

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Their ‘October Surprise,’ and Ours

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian today revealed that representatives of the U.S. and Chinese militaries are currently holding a virtual meeting for crisis communication, and that Secretary of Defense Mark Esper had recently told his Chinese counterpart that “the U.S. has no intention to create a military crisis with China.” Not so others in Washington, a *Global Times* article reporting on Wu’s statements emphasized: “Some officials in the Trump Administration want to create an ‘October surprise’ by using U.S.-China tensions.”

Such an “October surprise” in the form of direct military action against China, as some are calling for, would bring the world to the brink of nuclear war within days or even hours. That is a policy consistent with overall British geopolitical intentions, including their absolute commitment to stopping a second Trump Presidential term, come hell or high water. The recent actions of Mike Pompeo, torpedoing the highly successful Governor-to-Governor Forum between the two countries, is part of that British strategy, as are the dissociated “Dr. Strangelove”-like remarks by Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite, which we quote below.

Another potential “October surprise” that the British have prepared is to unleash a full-scale “strategy of tension” wave of violence and terrorism—both inside the U.S. and abroad—to throw the world into chaos as Americans attempt to vote. Recent developments in Nice, France and on the streets of Philadelphia and New York City are ominous warning signs of where things are headed.

A third “October surprise” is the publicly stated option to intentionally crash the stock market, to deliver a deadly blow to the Trump campaign on the eve of the election. The only reason this tactic would work is because of Trump’s well-known Achilles’ Heel of campaigning around the illusion

that the rise of the stock market reflects real economic growth—which it does not.

Are the British really crazy enough to launch one or all of these “October surprises?” Absolutely. The Oct. 29 issue of the London *Economist*, the flagship magazine of the British Empire’s financial elite, published on its cover a picture of a tattered American flag with the bold headline: “America’s Election: Why It Has To Be Biden.”

But there’s another October surprise in the making, which will not be to London’s liking. The five days between now and the Nov. 3 election is plenty of time to mobilize new political layers to help vote Trump back into the White House, layers that will come as a total shock to the liberal Establishment’s pundits. And that will set the stage in the weeks immediately following the election, for addressing the underlying existential crises threatening the very survival of the human species: the financial crash, physical-economic meltdown, the pandemic and starvation, the danger of super-power war, and the cultural degradation which stands in the way of a needed new global classical Renaissance.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

British Escalate Strategy of Tension in U.S. and Internationally

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—The British “strategy of tension” was made famous by its application in Italy roughly from 1969 to 1974, when the country was hit by a series of terrorist bombings some of which caused large numbers of civilian deaths. As *EIR*’s Claudio Celani has explained: “The authors were right-wing extremists maneuvered by intelligence and military structures aiming at provoking a coup d’état, or an authoritarian shift, by inducing the population to believe that the bombs were part of a communist insurgency.”

Times change, but the British strategy has not, especially in their desperate drive to stop the reelection of President Donald Trump and the consolidation of a great power alliance with Russia and China that would permanently do away with the British Empire’s geopolitics.

This morning, three people were stabbed to death in Nice, France, in front of and in a church. One of them was beheaded. The perpetrator was captured by the police, and he was shouting “*Allahu akbar!*” Mayor of Nice Christian Estrosi stated: “Enough is enough. It’s time now for France to exonerate itself from the laws of peace in order to definitively wipe out Islamo-fascism from our territory.”

Meanwhile in the U.S., urban violence continues to be stoked in the run-up to the Nov. 3 election. After the Philadelphia riots earlier this week, a van was found in downtown Philadelphia yesterday, loaded with “multiple explosive devices,” according to law enforcement reports. New York City was also hit overnight from Tuesday to Wednesday. Fox reports that at least 32 people were taken into custody in New York City. “Protesters in Brooklyn vandalized police cars, smashed store windows and set items on fire, including trash cans and an American flag, according to officials and videos posted on social media. Nine department vehicles and 39 commercial properties were damaged, police said.”

The mass media are also involved in creating the environment for violence and confrontation on Election Day. An Oct. 28 AP wire, “Anxiety 2020: Voters Worry About Safety at the Polls,” typifies the type of psychological warfare being put out in the run-up for the elections. The aim is to suppress the Election Day vote, expected to be heavily Republican, by fear of violence (the *Washington Post* was blatant about this in its coverage), while preparing people for violence after the elections—all blamed on President Trump. “A summer of protests of racial injustice and sometimes violent confrontations has left many on edge. Gun sales have broken records. Trump has called on supporters to monitor voting and has refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power or to explicitly condemn a white supremacist group”—two media fabrications which continue to be spread.

Black, Lifelong Democrat, Flint City Council VP Endorses Trump All the Way

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Speaking to a group of MAGA supporters before Mike Pence arrived for a rally last night in Flint, Michigan, City Council Vice President Maurice Davis gave a stirring endorsement of President Donald Trump’s reelection, as the way to unify the country.

“God uses whoever he wants to to bring His people out of whatever the problem has to be... President Trump is full of hate? Let me tell you something, the Democrats are full of hate.”

“I’m tired—I’ve been a Democrat, I am a Democrat all my life, 64 years. Last four years, I voted for Hillary Clinton. This year, I decided to go with President Trump. I’m not a bootlicker. I’m not an Uncle Tom. I’m none of those things. I’m somebody that’s in a poor, impoverished community.... People are in foreclosure here. People are losing everything, and when Mr. Trump said, ‘What the hell you got to lose?’ he was talking to me....

“This is what I have to gain. Instead of being the divided state of America, it’s time to be the United States of America.... We’re tired of suffering and nobody give a damn about poor folks. President Trump—they reached out, with nothing but love from y’all, all over this nation. I don’t want to hear another time, ‘I’m a Trump supporter.’ I’m an *American* supporter.... But I tell y’all one thing: This nation is one Nation, under God. One nation under God. Thank you all.”

A few months ago, Davis had gone after the Black Lives Matter “protests,” posting a video on Facebook declaring: “Riots, they ain’t no damn protest, they’re riots ... tearing up your own neighborhoods.”

Davis attended the Pence rally after his endorsement announcement, where Pence thanked him from the podium. This morning Trump posted Davis’s full 3 ½ minute endorsement video to his Twitter.

Today's Censorship of Biden Corruption: From Greenwald and Carlson

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)— Journalist Glenn Greenwald today announced his resignation from *The Intercept*, because “the same trends of repression, censorship and ideological homogeneity plaguing the national press generally have engulfed the media outlet I co-founded, culminating in censorship of my own articles.”

“The brute censorship this week of my article—about the Hunter Biden materials and Joe Biden’s conduct regarding Ukraine and China, as well my critique of the media’s rank-closing attempt, in a deeply unholy union with Silicon Valley and the ‘intelligence community,’ to suppress its revelations,” was the last straw for Greenwald. “In the days heading into a presidential election, I am somehow silenced from expressing any views that random editors in New York find disagreeable, and now somehow have to conform my writing and reporting to cater to their partisan desires and eagerness to elect specific candidates.”

The Intercept’s New York editors not only refused to publish his article, but forbade him from getting it published by any other platform. So, after submitting his resignation letter, Greenwald published the suppressed article, his biting resignation letter, and now, the email exchanges in which the editors demanded he censor the Biden charges, his refusal, and their reply and threat. All can be found under his byline on [Substack](#), the site he has chosen to write for.

That story broke one day after Fox’s Tucker Carlson reported on his show that “a source related to the Biden family” had contacted him about confidential documents which he believes are “authentic, ... real and ... damning,” but when his New York producer shipped those documents overnight on Monday to California on “a large national carrier, a brand-name company that we’ve used, you’ve used, countless times with never a single problem,” they were told by the shipping company that “our package had been opened and the contents were missing. The documents had disappeared.” The company traced the envelope and everyone which

handled it, thoroughly searched the plane and the trucks that carried it, and the entire sorting facility. “They found nothing. Those documents have vanished ... documents that are directly relevant to the presidential campaign just six days from now,” Carlson revealed.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Navy Secretary Calls China ‘Greatest Threat’ to U.S.

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite is an enthusiastic passenger aboard Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s anti-China bandwagon. After a week-long tour of the Asia-Pacific, Braithwaite took his message to the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. “I think [China] is probably the greatest threat to our country that Americans, writ large, do not understand,” Braithwaite declared, reported Military.com, with apparent religious fervor. “I literally believe with all my heart and soul—and I can’t stress this any more—what we are seeing emerging is a threat beyond any comparison ever in the history of our country,” he said fervently.

“There could be a day in our lifetime, my dear friends, that we will not have the freedom to speak our language the way that we do, to live with free and open society, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to congregate—all those things can be eliminated,” he streamed.

But the “threat” isn’t just military. China has to be kept out of the Arctic, not because it might deploy its Navy there but because it’ll be financially lucrative for China to move its product through Arctic waters, which Braithwaite said will be “the big threat.” “Adversaries in the past didn’t have the economic wherewithal, the financial capability, to build what China’s building today,” he said.

Braithwaite complained that China took advantage of all the time the U.S. sea services were distracted by the counter-terrorism/counter-insurgency wars in the Middle East to focus on becoming a leading nation of the world. “We can’t say that in America [with] all the domestic

quarreling and the divisiveness in our nation right now,” Braithwaite said. “We need to understand that the threat is not from within. ... It could affect our children and our children’s children and their ability to live in a free society. It is an unbelievable threat to our way of life.”

O’Brien Threatens Russia and China With Weapons U.S. Doesn’t Even Have

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—U.S. National Security Advisor Robert O’Brien appeared at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. yesterday to discuss “America’s National Security Challenges, Today and Tomorrow.” He stated, apparently in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s proposal on Oct. 26 on reducing tensions around intermediate-range missiles in Europe: “We’re developing hypersonic weapons, we’re developing ballistic missile delivery systems that will keep America safe,” O’Brien said, reported RT. These are the missiles, O’Brien went on, that will “defend our allies, that will deter China, and we’ll deploy the same missiles if necessary in Europe, to deter the Russians.”

“We think that by deploying these weapons not only will we deter an attack, but it will also put us in a posture to have real arms control in the future, just like we deployed the Pershing and the cruise missiles to Europe in the ’80s to get the Soviets to come to the table,” he said further. The deployment of the Pershings, along with similar Soviet moves, brought the world to the brink of nuclear Armageddon in the 1980s.

The problem with O’Brien’s threats is that the weapons don’t exist. The Defense Department is indeed working on several concepts and has even flight-tested a couple of them, but when these concepts might become deployable weapons systems is not at all clear.

Leonid Slutsky, the chairman of the Russian State Duma’s Foreign Affairs Committee, took great exception to O’Brien’s threat to deploy hypersonic missiles aimed at Russia. “The White House’s statements about readiness to deploy U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles to Europe are far from being constructive,” Slutsky said, recalling that Putin had earlier confirmed Moscow’s compliance with the moratorium on

deployment of Russian missiles in the regions along the EU borders until U.S. missiles appear there. Slusky further stated that “Washington is inciting instability and creating a threat to global security.”

U.S. Has No Intention of Creating U.S.-China Military Crisis Says Chinese Military Spokesman

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—A spokesman for the Chinese Defense Ministry reported today that the U.S. Department of Defense has communicated with China and will make more communication and cooperation to ease tensions and avoid conflict, reported *Global Times*. Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said on the Oct. 29 monthly press conference that the militaries of China and the U.S. were currently holding a virtual meeting for crisis communication, and more exchanges and consultations on issues, including maritime military security, will be held by the year’s end. Wu was apparently responding to a question about rumors of an “October Surprise” against China in the context of the U.S. election campaign, using MQ-9 military drones to attack Chinese islands in the South China Sea. Wu said U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper specifically clarified this issue through military and diplomatic channels, stating that the relevant reports do not match the facts and that the U.S. has no intention of creating a military crisis against China.

At his press conference, Senior Colonel Wu was also asked about the rumors that a Chinese stealth jet had been observed 500 km from Taiwan and that the Chinese army had deployed their hypersonic missiles in Fujian province opposite Taiwan. He said that he was not going to reveal the location of any military equipment, but underlined that China was well prepared to defend its territorial sovereignty.

Experts consulted by *Global Times* said that this shows that the U.S.-China military communications channel is, in fact, still functioning despite reports earlier in the year that it had been shut down. “Normally, the U.S. secretary of defense would not respond to such groundless rumors, but Esper has specifically sought out communication with China to clarify the rumors, showing that the U.S. really doesn’t want any accidents or

miscalculations,” said Lü Xiang, a research fellow on U.S. studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. Lü argued that Esper and many other senior officials of the U.S. Department of Defense are wiser and more reasonable than what has been reported, as they know that any escalation of a military crisis with China at this moment, a few days ahead of the U.S. presidential election and a possible transition of power in the U.S., would be uncontrollable. Another expert, who requested anonymity, told *Global Times* that the U.S.-China military channel could help cool down the military tensions between China and the U.S.; that is, it is not the case as the outside world believes that China and the U.S. are in a situation where war is on the verge of breaking out.

Mike ‘McCarthy’ Pompeo Escalates Campaign To Ban U.S.-Chinese People-to-People Relations

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s latest move to cut off U.S.-Chinese relations was yesterday’s announcement that the United States will no longer participate in the 2011 “Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Chinese Governments Concerning the Establishment of a U.S.-China Governors Forum To Promote Sub-National Cooperation.” Five U.S.-Chinese Governors Summits had been held since the MOU was signed, fostering trade, investment and understanding between the two countries, to the mutual benefit of both.

It is that friendship and trade which the State Department charges denounced as an effort

“to directly and malignly influence” U.S. state and local leaders on behalf of China’s “global agenda,” through the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) which helped sponsor the governors’ forums. Pompeo first signaled that these normal, friendly relationships between U.S. and Chinese state officials were in his sights in his Feb. 8, 2020 diatribe to the National Governors’ Conference, where he threatened the governors that by dealing with China and the CPAFFC, they would be considered stooges of the “Chinese Communist Party.”

The State Department also designated the National Association for China's Peaceful Unification, a body seeking to end the divisions with Taiwan, as a Chinese Communist Party body charged with spreading its influence and propaganda overseas. "The goal of this action is to shine a light on this organization and make clear that their messages come from Beijing, as we did when we designated the Confucius Institute U.S. Center as a foreign mission in August," State asserted.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin today denounced these measures as another act of "neo-McCarthyism" which "is undermining and demolishing the bridge linking the two peoples. Such regressive behavior is bound to be rejected by both peoples and history."

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NASA and ESA Formalize Artemis Gateway Partnership

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—NASA and the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA) signed an agreement committing their space agencies to building the Gateway together. A release from [NASA](#) states, "The agreement signed Tuesday marks NASA's first formal commitment to launch international crew members to the lunar vicinity as part of NASA's Artemis Mission." Under the agreement ESA will contribute habitation and refueling modules, along with enhanced lunar communications to the Gateway.

NASA's Administrator Jim Bridenstine declared "This partnership leverages the outstanding cooperation established by the International Space Station as we push forward to the Moon." He continued, "Gateway will continue to expand NASA's cooperation with international partners like ESA, ensuring the Artemis program results in the safe and sustainable exploration of the Moon after the initial human lunar landing and beyond."

The European Space Agency's contributions to the Gateway will consist of a refueling module, which will also include crew observation windows. The first two scientific investigations to fly aboard the Gateway were selected earlier this year. One will come from the ESA, known as, the

European Radiation Sensors Array. ERSA will monitor space radiation and will focus on astronaut protection. The other scientific investigation to fly aboard Gateway will come from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center called the Heliophysics Environmental and Radiation Measurement Experiment Suit (HERMES), which will monitor low energies critical to scientific investigations of the Sun. HERMES is also known for researching the dynamics of asteroid and planetary surfaces with no atmosphere.

New Chinese Prototype of High-Speed Train Adaptable to Different Gauges

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—China Railway Rolling Stock Corp. (CRRC), the world's number-one rolling stock manufacturer, announced on Oct. 21 that it has developed a prototype high-speed train with the capacity to change gauge widths on its car bogies (wheel-sets) in a matter of minutes. Given that differing track gauges are used around the world, this is not a minor issue for international transport, especially across the great Eurasian landmass.

According to *Railway Gazette*, CRRC Chairman Liu Hualong had announced its intention to develop a high-speed gauge-changing train at the 2017 Belt and Road Forum, with the aim of running trains more efficiently across the different gauges of Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Russia. Spain has been operating a fleet of trains with an adjustable wheelset and track change system for some years, but *Railway Gazette* explains that the Spanish adjustable bogies are stable only up to 250 km/h, while this new Chinese bogie design, based on a different mechanism, can be operated at up to 400 km/h.

The new CRRC prototype has two other key features: It is designed to function at temperatures ranging from -50°C to $+50^{\circ}\text{C}$, needed for safe passage through the varied conditions encountered on long-distance runs, and it has a multi-system traction package which allows the train to run on the differing forms of power supply used by different countries. ([“CRRC Unveils Gauge-Changing High Speed Train”](#); [“China's New High-Speed](#)

Train To Bolster Cross-Border Travel” includes a video illustrating the mechanism).

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

COVID-19 Cases Continue To Rise Across Most of the U.S.

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—The seven-day average of daily new COVID-19 cases continues to rise across the United States, with the number for Tuesday, Oct. 27 nearing 72,000—a new record, and 20% higher than a week ago, according to Johns Hopkins University data. This is accompanied by a rise in the positivity rate of all of those tested, which now stands at 6.2%, up significantly from a level of less than 4% just a few weeks ago. Experts consider anything over 5% as unacceptably high. At this point, 13 states have positivity rates greater than 10%, with South Dakota leading the way with 43%, followed by Idaho and Wyoming, with 35% and 32% respectively.

Adm. Brett Giroir, HHS Assistant Secretary for Health who leads the government’s testing effort, spoke on NBC’s “Today” show on Oct. 28, with a very sober assessment: “As the nation did after Memorial Day, we are at another critical point in the pandemic response.... Cases are going up in most states across the country. Hospitalizations are up, although we’re still tens of thousands of hospitalizations below where we were in July, but that is rising. And we are starting to see the increase in deaths.” There are currently 44,000 people hospitalized across the country with COVID.

Giroir acknowledged that the rise in reported cases is not explained by increased testing alone, although there is more testing going on. and he emphasized that “we can control the virus” by following standard public health measures—social distancing, masks, avoiding crowded gatherings, etc.—while work proceeds rapidly on vaccines and new therapeutics.

AP reported that “The surge in cases and hospitalizations is beginning to overwhelm some hospitals in parts of the country. The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported over the weekend that the Utah Hospital Association is asking the

governor to allow its members to ration care. And in Texas, El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego issued a curfew on Sunday to protect ‘overwhelmed and exhausted’ hospitals and workers.”

Putin Demands Prompt New Actions on COVID-19 Surge Now

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin met yesterday with members of his government, headed by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, to discuss the worsening COVID-19 crisis and development plans for the Russian economy. After some discussion of the Plan for Achieving the National Development Goals until 2024 and the planning period until 2030, Putin—who regularly runs into opposition from within his own government, based on monetarist austerity considerations—stated bluntly: “For now there is only one thing that is lacking, as people say—it is necessary to carry out this plan.... I do hope that all of us will do everything we possibly can to implement it properly.”

On the COVID crisis, Putin took a report from Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova on “how we are countering the coronavirus pandemic.” She presented a sobering picture, and talked about the new measures being adopted: “The situation continues getting complicated.... You are aware that a resolution of the Chief Sanitary Doctor has come into force today. It requires the mandatory wearing of masks in public places, public transport and other crowded places. Proceeding from the epidemiological situation, the regions have been recommended to ban mass public events from 11 pm to 6 am, and to toughen sanitary and epidemiological measures as regards people aged over 65 and those with chronic diseases.”

Golikova also talked about the pressure on the hospital system. Putin was very sharp: “Ms. Golikova has just mentioned that some 90 some-odd percent, or up to 95% of beds are already occupied. We have discussed this; it has to do not only with COVID-19, but also with the current situation with the flu and ARVI [acute respiratory viral infection] cases. They are overlapping. As I have said, experts believe that just the first wave of the pandemic rather than a second one is coming to some territories. Therefore,

we must be very serious about what needs to be done right now. If it is necessary to deploy additional beds, this must be done.”

Putin then demanded: “Please allocate these funds immediately.” He then asked both Golikova and Finance Minister Anton Siluanov when this would be done. After some hemming and hawing, he got them both to say: “tomorrow.” Putin responded: “Good.”

The Inside Story of the Administration’s Operation Warp Speed

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Two of the leaders of the crash program to develop COVID-19 vaccines, Gen. Gus Perna, Chief Operating Officer, and Dr. Matt Hepburn, head of Vaccine Development, provided their story to the Heritage Foundation, “The Fight to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine: The Inside Story of the Administration’s Operation Warp Speed,” on Oct. 27. The core point was the obvious: the crash program abandoned “cost-benefit” and “just-in-time” practices, and let reality determine what they had to do. So, they ran parallel development of six vaccine candidates, including the mass production of dosages prior to approval; and supply-chain items for ingredients of vaccines and delivery systems purchased in bulk to be on site early in the process. Also, there was early investment in new production facilities with new production techniques, and the mission-oriented environment helped the cooperation levels. Perna emphasized that “egos get checked at the door” because “lives are at stake.”

Perna, a military logistics specialist, was weeks away from retirement from a 39-year Army career, when he was called by Trump and asked to head the Operation Warp Speed logistics. He interrupted his retirement plans. On Oct. 26, he was in Memphis, Tennessee, visiting the new McKesson distribution warehouse which has built a massive capacity for refrigerated storage at -20° and -80° —necessary for some of the vaccines. They are set to roll out tens of millions of vaccine doses before the end of the year, and hundreds of millions from January to March, with 100% accountability as to where each dose is, and as to what person has gotten which vaccine and which dose. (Five of the six vaccines are double-dose vaccines, requiring the second dose 21 or 28 days later.)

Finally, the clinical trials were designed for massive testing in order to obtain more safety information more quickly. The various vaccines should show different profiles, e.g., some better for the elderly, and the clinical trials will help determine how the distribution occurs (e.g., to which populations). Dr. Hepburn was hopeful that this newly-revived capacity for accelerated product development in the U.S. will not be dismantled, but will be the new normal. The states submitted their distribution plans last week, and the task force reviewed them over the last week, offering advice back to the states. The machinery is ready to roll, awaiting the FDA's approval of vaccines.

France and Germany Return to Partial Lockdowns To Slow Rising Tide of COVID-19 Infections

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—French President Emmanuel Macron took to national television last night to state: “The virus is circulating at a speed that not even the most pessimistic forecasts had anticipated. Like all our neighbors, we are submerged by the sudden acceleration of the virus.... We are all in the same position: overrun by a second wave which we know will be harder, more deadly than the first. I have decided that we need to return to the lockdown which stopped the virus.” Macron said that France needs to put on the “hard brakes” on the circulation of the virus. “Nothing is more important than human life.”

The month-long lockdown will allow schools, construction sites and some workplaces to stay open, but beginning Friday, Oct. 30, all restaurants, bars and non-essential businesses were ordered shut down. Macron said people should work remotely wherever possible. He said unlike in the spring lockdown, this time nursing homes will remain open to visitors when possible, and cemeteries will be open so that people can hold in-person funerals.

AP reports that French doctors were among those most forcefully insisting on strict confinement: 58% of the country's intensive care units are now occupied by COVID patients, and there are areas of the country that are already at maximum occupancy, and medical staff are under

increasing strain. French military and commercial planes are ferrying critically ill virus patients to other regions as hospitals fill up.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that she and the country's 16 state governors have agreed to a four-week shutdown of restaurants, bars, theaters, and so on, beginning Monday and lasting through the end of November. Shops and schools can remain open, but restaurants will be able to provide take-out food only Merkel said, "We must act, and now, to avoid an acute national health emergency.... We can say that our health system can cope with the challenge today. But if the pace of infections continues like this, then we'll reach the limits of what the health system can manage within weeks." Germany's Health Minister Jens Spahn stated: "If we wait until the intensive care units are full, it will be too late."

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

López Obrador Defends State Energy Companies; Slams 'Sophistry of Clean Energy'

Oct. 29 (EIRNS)—Speaking to workers at the newly-reopened "José López Portillo" state-operated coal plant in Nava, Coahuila on Oct. 24, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador warned foreign energy interests—oil, gas, and "renewable"—and their U.S. Congressional lobbyists that Mexico is "not going to retreat one step" from rebuilding the state oil and electricity companies driven into the ground by decades of neoliberal looting. He was responding to a letter sent to President Donald Trump on Oct. 22 by a bipartisan group of 6 U.S. Senators and 37 Representatives, requesting that the Trump administration take action to stop the Mexican government from policies which "threaten U.S. energy companies' investment and market access" in Mexico. The letter suggests Mexico could be sanctioned for "violat[ing] and contradict[ing] the spirit, if not the letter, of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)."

They object to the steps being taken to reverse the Mexican 2014 Energy Reform under which oil-rich Mexico was turned into a net importer

of gasoline and other refined products. The U.S. legislators admit that Mexico is now “the largest export market for U.S. petroleum products and a growing market for natural gas exports” as a result of that reform.

López Obrador first reminded the legislators that Mexico’s energy policies are not included in the USMCA, because he had refused to allow that. He then detailed how previous governments had drastically lowered the electricity generated by Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) plants, or closed them outright—such as the coal plant complex where he was speaking—in order to create favorable conditions for the private interests moving in to charge ever-increasing rates.

That policy included “another sophism, that of clean energy,” he said, under which CFE plants were closed as old and polluting, for foreign investors to have a field day investing in gas, and wind and solar generation, which was “subsidized” by the nation.

“What is the role of government, then? To protect private interests? No! ... Repsol doesn’t pay me; I am paid by Mexicans to serve them, and therefore I have to defend the public interest, not private interests.”

“We are not going to violate any contract that has been signed,” he said. But, within the legal parameters currently available to it, the government will give preference to CFE and PEMEX, because that is the only way to fulfill the campaign promise to stop the constant price rises in gasoline, diesel and electricity which the energy “reform” created, López Obrador said. He then made a counter-threat: If that cannot be done without changing the “reform,” he will propose a constitutional reform to do so.

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Friday, October 30: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley’s briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).