

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. Box 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

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EDITORIAL

The Sense of Humanity Is Growing: Go for a Break against the Escalation Towards War

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Consider what our situation is. Given the fact that we are on a trajectory towards war, this won't change until we force a break in the process, a stop to the confrontation, and a clear signal that there can be cooperation. Until this happens, the danger escalates.

That is the evaluation given today by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, leader of the Schiller Institute, who stressed that the role of the newly formed collaborative International Peace Coalition is crucial to create the momentum and likelihood for a break.

The escalation in the danger of war is seen in the events of the hour. The Kerch Strait bridge connecting Crimea to the Russian mainland was hit by explosions early this morning, stopping traffic on the roadway, killing a married couple and hurting their child. Repairs are underway, and return to full motorway use is projected for September. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said soon after the explosions: “Today’s attack on the Crimean Bridge was perpetrated by Kiev, which is a terrorist regime and has all the traits of an international organized crime group. Decisions are made by Ukrainian officials and the military with the direct involvement of the U.S. and British intelligence services and politicians. The United States and Britain are running this state-run terrorist entity.”

The military escalation continues following the July 11-12 NATO Summit in Lithuania. President Yoon Suk Yeol of South Korea, one of the four Pacific nations invited as guests of Global NATO, traveled to Poland after Vilnius, then to Ukraine, for a tour, meetings, and a joint press conference with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and now has committed to step up support—ostensibly more “lethal” than in 2022—for Ukraine against Russia.

From the U.S. side, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan went on two network TV programs yesterday defending what he called U.S. “moral authority” embodied in sending cluster bombs for use by Ukraine, offering the info-war narrative that Ukraine has the right to defend itself.

On the economic track of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, made a year ago July, Russia today terminated participation, after conditions were never met that had been agreed upon in 2022, and in subsequent extensions. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said today, “The Black Sea agreements are no longer in effect. The deadline, as the Russian President said earlier, is July 17. Unfortunately, the part of the Black Sea agreement that concerns Russia has not yet been fulfilled. As a result, it has been terminated. As soon as the Russian part [of the deal] is fulfilled, the Russian side will immediately return to the implementation of this deal.”

These updates make the point stated by Zepp-LaRouche, that the situation will keep escalating toward worsening danger of war, until we have a break. It is a call for us to escalate for that. She said, we need an “all-encompassing movement,” with no impediments from disagreements on lesser points. We have to stop this deadly confrontationism.

There is a growing sense of humanity toward doing this, occasioned in the U.S. especially, and elsewhere, over revulsion at President Biden’s approval of providing cluster bombs to Ukraine. The LaRouche Organization activists report a strong reaction from everyday Americans on the streets, when they are reminded, “We used to send engineers, now we send cluster bombs.”

Among key institutional developments, the peace emissary of Pope Francis, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, is in Washington, D.C. today through July 19. He will meet with President Biden tomorrow.

Also of note, leaders of the Global Majority from South America are resisting EU pressure to be in lockstep in support of Global NATO’s Ukraine proxy war against Russia. This is the preliminary report from day one of the two-day summit in Brussels of leaders of the EU and Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). One sign

of resistance is that an advance proposal to have Zelenskyy attend in person was squashed.

Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and rotating chair of CELAC, warned in his speech that the Ukraine war “continues to consume abundant resources and provokes the unnecessary shedding of blood, and the world economy also bleeds unnecessarily, as the war and combat provoke enormous pain and additional suffering to the poor in far off lands through the increase in the prices of food, oil and loans. Let there be constructive peace conversations, not unproductive posturing in search of imperial hegemony or domination.”

This is the time and the chance for humanity to break out of the doomsday option. Sign and circulate the “[Urgent Appeal by Citizens and Institutions from All Over the World to the \(Next\) President of the United States.](#)”

Plan how to make use of the new statement expected out within a few hours, from the International Peace Coalition/Humanity for Peace effort, on its four-point agreement on principles for peace, and its plans for fostering events around the world August 6, on the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, including the key [demonstration at the United Nations](#) in New York.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday July 18, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Attack on Kerch Strait Bridge Kills Two, Damages Roadway

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russians are calling the explosion on the bridge from Crimea to the Russian mainland a terrorist attack. Two civilians, a married couple, were killed in their car and their daughter was wounded, by an explosion on the roadway of the Kerch Strait bridge early

this morning Moscow time, according to Crimea Governor Sergei Aksyonov. The roadway was damaged, a section of the span at the 145th support column was knocked out of line, becoming impassable but remained on the supporting column. Vehicular traffic across the bridge was halted and train service delayed, though it appears that there was no damage to the rail span. Ferry service has resumed across the strait but so far is limited to passenger buses. Truck and other traffic is being rerouted overland through the Kherson region and the other new regions.

Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters at the Kremlin that President Vladimir Putin had been briefed on the consequences of the attack by Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin, FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov, Transportation Minister Vitaly Savelyev and Crimean Governor Sergey Aksyonov. “The Russian President issued instructions to make sure efforts are made to keep the traffic going toward Crimea, to provide help and assistance to people that are on the road,” Peskov said. He also noted that Putin ordered Khusnullin to go to the scene and personally take charge of repair efforts.

The Russian Investigative Committee issued a statement reporting that it has opened a criminal investigation based on the Russian criminal code. It said that “as a result of a terrorist act committed by the special services of Ukraine, one of the sections of the Crimean Bridge was damaged. Two civilians were killed (a man and a woman traveling in a car on the bridge), their minor daughter was injured.” Furthermore, “The investigation is identifying persons from among the Ukrainian special services and armed formations involved in the organization and execution of this crime.”

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova issued a statement implicating the U.S. and U.K. secret services. “Today’s attack on the Crimean Bridge was perpetrated by Kiev, which is a terrorist regime and has all the traits of an international organized crime group,” she said. “Decisions are made by Ukrainian officials and the military with the direct involvement of the U.S. and British intelligence services and politicians. The United States and Britain are running this state-run terrorist entity.”

The response so far by the Kiev regime appears to be one of smug satisfaction. Ukrinform cites the main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (GUR) recalling the words of its head Kyrylo Budanov that the Kerch Bridge is a redundant structure. The regime might do well to recall, as well, that Russia responded to the first attack on the Kerch Strait bridge, last October, by launching its campaign against Ukrainian electricity and transportation infrastructure.

Black Sea Grain Deal Terminated

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Black Sea Grain Initiative, originally negotiated to facilitate the safe export of both Ukrainian and Russian grain and fertilizer, expired today without renewal. “The Black Sea agreements are no longer in effect. The deadline, as the Russian President said earlier, is July 17. Unfortunately, the part of the Black Sea agreement that concerns Russia has not yet been fulfilled. As a result, it has been terminated,” Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters at the Kremlin today. “As soon as the Russian part [of the deal] is fulfilled, the Russian side will immediately return to the implementation of this deal.”

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova reported that Moscow has officially notified Turkiye, Ukraine, and the UN Secretariat, the other parties to the deal, of its objection to extending it. Russian officials, from President Vladimir Putin on down, have repeatedly pointed over the last few weeks, that the other parties to the deal never fulfilled its provisions for the export of Russian grain and fertilizers.

In a review of the grain deal since it went into effect a year ago, TASS noted that Ukraine exported more than 32.8 million tons of grain, one-third of which, 10.93 million tons, have been sent to Asia, and 12.37 million tons have gone to Western Europe. The largest importers during this period were China, Spain, Turkiye, as well as Italy and the Netherlands.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is still hopeful the deal can be salvaged however. “Despite the statement today, I believe that Russian President Putin wants this humanitarian bridge to continue,” he told reporters before departing on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, reported

Turkiye's official Anadolu Agency. Erdogan said Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov will discuss the deal over the phone, expressing hope that it will continue "without interruption." He added: "Besides, we may take steps via a phone call with Putin without waiting for August."

Erdogan still expects Putin to visit Turkiye in August to discuss bilateral and regional issues. "We will also consult (with each other) on how we can act to pave the way for the shipment of Russian grain and fertilizer," he said.

Is NATO De-Clustering on Cluster Bombs?

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—On July 9, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said she is against the supplying of cluster bombs to Ukraine. "Italy adheres to the International Convention Prohibiting the Production, Transfer and Stockpiling of Cluster Munitions. Within the framework of the expressed values of the Atlantic Alliance, Italy calls for the universal application of the principles of the Convention," Meloni said, adding that the Italian government reiterates its total condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Significantly, Med-Or Foundation head and former Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti also came out on the issue. That institution is representative of the Italian military-industrial complex, as it is owned by Leonardo-Finmeccanica defense producer. Members of its international board are from the global liberal establishment, such as Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal, John Negroponte, Sigmar Gabriel or Sir Alex Younger (former Chief of MI6).

"Cluster bombs? If I were part of the Ukrainian leadership, I would think about it before using them because the dramatic problem is what is left on the ground," Minniti said to La7 national private channel.

"Reclamation in the reconstruction phase of Ukraine would become very difficult, it would take up to 20 years to do it. And the reconstruction is really up to the Ukrainian leadership, so having fewer structural impediments would be an advantage for them as well."

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

At EU-CELAC Summit, Latin American and Caribbean Nations Demand Peace for Development

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—At the two-day summit that began in Brussels today among the 28 nations of the European Union and the 33 nations of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), EU leaders hoped to produce a final communiqué with a unified statement condemning Russia’s war in Ukraine. Negotiations went on until late in the evening today without producing a communiqué with which all could agree. Here’s why. Look at what some Ibero-American and Caribbean leaders had to say about the need for peace. There’s a reason why the Ukrainian President couldn’t be invited to the summit (see separate slug).

In his opening speech, Brazilian President Lula da Silva pointed out that the current model of global governance doesn’t work; it “perpetuates asymmetries, increases instability and reduces opportunities for developing countries.... The war in Ukraine is one more confirmation that the UN Security Council doesn’t respond to the current challenges for peace and security. Its own members don’t respect the UN Charter.... Brazil supports the initiatives promoted by different countries and regions in favor of an immediate cessation of hostilities and a negotiated peace [in Ukraine]. Resorting to sanctions and blockades without the backing of international law serves only to punish the most vulnerable populations. We need peace to overcome the great challenges before us and this implies profound systemic changes. Dividing the world into antagonistic blocs is irrational. It is urgent to reform global governance....”

Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and rotating chair of CELAC, warned in his speech that the Ukraine war “continues to consume abundant resources and provokes the unnecessary shedding of blood, and the world economy also bleeds unnecessarily, as the war and combat provoke enormous pain and additional suffering to the poor in far off lands through the increase in the prices of food, oil and loans. Let there be constructive peace conversations, not unproductive

posturing in search of imperial hegemony or domination.” Gonsalves also pointed out that there are many more conflicts beyond Ukraine that are devastating their peoples—Haiti, the Palestinians, different parts of Africa, the Mideast and Asia—they also face immediate challenges, he said, and questioned the “disproportionate” attention paid to Ukraine, although he said that peace there is urgent.

Honduran President Xiomara Castro, who will be the next chair of CELAC, warned in her speech that the war in Ukraine “must come to an end. The European Union and CELAC are obliged to find a way to obtain peace. We cannot live with the nightmare that any day hell may be unleashed on us all. Billions of dollars in weapons are sent to war, yet we aren’t capable of building a comprehensive development for humanity.” Castro called on the summit to approve a resolution demanding an end to the 60-year-old blockade of Cuba. “We have to end the piracy and confiscation of goods, because we’re all vulnerable to one day finding out that our reserves have been frozen in foreign banks.”

EU Snubs Zelenskyy Over EU-CELAC Meeting in Brussels

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—A Spanish media outlet reports that EU officials have agreed to not invite Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the meeting between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) that begins today in Brussels. In its article today, Barcelona-based daily *La Vanguardia* cited anonymous European diplomats as claiming that European Council President Charles Michel had decided it would be “better not to invite” Zelenskyy to the EU-CELAC meeting.

At the end of June, Zelenskyy had said during an interview that he had been invited to attend the July 17-18 EU-CELAC meeting by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, “but some Latin American leaders blocked the invitation.” The invitation for Zelenskyy to attend the meeting in Brussels had also then provocatively been made by Uruguay’s neoliberal President Luis Lacalle Pou at the July 4-5 Common Market of the South

(Mercosur) meeting in Argentina. Lacalle Pou's proposal was firmly rejected by many of the leaders present.

During the Mercosur meeting, the leaders of Latin American and Caribbean countries had also received a draft treaty for the final declaration of the EU-CELAC meeting, and had instead submitted a counter-proposal for the declaration that removed all references to Ukraine, according to TASS.

Ethiopia Delays the Next Round of Filling the Renaissance Dam

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—During a session on July 7 at the Ethiopian House of Representatives, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that Ethiopia will delay the next round of filling the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The fourth filling of the major hydroelectric dam on the Nile River was scheduled for early August, but is now postponed until September. Abiy said: “This year’s filling will be done differently from the previous three rounds by carrying out the filling in such a way as to alleviate the concerns of the neighboring people.” Abiy affirmed that his decision was based on the effort to foster regional cooperation and maintain positive relations with its neighbors. His decision should be seen in the context of regional discussion surrounding the crisis in Sudan.

AP reports that on July 13, Ethiopia and Egypt announced that they aim to finalize within four months an agreement on the operations of Africa’s largest dam. The joint statement on “expedited negotiations,” issued by Ethiopia’s government, came after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed discussed the dam with Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, on the sidelines of a regional meeting about the conflict in neighboring Sudan. While the new statement does not describe the foreseen agreement as a legally binding one, which Egypt and Sudan have sought, it is nonetheless a useful step forward.

Iraqi Prime Minister Meets President Assad in Damascus

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad welcomed Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani to Damascus yesterday. Al-

Sudani was making the first visit of an Iraqi prime minister to Damascus since 2011. The two discussed a range of issues including the security of their shared 600km border and mitigating the impact of drought, reported Middle East Eye news site. They also agreed to enhance cooperation to reduce drug smuggling.

“I welcome the Iraqi Prime Minister on this visit, the importance of which comes from the nature of the deep relationship between the two brotherly peoples,” said Assad, speaking at their joint press conference. “This visit is important to take practical steps to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in light of international circumstances and common challenges, especially the fight against terrorism.”

According to TASS, Assad stressed “the importance of the Syrian and Iraqi armies’ cooperation in maintaining stability and security in border areas,” during the press conference. “Prime Minister al-Sudani’s visit will help make a qualitative leap in bilateral relations, taking into account positive changes that are going on in the inter-Arab arena.”

The Iraqi Prime Minister, in turn, pledged that his country will do its best to have Syria being relieved from the unfair economic sanctions. “Iraq will not leave Syria and will help it cope with the dangerous challenges,” he said. “Syria must take a proper place in the region. All nations will benefit from this.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Peace Envoy, Cardinal Zuppi, Is in Washington to Meet with Biden et al.

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Holy See’s Press Office reported today that Pope Francis’s special peace envoy Cardinal Matteo Zuppi is in Washington for a three-day visit over July 17-19, and will be meeting with President Joe Biden at the White House tomorrow. According to the statement released by the Holy See Press office, his visit “takes place in the context of the peace promotion mission in Ukraine and aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and opinions regarding the current tragic situation as

well as to provide support for humanitarian initiatives aimed at alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable people, particularly children.”

As part of his peace mission, Cardinal Zuppi, who is president of the Italian Bishops’ Conference, visited Kiev on June 5-6, where he met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and then Moscow June 28-30, where he met with presidential aide Yuri Ushakov, Maria Lvova Belova, Children’s Rights Commissioner for President Putin, and Patriarch Kirill, Russian Orthodox Church Primate of Moscow and All Russia.

In Washington, aside from President Biden, Cardinal Zuppi’s other meetings have not been made public. Not surprisingly, the [White House statement](#) on the Cardinal’s visit says he is coming to discuss “the widespread suffering caused by Russia’s brutal war in Ukraine. They will also discuss efforts by the United States and Holy See to provide humanitarian aid to those affected, and the Papal See’s focus on repatriating Ukrainian children forcibly deported by Russian officials.”

The [Catholic News Agency](#) notes today that the Biden administration’s latest package of military aid to Ukraine, which includes sending cluster bombs, drew sharp criticism from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), as well as from the Catholic Bishops’ Conferences of other nations. After the cluster bomb announcement was made, Bishop David Malloy, head of USCCB’s International Justice and Peace Commission, announced that U.S. Bishops have long urged the U.S. government to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Bombs. He wrote: “Pope Francis has addressed the conventions on antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions, exhorting all countries to commit to these conventions ‘so that there are no more mine victims.’ ”

Kiev Regime’s Gerashchenko Responds to Elon Musk’s Criticism of Cluster Munitions

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a series of tweets on July 15, Elon Musk condemned the Biden Administration for sending cluster munitions to Ukraine and accused it of hypocrisy.

“America has always condemned as evil those who use cluster bombs, but now we send them to be used? No good will come of this. Fate loves irony, but hates hypocrisy.”

Half an hour later, Musk then twisted the knife with this tweet:

“I want the best outcome for the people. Russia has at least 4 times the artillery of Ukraine and 10 times the ammunition. We have run out of normal ammunition to send Ukraine, so now send them cluster bombs in desperation, debasing ourselves with no change to the outcome.”

In a case of massive projection, leading Nazi enthusiast and founder of the Myrotvorets kill list, [Anton Gerashchenko](#) responded with this tweet:

“The thing is, Mr. Musk, that Ukrainians have no good options here. If we give up and stop fighting, it will not save our lives. Russia will turn the whole Ukraine into one large concentration camp, killing, looting and raping—we’ve seen that on each piece of territory, we de-occupied.”

The Manchin Candidate

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—The senior Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin (D), and former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman (R) will be the keynote speakers at tonight’s “Common Sense” town hall at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire. The event is sponsored by the organization called “No Labels,” which has been pushing the idea of a “unity ticket” as a third option in the presidential race. *The Hill* reports that Democrats are worried that Manchin could draw votes away from Biden in the event of a Trump-Biden rematch for 2024, but are also worried that a presidential bid by Manchin could hand his Senate seat to a Republican—Jim Justice, the current Governor of West Virginia who is vying for Manchin’s seat.

However real those concerns may be about Manchin, there are undoubtedly concerns about the fact that an increasing majority of Americans are rejecting the uniparty machine controlled by the City of London and Wall Street, which is hellbent on World War III. Support for Donald Trump and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. are increasing, in no small part because they have publicly opposed the war in Ukraine. As Seymour Hersh

recently reported from his “well-placed” sources, Biden and his controllers fear that a Trump-Kennedy “unity ticket” would create a landslide victory too large to overcome (or steal).

Whatever political games may be afoot by the uniparty machine, “No Labels” will undoubtedly play its assigned role, as it was founded by former Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT). Lieberman was bosom buddies with the deceased arch-warhawk neocon John McCain, and the two flirted with their own version of a unity ticket as early as 2002 for the 2004 election.

[Lyndon LaRouche](#) had deployed his political movement at the time to shut down the McCain-Lieberman “Bull-Moose” ticket, in order to prevent their launching a “clash of civilizations war,” as he said at that time.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

New Survey Shows German Mittelstand Deindustrializing, Seeking To Go Abroad, or Selling Out

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—A newly released survey by the Federal Association of Mittelstand Companies (BVMW) shows a dramatic trend: 26% of all enterprises in this sector consider selling out or downscaling production; another 22% think about shifting production to countries abroad.

The prime cause of this deindustrialization is too many bureaucratic regulations (a good part of those being green ones), as cited by one third of companies. A quarter of companies sees high taxes (also here, greenie regulations play a role) as a leading cause. Another quarter complains about the lack of qualified workers.

“The results of our survey are more than just a warning signal,” the association’s chairman Markus Jerger said. The survey is based on interviews with 1,200 enterprises during the July 6-13 week.

Zepp-LaRouche against ‘De-Risking’ or ‘Decoupling’ from China in Xinhua Interview

July 17, 2023 (EIRNS)—An article in Xinhua, datelined Berlin July 17, carries the headline, “[German Expert Warns Against ‘De-Risking’ or ‘Decoupling’ from China](#),” and carries the views of Schiller Institute leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche, from a recent exclusive interview. She states. “There is no risk coming from China. China is one of the most reliable trade partners and economic partners.” In fact, regarding decoupling, “Economically, it’s completely suicidal because the German economy and the Chinese economy are so intertwined.” Decouple, and it will cause the collapse of the German economy.