

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **LaRouche, Rapallo, and the ‘Long Arc’ of Universal History**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Today marks the 100th anniversary of the Rapallo Treaty, an act of reconciliation that sought to heal, like the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, the post-World War I “irreconcilable rift” between Russia and Germany. The Rapallo Agreement signed April 16 1922 by Georgy Chicherin (Russia) and Walther Rathenau (Germany) stipulated that Germany and Russia canceled all financial obligations between the two

adversary nations. Rapallo was done in such a way as to provide Germany an economic means to regain its identity as a sovereign nation state, out from under the murderous “reparations international” of the Versailles Treaty. Rather than be merely looted for coal, potash, sugar and other commodities, as a young Hjalmar Schacht, who was later to become finance minister of Nazi Germany, had proposed to John Foster Dulles in a letter dated March 20, 1922 (less than one month earlier), Foreign Minister Rathenau’s Germany would conclude a treaty to deploy its productive powers in conjunction with Russia’s newly-formed Soviet state. That state, just emerging from an unconsolidated revolution, a civil war, and withering famine, had been isolated by the world diplomatic community and was desperately in need of industrialization, especially nationwide electrification, something that Walther Rathenau’s father, Emil Rathenau, an early collaborator of Thomas Edison who had built AEG into the largest power company in the world, had helped prepare his son to well understand. Three months after the happy consummation of the Rapallo treaty, Foreign Minister Rathenau, not only an industrialist, physicist and engineer, but an artist, musician and writer as well, was assassinated on June 24, the treaty scuttled, and the world plunged into hell as a result. Perhaps the deaths of over 60 million people in the Second World War would not have occurred had Rapallo succeeded. The effort we are embarked on now for a new security and development architecture is as important to history; the consequences of failure, far more dire.

While it may be true that “on such a full sea are we now also afloat,” the standpoint from which we should approach this mission has to be with the intellectual optimism required to propose solutions designed for the durable survival of mankind. This method was well described by Lyndon LaRouche in his September, 2000 article, “[Jesus Christ and Civilization](#):” “Consider the fact that history, as we presently know it, has been dominated by cycles of collapse and, sometimes, at best, recovery. Therefore, how might we be assured, now, that even if we were to rescue humanity from the effects of the presently onrushing global financial and monetary collapse, by the measures which I have proposed, that our thus-revived civilization will not

begin to slide back, a generation or two later, into a new round of collapse, a collapse perhaps even worse than that which menaces us at the present moment...? Is it possible, that even the mastering of the immediate financial crisis, requires that we must also act now to overcome the more distant threat of a new dark age? In other words, although I have shown how the world could recover from the presently onrushing global financial collapse, perhaps the world will not adopt that option I have given it. Is there, then, some deeper, longer-range sickness within the world's presently leading institutions, which, as seems probable at this moment, would prevent the world from accepting such a workable, near-term recovery program?

“...I shall leave it to your conscience, to estimate, whether or not even the bare, presently continued existence of our civilization, depends upon our solving that worrying, longer-term challenge. This would mean, that, at the least, we would adopt an efficiently conscious commitment to solving it, to a significant degree, over the course of a generation or more immediately ahead.”

### **Neptune Provides a Guide for the Self-Perplexed**

An unexpected present was provided to the world this Holy week (in which the seasons of Ramadan, Passover and Easter coincide) that provides a momentary respite from the trapped discussions about geopolitics and military strategy that show no way out, and conclude only in civilization-dooming tragedy. News from the outer regions of our solar system has just intervened, in the form of an astronomical report regarding the planet Neptune released earlier this week. That planet merrily calls into question the self-destructive “science” axioms of those caught in an otherwise-inescapable conceptual trap “down there” in the lower circular orbit of the doomed trans-Atlantic “Anglosphere.”

Neptune had already made things irritatingly difficult some 30 years ago, when the Voyager spacecraft in 1989 recorded temperatures that demonstrated that it was *warmer* than its closest neighbor, Uranus, despite the fact that Neptune is over a billion miles *more distant* from the Sun than Uranus, and should therefore have recorded cooler temperatures. Now,

recent observations have demonstrated that, halfway through its 40-year-long summer season, which began in 2005, Neptune's southern hemisphere had gotten *cooler* by 8° Celsius, or 14° Fahrenheit, between 2003 and 2018. That's like the temperature cooling in an "Earth summer" between late June and the first week of August. But wait!—There's more. In that same hemisphere, and in a period of only the next two years, 2018-2020, Neptune's South Pole temperatures *rose* by 11° Celsius, or 19.2° Fahrenheit. Delightful!

While fools and enraged textbook writers will attempt to say that this has no implications for anything going on on the Earth, what accounts for this? How, for example, might the changes be related to solar activity? How might these new observations compare with other anomalies on other planets or their satellites over the same two-decade period? What happened on Neptune has implications for Earth precisely because it has just changed our ideas of the possible, whether we admit it or not, and of what must be considered to be "scientific certainty" on matters of astronomy, including climate, which some will be dismayed to learn is also astronomy, not "political science."

Physical economy, however, does allow for a higher order resolution of apparently insoluble international problems. Just when it might have appeared that the arbitrary, capricious and ultimately self-destructive power—otherwise termed "the rule of law"—wielded by the Anglosphere against Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, and, indeed Ukraine as well, might only be checked by risking thermonuclear war, the ideas of and actions by this association, for example in the deliberative process expressed in the April 9 Schiller Institute [Conference for a New Security and Development Architecture for All Nations](#), have now become an essential part of the international strategic discussion. The role of the Southwest Asia segment of our "The New Silk Road Becomes The World Land-Bridge" proposal" was highlighted in Beijing this past week, in the immediate aftermath of that conference, by [Hussein Askary](#)'s presentation at the recent conference, China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Connectivity and Cooperation Under the Perspective of "Belt and Road," keynoted by Yue

Xiaoyong, Ambassador and Special Envoy for Afghan Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in China.

Even as Russia warned the United States that the escalated arming of Ukraine could cause incalculable consequences, and Medvedev stated that if Finland and Sweden joined NATO that Russian nuclear and hypersonic missiles would be deployed to Kaliningrad, the chancellor of Austria met with Putin and established the means whereby that nation will continue to receive gas, paying Russia in Euros, rather than rubles. Sanity can still prevail. And while many have nervously commented about Joe Biden's latest "sight-gaffe" at the conclusion of his 40 minute-"policy-statement" at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College—where he attempted to shake hands with someone that wasn't there—it would be well to worry far more about the fact that, when it comes to a knowable durable future, without the work of the Schiller Institute and The LaRouche Organization, the trans-Atlantic world is as empty-handed as Joe Biden was at the conclusion of his speech.

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Monday April 18, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## SECURITY & DEVELOPMENT ARCHITECTURE

### **As BRICS Sherpas' Meeting Concludes, World Instability Requires Their Strategic Partnership**

April 15 (EIRNS)—The BRICS nations concluded their virtual **Second BRICS Sherpas' Meeting 2022** yesterday, chaired by China. The chairman, Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu, referred to the BRICS as "representatives of emerging markets and developing countries," calling for the five of nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa—to "walk the walk, deepen their strategic partnership, act as a stabilizer for international and regional situation and an accelerator for development, contribute BRICS' solution to safeguarding fairness and justice, inject

BRICS’ strength into the stability of the global market, build a BRICS defense line for jointly fighting the pandemic, and provide BRICS momentum for international development and cooperation. All parties stressed that the world is facing multiple challenges such as the raging pandemic, shaky economic recovery, and the Ukraine crisis. BRICS countries should further strengthen solidarity and coordination....”

Today, Sputnik International reported that Russia, which was represented at the meeting by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, “has expressed confidence that BRICS will be at the heart of a new world order which is emerging due to the West’s attempts to isolate Moscow by imposing unilateral economic sanctions.” The BRICS had “expressed concern about the ‘serious impacts’ of ‘unilateral sanctions’ against Russia on the post-COVID global economic recovery. The five countries have also raised apprehensions about the impacts of the sanctions on the ‘stability’ of industrial and supply chains, energy, and food security.... It also underlined that ‘great importance’ must be accorded to the concerns of developing countries to make sure that their people’s livelihoods aren’t affected because of the economic sanctions.”

Sputnik continued: “The five delegations also stated at the meeting that they were ‘highly concerned’ about the current situation in Ukraine, as they backed a ‘continued dialogue’ between Moscow and Kyiv to seek a ‘comprehensive solution’ to the conflict.” Then Sputnik quoted the BRICS’ statement: “The BRICS countries expressed their support for multilateralism, adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and respect for the legitimate security concerns of all countries....”

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **A Simon Wiesenthal Center Director Calls Out Canada for Training Neo-Nazis**

April 15 (EIRNS)—It didn’t use to be notable for a Jewish activist against Nazi genocide to raise their voice. However, unfortunately, it was quite refreshing today when Efraim Zuroff, the director of the Simon Wiesenthal

Center in Israel actually called out Canada's government for training neo-Nazi fighters in Ukraine. He dared to assert that Ottawa has a responsibility to prevent such things from happening. Zuroff told the *Ottawa Citizen*: "The Canadian government has not paid due attention." Almost every Jewish organization warned about and condemned Ukraine's neo-Nazi formations—until falling silent recently. Zuroff in this context is to be commended for his courage and honesty.

The Canadian military, not untypically, has adopted the "reckless disregard" theory, that they have no obligation to screen participants in their training program. In 2020, Radio Canada reported that Canadian troops trained members of the Azov Brigade. "This is far from Russian propaganda," Zuroff told the *Ottawa Citizen*. "These people are neo-Nazis. There is an element of the ultra-right in Ukraine, and it is absurd to ignore it." Canada has spent \$794 million to train Ukrainian troops since the 2014 coup. It is no secret that at the front of the line have been the Azov, Aidar and Right Sector groups—all worshippers of Hitler's Ukrainian colleague, Stepan Bandera.

If "Holocaust-deniers" are a threat to society, due to the danger of not properly learning from history, then what should one say about "Nazi-killer-deniers"—that is, looking the other way over the last eight years as the various neo-Nazi militias murdered over 4,000 civilians in the Donbas?

### **CIA Director Says CIA Not Seeing Evidence of Russian Preparation To Use Nuclear Weapons in Ukraine**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Yesterday, CIA Director William Burns, in a speech delivered at Georgia Tech, claimed that the threat of Russia potentially using tactical or low-yield nuclear weapons in Ukraine cannot be taken lightly, but the CIA has not seen a lot of practical evidence reinforcing that concern. He spoke of the "potential desperation" and setbacks dealt Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose forces have suffered heavy losses and have been forced to retreat from some parts of northern Ukraine after failing to capture Kyiv, reported Reuters. For those reasons, "none of us can take lightly the threat posed by a potential resort to tactical nuclear

weapons or low-yield nuclear weapons,” Burns said. Despite “rhetorical posturing” by the Kremlin about putting the world’s largest nuclear arsenal on high alert, “We haven’t seen a lot of practical evidence of the kind of deployments or military dispositions that would reinforce that concern.”

Otherwise, Burns’s speech, his first public speech as director of the CIA, betrayed a loyalty to the unipolar world order couched as a commitment to freedom, democracy and the truth against the authoritarian Russia and China. Burns paid lip service to the principle that intelligence should never be politicized, but then proceeded to demonstrate how politicized U.S. intelligence is regarding Russia.

Putin “is firmly convinced that the West, especially the United States, took advantage of Russia’s historical weakness in the 1990s,” Burns claimed, without mentioning the documentation in the public record, showing that, in fact, NATO and the U.S. lied to Moscow in the early 1990s about its expansion plans. “Neither Putin nor many of those around him could imagine Russia as a major power without a deferential Ukraine, a Ukraine whose external choices were controlled by the Kremlin,” he went on. “I have learned over the years never to underestimate Putin’s relentless determination, especially on Ukraine.”

Burns noted that, as directed by President Biden, he traveled to Moscow “to convey directly to Putin and several of his closest advisors the depth of our concern about his planning for war and the consequences for Russia of attempting to execute that plan. I was troubled by what I heard.” He did not acknowledge, at all, that Russia had security concerns of its own, regarding NATO’s push against Russia’s borders and its relationship to Ukraine. Burns’s remarks on Russia were totally in sync with the Biden Administration’s geopolitical narrative of an aggressive Russia carrying out a brutal war in Ukraine, and of a courageous Ukrainian President Zelenskyy fighting back in defense of Ukrainian sovereignty.

### **U.S. Congressional Provocateurs Threaten China from Taiwan**

April 15 (EIRNS)—A U.S. Congressional delegation, led by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ), used its

“unannounced” visit to Taiwan April 14-15, to issue threats to mainland China for “bullying” Taiwan and for supporting Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine. The Chinese Foreign Ministry harshly denounced the provocative trip as a violation of the One China policy, while the People’s Liberation Army today carried out air and naval training maneuvers near Taiwan, responding to what it said were “wrong signals” from the U.S. The spokesman for the Eastern Theater Command, Shi Yi, warned that the military would remain on high alert “to safeguard national security and regional peace,” Bloomberg reported today.

Prior to arriving in Taiwan, the delegation, which also included Republican Senators Robert Burr (VA), Ben Sasse (NE) and Rob Portman (OH), had visited Australia and Japan, where according to Yahoo News, Graham and Menendez told Sky News they were pushing for a greater U.S. military presence in Australia and warned of the dangers of the Solomon Islands falling under Chinese control, should they allow China to build a military base there. But in a meeting with Taiwan’s “president” Tsai Ing-wen today, Graham really let loose, vowing that “we are going to start making China pay a greater price for what they are doing all over the world. The support for Putin must come with a price. The never-ending cyberattack on your economy and people by the Communist Chinese needs to come with a price.”

At yesterday’s [Chinese Foreign Ministry briefing](#), spokesman Zhao Lijian warned that U.S. Congressmen “should act consistent with the U.S. government’s one-China policy ... abide by the one-China principle and the stipulations of the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, stop official exchanges with Taiwan and avoid going further down the dangerous path.” More pointedly, he warned today that “the current situation across the Taiwan Strait faces a new round of tension. ... The U.S. and Taiwan have colluded with each other, and certain individuals deliberately draw parallel between Taiwan and Ukraine despite [the fact that] they are two fundamentally different issues. Their aim is to mislead the public and profit from that. It is such a move of playing with fire that would change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait.”

Be warned, Zhao said. “The Taiwan question is a legacy of the Chinese civil war. China must and will be reunified. We will strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity and efforts. That being said, we reserve the option of taking all necessary measures in response to the interference of foreign forces and the secessionist activities of a handful of ‘Taiwan independence’ separatists.”

### **Kremlin Backs Off from Nuclear Threat Against Sweden and Finland**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov stepped back from the nuclear threat issued by Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev yesterday following the April 13 statements made by the prime ministers of Finland and Sweden in Stockholm. “I can say nothing in this regard, because only after a plan of our enhancement of the western borders is drafted. It will contain a number of measures and all necessary steps to be taken,” Peskov told journalists, reported TASS. “It will be considered at a separate presidential session, just like Putin said himself previously.”

Medvedev had said a few hours earlier that should Sweden and Finland join NATO, Russia would no longer adhere to the non-nuclear status of the Baltic region. (See “Finland and Sweden To Apply for NATO Membership, Maybe by June,” *EIR Daily Alert* for April 15, 2022.)

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko warned separately that should the two countries join the alliance, Russia will take military measures in response. “It is clear that our border with Finland is 1,300 km long. This will mean a radical change in the military and political situation and it is understandable that we will be forced to take security and defense measures that we will deem necessary,” he told TASS.

“In the current conditions, I am not ready to say whether this is real or not” referring to the accession of Sweden and Finland to NATO, Grushko continued, replying to a corresponding question. “For decades, the neutral status of these states had ensured a very high level of their security and generally the security in that region that had been a region of peace and cooperation and, importantly, a very reliable platform for building good

neighborly relations with us,” he said. Grushko further said that while Russia still maintains diplomatic contacts with both Finland and Sweden, they both “have joined the sanctions and are participating in the anti-Russia campaign unleashed in the West. This is today’s reality.”

## **CIA Chief Declares China the Greatest Threat, Reorganizes Agency To Focus on China Worldwide**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Any tendency to consider CIA Chief William Burns as a moderating force within the Biden Administration’s war party was dispelled by his speech at Georgia Tech on April 14. Besides his war-mongering against Russia, Burns declared China to be “our greatest challenge, in many ways the most profound test the CIA has ever faced.” He announced a major reorganization of the CIA to meet the “threat posed by the Communist Party of China,” which includes: the establishment in February of a new “mission center,” the first dedicated to a single country; a “rapidly increasing budget” for countering China; and “expanding operations overseas, not just in Asia, but worldwide.”

Burns declared that China “seeks to overtake us in literally every domain, from economic strength to military power and from space to cyberspace.” He gave some parameters of China’s rise, whining that it is now “a leader in AI, 5G, drones, hypersonics and web applications.”

Giving lip service to the idea that the U.S. is not trying to stop China’s rise, he then retailed every wild lie that has been spread by the Anglo-American intelligence agencies to do exactly that: China detains 1 million citizens “only because they are Muslims,” while China locked up thousands in Hong Kong for “peacefully supporting democracy” (perhaps Mr. Burns slept through the destruction and arson by the CIA- and NED-trained and financed “peaceful” demonstrations in 2019). And of course China’s evil debt trap: “It has lured countless countries into crushing debt, data exposure and democratic backsliding,” and is “intent on bullying its neighbors” and “replacing the U.S. as the preeminent power in the Asia Pacific,” undermining the “rules-based order that we and our allies have worked so hard to sustain.”

## **TASS Takes On Germany and France for Their Slavish Subservience**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Two Russian analysts, specializing in the European political situation, were presented in TASS today, both quite struck by the singular and rude treatment by Ukraine’s Zelenskyy of Germany’s President Steinmeier. Earlier this week, Ukraine took exception to Germany’s President being part of a delegation to Ukraine. Of note, in Ukraine, Steinmeier’s name is intimately associated with the much-despised Minsk Accords, sometimes called the “Steinmeier Formula.”

Vladimir Zharaikhin, a deputy director at the Institute of the CIS Countries, offered that the Steinmeier disinvite was done in a particularly disrespectful fashion because Zelenskyy perceives European countries, even major ones such as Germany and France, as mere U.S. satellites, just like his own country is at the moment. He believes that they have no choice. Further, they will take their chastisement sheepishly. Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who was invited in Steinmeier’s place “will come anyway: If Washington commands him to come, he will come.” This is an example of “how low the former great European powers fell.”

Kirill Koktysh, an assistant professor at the political studies department at Moscow State University of Foreign Affairs, went further. The insult to Germany was highlighted, as it came right in the wake of the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s trip to Kyiv. “Britain demonstrated that Kyiv is in essence its fiefdom, and Britain sets the rules of the game, and all the money spent by Germany plays no role. In diplomatic parlance everything is clear. That means ‘Germany should know its place.’ ” Koktysh put it on the level of the treatment of France in the AUKUS affair. “This is a second humiliation. Europe again has been shown its lack of identity and has accepted it one way or another.”

## **COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

### **Austria Gets Russian Natural Gas; Italy Looking for Gas Elsewhere**

April 15 (EIRNS)—Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer’s meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin—the first for an EU head of government

in over six weeks—resulted in an arrangement whereby Austria would be able to pay Russia for its gas in euros, and not in rubles. Even though Austria supports EU sanctions against Russia, Austria is that rare bird, a non-NATO European country, trying to maintain a neutral status. Austria never joined in on the weaponization of Ukraine. Since Austria imports 80% of its gas from Russia, Putin certainly could have exerted leverage, but evidently a certain modicum of cooperation was preserved.

In contrast, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio took the position that Russia's arrangement for "hostile countries" to pay for natural gas in rubles was simply not possible. In an interview with Italy's Radio 24, he explained: "We cannot pay in rubles. Russia introduced a double billing scheme from euro to rubles, this is impossible as it would mean bypassing sanctions against the [Russian] central bank." According to RT, Di Maio assured listeners that the Italian government is currently working on new channels for supplies of natural gas. The Prime Minister Mario Draghi had already visited Algeria, and was planning to negotiate on extra supplies from Angola and Congo in the near future. Then he appeared to undermine his own assurance: "We need to diversify the supplies, we haven't done it yet, but we have to." It should be a warning to Italians to know that it could have been worse; at least the foreign minister recognized that they needed to find more energy.

## SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Neptune's Weather Disagrees With the Greenies

April 15 (EIRNS)—Recent changes in Neptune's summer weather patterns have puzzled scientists—it's cooling down, when it normally would be warming. Neptune is around 30 times farther away from the Sun than Earth is—about 2.8 billion miles—and since the demotion of Pluto to a "dwarf planet," Neptune is the most distant planet in our Solar System. Just like every other planet that has a tilt in its axis relative to the plane of its orbit, it experiences seasons, and since it takes about 165 years to orbit the Sun, each season lasts about 40 years; Neptune's summer began around 2005.

In a study published in April 11, 2022 in the *Planetary Science Journal*, researchers reported that during its summer, Neptune's southern hemisphere has been dramatically cooling down.

[Live Science website](#) reported that in this study, “researchers compiled infrared images of Neptune taken by a variety of ground and space-based telescopes between 2003 and 2020. The team initially expected that temperatures in Neptune's southern hemisphere would increase as it entered summer. However, the images revealed that atmospheric temperatures in the southern hemisphere had dropped by 14.4° F (8° C) between 2003 and 2018.

“Moreover, in the last two years of the study, temperatures around Neptune's south pole rose by 19.8° F (11° C) between 2018 and 2020. The researchers were puzzled by rapid and intense temperature change and cannot explain why this hotspot is bucking the overall trend in the southern hemisphere...

“This is not the first time that Neptune's atmospheric temperatures have perplexed scientists. In 1989, NASA's Voyager 2 probe passed by Uranus and Neptune on its way out of the Solar System and found that Neptune was warmer than its closest neighbor despite being farther away from the Sun. Scientists have since discovered that this is likely due to gravitational differences between the two planets.”

The study speculates on what could account for the current changes, including the 11-year solar cycle, in which the magnetic poles of the Sun flip, causing a cycle of the number of sunspots and subsequent changes in solar radiation and the solar wind. The current Solar Cycle 25 began roughly in late 2020, and the number of sunspots is gradually increasing, affecting space weather, and low-orbit satellites, whose working lifetimes are impacted by increased radiation.

Lead author Michael Roman, an astronomer at the U.K. University of Leicester, stated that “I think Neptune is itself very intriguing to many of us because we still know so little about it. This all points towards a more complicated picture of Neptune's atmosphere and how it changes with

time.” And, the same could be said for Earth’s dynamic atmosphere, weather and climate. Neptune’s atmosphere is about 80% hydrogen, 18.5% helium and 1.5% methane; whereas, Earth’s atmosphere is 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, .9% argon, and the remainder is a mix of other gasses.

## UKRAINE WAR & SANCTIONS

### **Trials of Ukrainian Mercenaries and Crushing the Azov Neo-Nazis**

April 15 (EIRNS)—As the Azov Battalion’s grip over Mariupol crumbles, the Russian goal of denazification remains front and center. Evidently, some military personnel of NATO countries have been captured, assumedly mercenaries. Russian Sen. Andrey Klimov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Foreign Affairs, and head of the Council’s Commission for the Protection of State Sovereignty, remarked today that the West “continues its war [against Russia] with the hands of Ukrainians, as well as mercenaries.... We already have NATO-country military personnel among our prisoners; we will show all this when we conduct trials, and the whole world will see what really happened.” Klimov is in a position to know the plans.

From the Kremlin today, spokesman Dmitry Peskov was more chilling. He assured one and all that there is no doubt that all tasks of Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine will be fulfilled. Peskov declared: “The main task is to liberate [Ukraine] from these nationalist battalions after all. The operation continues and the tasks that have been set are well known. They must and will be accomplished. There must be no doubts about that,” TASS quoted him as saying. Then he made clear what that meant: That “peaceful life is returning where nationalist battalions do not take civilians hostage and where these nationalist battalions do not open fire on social facilities and houses. However, in those places where nationalist battalions are engaged in what I spoke about, there is fierce struggle and all of them must be eliminated there.”