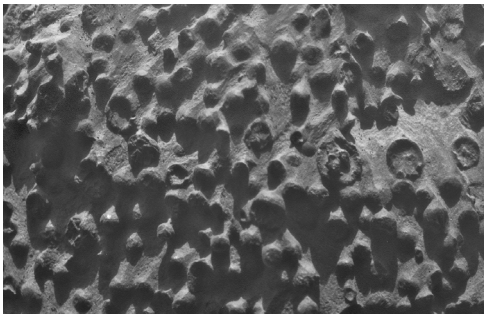

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell/Arizona State Univ.

Small spherules found on 'Kirkwood Outcrop' at Endeavor Crater

THE OTHER MARTIAN ROVER FINDS CLAY

When the Mars Science Laboratory landed on August 6, the public all but forgot about the other Martian rover: Opportunity. Opportunity has been on Mars for over 3000 Sols, almost 9 Earth years. Late last year, Opportunity had arrived at 23 km wide Endeavour crater, a place suspected of harboring phyllosilicate rock, similar to terrestrial clays. In recent weeks, Opportunity has snapped pictures of strange spherical nodules in Endeavour crater, on an rock outcrop called "Kirkwood." These basaltic knobs are different than the hematite "blueberries" found at the original landing site, and their origin remains a mystery. Opportunity also found what appears to be the phyllosilicate outcroppings, and is currently testing the composition with its arm instruments. If these are, indeed, phyllosilicates, it means Opportunity is in a location that once had water that was the perfect composition for life.

NASA/JPL-Caltech/Cornell/Arizona State Univ.

Strange rock 'fins' at Matijevic Hill, Endeavour Crater

Dishes of the Karoo Array Telescope, or MeerKAT.

SCIENTISTS WILL COME TO AFRICA TO DO NOBEL-PRIZE RESEARCH, SAYS MINISTER

South Africa's Minister for Science & Technology, Naledi Pandor, announced on May 25 that the international SKA Site Advisory Committee has decided to locate two-thirds of the Square Kilometer Array radio astronomy telescopes in Africa, and has granted one-third of the project to the only other contender—Australia and New Zealand. The SKA will be the largest international astronomy project in the world when it is completed in 2024, made up of up to 3,000 radio astronomy dishes. (see *21st Century*, Winter 2011). South Africa will build upon its MeerKAT radio telescope array, (seen here) and along with its partners—Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zambia—will expand the array to sites in other Africa nations.

Pandor said that building the SKA radio telescopes would change the character of Africa. "Who comes to Africa to actually do their best research?" she asked at The New Age business breakfast Aug. 31. "People come here to ex-

amine us, to find out how poor we are, to look at diseases that we have, they never come here to say, `I want to do Nobel [Prize] science work.' But they are gonna be coming to do that with the SKA."

PRIMARY HEALTH PROBLEMS AT CHERNOBYL ARE PSYCHOSOMATIC

Following a trip in July to the Vladimir Memorial Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine, commonly known as Chernobyl, writer Chris Lewis reported that "in spite of Greenpeace's wild claims, there is no evidence of any significant health problems" among the 600,000 military personnel and civilians who worked to contain, and then recover from, the 1986 nuclear power plant accident. Within three kilometers of the plant, in the city of Prypyat, radiation levels are at background levels.

The primary health problem, Lewis reported, has been illnesses that are psychologically induced, drugs, and alcoholism. This is hardly surprising, considering the more than two decades of psychological warfare that has been waged against, not only the population of Ukraine, but was used as an excuse to shut down most of Eastern Europe's Soviet-era nuclear power plants, even those with Western-style safety up-grades.

Petr Pavlicek/IAEA

The ghost town of Pripyat, built in the 1970s to house Chernobyl workers and evacuated in July 2005. It should be resettled!

Fourth International Specialized Symposium Space and Global Security of Humanity, in Yevpatoria, Crimea, September 3-6. Benjamin Deniston (above left), Jason Ross (right).

SPACE AND GLOBAL SECURITY CONFERENCE CALLS FOR COOPERATION

Two members of the LaRouche Political Action Committee (LaRouchePAC) "Basement" research team participated in the IGMASS-sponsored Fourth International Specialized Symposium Space and Global Security of Humanity, in Yevpatoria, Crimea, September 3-6. The conference brought together a variety of speakers from many countries, to discuss ongoing efforts to use space technologies and space science to serve a safety role for mankind. This included disaster forecasting (such as earthquakes), space threats (such as asteroids, comets, and solar storms), as well the organizational capability, both technical and political, to share such data for the well-being of all nations. The LaRouchePAC representatives, Jason Ross and Benjamin Deniston, brought a political urgency to the conference: they developed the potential for cooperation against space threats as a sound basis for international relations, the unique economic approach of Lyndon LaRouche for understanding the economic value of science, and the necessity to bring mankind to a higher energy-flux density "platform" to deal with space and economic requirements. A fuller report will appear in the next issue.