these birth defects was infection with the Zika virus. Propaganda campaigns always dismissed other viewpoints other than the one being promoted. They don't want an investigation of truth or a debate about the facts – they just want belief and submission.

The US Propaganda Machine Goes Public in January 2016

CDC officials begin to ponder the situation. First they say there might be an association between Zika and microcephaly, but they are far from asserting any kind of causative relationship. [15]

"Good for them," I thought when I heard that report. But their apparent wisdom took a nosedive a minute later when the same

CDC official went on to issue a travel warning to women to avoid traveling to Brazil and other South American countries if they are pregnant, think they might be pregnant or are thinking of becoming pregnant in the next couple years.

"What did the CDC just say?" There is no evidence of causation, and we don't even know there is even a problem, but women should stay home any way. "Strange," I thought as I began to remember how the conventional media, the CDC, and the WHO hyped up the African Ebola epidemic in a similar kind of propaganda campaign just 18 months earlier. The worldwide threat of Ebola Zaire completely died out long before a vaccine could be developed, which must have been a major disappointment to Big Pharma.

But this time, they have a virus that is not going to die out. This time their propaganda campaign will be much more sophisticated, and it will make major steps toward the acceptance of universal mandatory vaccination for diseases such as Zika.

A False International Crisis Involving Deformed Babies Justifies Action

All through January and early February of 2016, the news media provided us with a non-stop litany of stories about Zika and deformed babies. In a previous article I examined some of the headlines in the propaganda campaign.

Are we All Being Forced onto a Passenger Train Named Zika?

The CDC was still using the word "possible association," while the news media insisted on using the word "cause." Despite the initial reserve of the CDC, the news media began to shout the message across America, "Zika is going to deform the heads of our babies while they are in the womb, and there's no vaccine to protect us!"

It seems like every Zika story I saw included at least one photo of a baby with microcephaly and always stated that there is no vaccine yet. We were reminded over and over again that Zika is causing babies to be born with abnormally small heads, mental retardation, and blindness. We were warned that some babies were dying at birth because of the severity of their brain deformation. We were told that each baby born with microcephaly will cost ten million dollars or more in medical expenses during the child's life. [16] These stories created ever increasing levels of apprehension and fear as they were intended to do.

As the mainstream media struggled to keep the fear level high and keep the story line flowing from week to week, they began to focus in on government efforts to save us from Zika. It didn't take long for them to find people to interview who would ask the question they wanted asked.

"What is the Government Going to Do to Protect Our Babies?"

This question was asked over and over again even though there was no proof that Zika infection and microcephaly were related. The question was asked so many times by the media that no politician could dare to say, "I am not going to do anything, because as far as we know Zika doesn't cause microcephaly."

Hillary Clinton campaign regrets not telling the truth about her health

Hillary Clinton's campaign has acknowledged mishandling news of her pneumonia, as Donald Trump sought to capitalize on growing questions over his opponent's trustworthiness at a critical moment in their race for the White House.

"We could have done better," wrote Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri on Monday, after some Democrats began questioning whether the campaign had been fully transparent in its weekend accounts of her health.

On Monday evening, the Democratic presidential candidate phoned in to CNN, telling host Anderson Cooper that she hadn't initially thought her pneumonia "was a big deal". She also tweeted her thanks to well-wishers and added:

She went on to issue two tweets attacking Trump.

Clinton was filmed losing her footing and being assisted into a waiting van after leaving early from a memorial for 9/11 victims in New York on Sunday.

Initially, campaign aides said she had "overheated", though Clinton later insisted "I'm feeling great, it's a beautiful day in New York," after she left her daughter's apartment, where she was taken to rest.

But once the video footage emerged – which appeared to support eyewitness accounts of a more serious incident – the campaign issued a short statement from a doctor revealing she was being treated for pneumonia.

Clinton had been diagnosed on Friday but the condition went undisclosed despite the campaign chastising reporters who had questioned bouts of coughing at recent public events.

"In retrospect, we could have handled it better in providing more information. That's on us. We regret that," said press secretary Brian Fallon.

The campaign now says Clinton will release "additional medical information" from her doctor in the next few days "to further put to rest any lingering concerns", but insists there are "no other underlying conditions, the pneumonia is the extent of it".

"I expect by the middle or back end of the week she will be back out there on the campaign trail," Fallon told MSNBC. "If it was up to her she would be travelling to California today but it was her doctor's advice [to rest at home]."

Clinton added in a Monday night phone interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper that she didn't initially reveal the pneumonia diagnosis because she "didn't think it was a big deal".

After the incident on Sunday, where she insisted that she did not faint, the former secretary of state was now following her initial doctor's advice to take five days of rest in order to fully recover.

However, even if Clinton does bounce back quickly, the incident is raising fresh questions over trust which could cause more lingering political complications.



Hillary Clinton

Taiwan counting on air safety record to attend world aviation summit in Canada



Saint Lucia's close ties with Taiwan leave no doubt that Prime Minister Allen Chastanet will assure Taiwan Ambassador Ray Mou of the island's support for attending the ICAO meeting this month-end.

Taiwan is making a strong bid for more say in ensuring safety and security in the skies above it – and is offering its performance in the Civil Aviation Industry as proof it is ready to shoulder the task.

The Asian island, which has had Caribbean links from as far back as when it was recognized by Haiti in 1956 and the Dominican Republic in 1957, has been developing trading ties with its four other CARICOM diplomatic allies – Belize (1989), Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983), Saint Lucia (1984) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1981).

But with its 22 diplomatic allies not enough to influence whether it attends the upcoming world aviation summit, Taipei has been showing its positive report card to the Caribbean and Latin America – and the rest of the world.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will hold its next Assembly in Montreal starting September 27 and Taiwan wants to be at the conference table. So, ahead of the meeting, Taiwan has been assuring all who have doubts, that it can fit the bill. And it's backing its talk with facts and figures.

Top Cargo Volumes

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), China Airlines and EVA Airways – Taiwan's two largest – ranked 24th and 43rd worldwide, respectively, in terms of passenger volumes and 6th and 15th, respectively, in terms of cargo volumes in 2014. As of the end of 2015, there were nine civil aviation operators and 11 general aviation operators in Taiwan, with a total of 256 airworthy civilian aircraft.

In addition, there were five airport ground handling services providers, five catering services providers, 1,215 air freight forwarders, seven air cargo center operators, 18 certified aircraft repair and maintenance companies and one flight training institute.

Flight Safety

Also on display ahead of the Montreal meeting is Taiwan's flight safety record. Taipei argues that through joint efforts of the island's government and the aviation industry, the accident rate of Taiwan-registered jet aircraft has been reduced to a minimum.

Indeed, it says that over the past five years, the highest level of safety has been achieved with regard to jet aircraft operations, due to a systematic approach and harmonization of the regulatory environment in accordance with standards and recommendations of the ICAO.

Cross-strait Air Transport Services

Cross-strait Air Transport Services are also being highlighted. Scheduled flights between Taiwan and mainland China were launched in 2009 as part of a series of economic cooperation agreements aimed at improving ties across the Strait dividing the island from the mainland. As a result, millions of Taiwanese and Chinese have since each year visited in volumes unheard or thought of two years earlier.

(See Page 4)