

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Are Some of the Elites Coming to Their Senses?

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Perhaps the strongest evidence that President Biden may indeed be attempting to head off World War III was a headline today in London’s preeminent newspaper, the *Daily Telegraph*: “Joe Biden’s

Offer of NATO Talks To Avert Russian Invasion of Ukraine Is Big Win for Vladimir Putin.”

Biden’s announcement after the Summit with Putin on Dec. 7 that there would soon be a meeting of the U.S., France, Germany, Italy and the U.K., with Russia, to discuss Putin’s call for legal guarantees that NATO would move no closer to the Russian border, nor deploy major weapon systems on its border, has sent chills through the Anglo-American imperial institutions. The *Telegraph*’s Russia correspondent Roland Oliphant had this to say: “Russian diplomats/officials/whoever have been telling me they want this conversation for literally years. I never thought they’d get to have it, but here we are.”

Several Russian officials have expressed “cautious optimism” that the extremely dangerous rush to military confrontation can be reversed. As expressed by Senator Vladimir Dzhubarov, the Russian Federation Council First Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs: “What’s reassuring is that Biden is an old-school politician after all.... We hope that the wise Biden will prevent the red lines from being crossed.”

The level of danger can not be exaggerated. Sergey Ryabkov, Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister, told the Federation Council on Dec. 9 that, “Unfortunately, we see that our warnings are ignored, and NATO’s military infrastructure is getting as close to us as possible.” Asked if this could reach the level of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, Ryabkov said that it was totally possible, “if comrades on the other side fail to understand and keep doing what they are doing.... That would be a total failure of diplomacy, a failure of foreign policy, but there is still time to try to reach an agreement based on reason.... People realize that it can’t go further that way.”

In 1962, President John Kennedy and his brother Robert, then the Attorney General and the President’s closest advisor, barely avoided war with the Soviet Union through wise, and stealthy, diplomacy, ending a nuclear showdown through compromise. Oliver Stone, who has released a film titled “JFK Revisited, A Documentary,” 30 years after his famous

1991 film “JFK,” noted on Dec. 6 that “since Kennedy was killed, no American President, not one—think about it—has been able to touch the military complex, or this intelligence agency complex.” Whether “old-school politician” Joe Biden will be able to repeat the Kennedy diplomacy in the current nuclear showdown, this time with both Russia and China, will depend on the level of international pressure brought to bear from an aroused American population, which is now beginning to wake up to the collapse taking place in nearly every aspect of life within the U.S., and from an international community which is increasingly aware that the U.S. is careening towards a war which could end civilization as we know it.

In the last two weeks, a senior U.S. diplomat and a former leading CIA official stepped forward to conduct interviews with *EIR*, both sending warnings through this platform that there are madmen in positions of power who are trying to drag the country into war with Russia, China and Iran.

Ambassador Chas Freeman, who played a major role in the opening of relations with China in the 1970s, and in formulating our relations with both China and Taiwan at that time, told *EIR* on Nov. 29 that the Trump and Biden administrations have gone past the “red line” which could provoke a war with China: “In the finessing of the issue of Taiwan in U.S.-China relations, essentially, the United States agreed to three conditions: one, that we would end official relations with Taipei; two, that we would withdraw all military personnel and installations from the island; and three, we would void our defense commitment to the island. We have now gone back on each of these commitments.”

Graham Fuller, an Islamic scholar who served 20 years in the CIA, including four years in Hong Kong, told *EIR* in a Dec. 9 interview (to be released soon) that the U.S. elites have been unable to come to terms with the fact the nation is no longer the single hegemonic power in the world, that China has emerged as a “near-peer” competitor in nearly every aspect. If the U.S. fails to “tamp down its rhetoric,” he warned, the consequences could be catastrophic. He added that calling Iran a terrorist state was

“grotesque,” while accusing China of genocide against the Uighurs was ridiculous.

Both Chas Freeman and Graham Fuller believe President Biden does not want a war, but neither are they confident that he can overcome the addiction to war among the United States’ elites and the military-industrial complex. The danger is great, and in such a situation in history, the potential power of every individual is vastly increased, as a worried and frightened population looks for the truth behind the lies coming from the politicians and the media. It is time to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday December 13, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

UN Backing Mass Murder in Afghanistan

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Confirming the UN’s Credentials Committee’s announcement last week that it would postpone action on evaluating the Taliban’s request to represent Afghanistan in the United Nations, the UN General Assembly upheld the ruling on Dec. 6.

It should be stressed that the so-called “lack of clarity” of who is governing Afghanistan is one of the pretexts evoked by the U.S. Federal Reserve, the IMF and the World Bank to freeze release of some \$9.5 billion of assets belonging to the Afghanistan Central Bank, leaving Kabul to face a humanitarian crisis of “biblical dimensions,” threatening the very existence of millions of its people, especially in the onset of winter.

As a result, the envoys appointed by Afghanistan’s former government will, for now, remain in the nation’s seat, even though top government

members had fled the country on Aug. 15, with millions of dollars in their luggage.

The Taliban government sought to have the former Ambassador to the UN replaced by Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, who served as Taliban's recognized spokesman during peace negotiations in Qatar.

Baerbock Wants EU Sanctions Against China, Warns Russia over Ukraine

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Her first trip abroad brought new German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock (Greens) to Paris yesterday, where she met her French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves le Drian. She charged China with “human rights violations” and left no doubt that she favors sanctions against the Chinese, including against the Winter Olympics which will take place in Beijing in February 2022. But, she went on, she and Le Drian want to have a common EU position on that. She brought up the issue again when she arrived for talks in Brussels in the late afternoon.

On the case of Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai, who is reported to have alleged being sexually assaulted by a former vice-premier, although she denies that she had made such a charge, Baerbock proclaimed: “When a woman raises such a reproach, it needs to be heard in an international context. We need to pursue the case and get a common answer.”

Baerbock also warned Russia about Ukraine, saying in Paris that the new German government does not consider “Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty were not negotiable,” she said. “Russia would pay a high political, and especially economic, price for any renewed attack on Ukrainian statehood”—although it had not made any such attack the first time.

Aside from her talks with EU officials, Baerbock also met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, assuring him that “NATO remains an indispensable pillar of security in Europe.” She further stated that “The Russian troop development near Ukraine must concern us, with a view to Ukraine itself, but also with a view to our security in Europe. Last week [at

the NATO summit] in Riga, NATO met and sent a very clear message.” She called on Russia to hold talks with NATO, an offer which Stoltenberg claimed had been made to Moscow, but not accepted. (See, “[NATO Publication ‘NATO-Russia: Setting the Record Straight’ Debunked](#)” posted by the Russian Foreign Ministry, for the truth about Stoltenberg’s claims.)

War Drums over Iran—Russia Intervenes To Cool Things Down

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—With Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz in Washington ranting that Iran was a threat to peace and freedom worldwide, while openly preparing for war on Iran and lobbying for the U.S. to join them, the White House added its voice to the overt threats. Presidential spokeswoman Jen Psaki said yesterday: “Given the ongoing advances in Iran’s nuclear program the president has asked his team to be prepared in the event that diplomacy fails. We must turn to other options and that requires preparations. We have made clear to Iran that the only path out of sanctions is through nuclear compliance,” and took pride in the fact that the Biden administration has kept all sanctions it inherited from the previous administration in place. She directly threatened the population’s survival: “If diplomacy cannot get on track soon and if Iran’s nuclear program continues to accelerate then we will have no choice but to take additional measures to further restrict Iran’s revenue-producing sectors.”

In this vein, therefore, the Biden Administration is planning to threaten the U.A.E. with sanctions if it continues to have economic relations with Iran. Psaki said that the U.S. will send a top-level delegation next week, including the head of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control Andrea Gacki, to the U.A.E., which is said to be Iran’s second-largest trade partner and a conduit for Iran’s trade and financial transactions with other countries. The U.S. officials will meet with petrochemicals companies and other private firms and banks in the Emirates doing billions of dollars of trade with Iran. They will warn that the U.S. has “visibility on transactions that are not compliant with sanctions,” one of the senior officials said. “Those banks and firms face extreme risk if this continues.” The visit could be followed by sanctions against Emirati and other firms, the officials said.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Benny Gantz to work out “Plan B” against Iran. Gantz raved that Iran “is not just a threat to our physical security” but “a concrete threat to our way of life and our shared values,” reported the *Times of Israel*. He went on: “In its aspirations to become a hegemon, Iran seeks to destroy all traces of freedom, human dignity and peace in the Middle East and beyond. The nuclear program is a means to its hegemonic goals.” Gantz stated that in talks with world powers, “Iran is playing poker with a bad hand and it’s playing on time.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Some U.K. Circles Are Alarmed by Biden’s Offer of NATO Talks to Putin

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Some British circles did not miss the potentially game-changing announcement by Joe Biden, of having a NATO-Russia meeting soon. Both the *Telegraph* and bne IntelliNews (former Business News Europe), describe Biden’s decision as a major concession to Putin. “Joe Biden’s Offer of NATO Talks To Avert Russian Invasion of Ukraine Is Big Win for Vladimir Putin” is the *Telegraph* headline, and “Putin Wins Concession from Biden for Russia-NATO Security Deal Talks” is bne IntelliNews headline.

Since bne IntelliNews co-founder and editor, Berlin-based Ben Aris was a long-time *Telegraph* correspondent in Moscow, the two media can be seen as related, ergo representing the view of the same faction in the U.K.

The *Telegraph* article’s author, Russia specialist Roland Oliphant, wrote on Twitter that “Russian diplomats/officials/whoever have been telling me they want this conversation for literally years. I never thought they’d get to have it, but here we are.”

bne IntelliNews wrote: “Biden said ... that he was organizing a meeting between Russian officials and four other NATO members by the end of this week to ‘discuss the future of Russia’s concerns relative to NATO writ large’ and whether or not accommodations could be worked out as it related to ‘bringing down the temperature along the eastern front’.... The

meeting will be seen in some quarters as a major concession to the Kremlin, which has forced the issue by building up considerable forces in its Western and Southern Military Districts that face Ukraine.”

White House Briefing on Bringing Putin’s Concerns to NATO

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—The White House provided a measured account on the evening of Dec. 9 of their “larger diplomatic outreach with President Putin, European allies and Ukraine.” A “senior administration official” provided on background a 20-minute briefing focusing upon President Biden’s Dec. 9 phone calls with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and also the Bucharest 9, the nine newer members of NATO, referred to as “our group of eastern flank allies.” After telling Zelenskyy that one pathway involving a Russian invasion of Ukraine would see the West hit Russia with “strong economic measures” along with “additional defensive matériel to Ukraine,” Biden described the other pathway of “de-escalation and diplomacy,” meaning the Normandy Format “and ongoing efforts to implement the Minsk Agreements, including U.S. support for that overall process.” Kiev has been able to rely, since 2015, upon the U.S. not pushing them to take those agreements seriously.

The senior official emphasized how much consultation there had been with all Western parties, and volunteered that the press has been wrong in suggesting that Biden made concessions to Putin. “There very clearly were not... Biden has... made very clear that one nation can’t force another nation to change its border, one nation cannot tell another to change its politics, and nations can’t tell others who they can work with.” (Strangely, there was no laughter on that final point.) The official further stated that Biden reassured the Bucharest 9 of the U.S.’s “sacred commitment ... to Article 5, to transatlantic security, to NATO, and especially to our eastern flank allies,” but then reiterated the “de-escalation and diplomacy” path.

In the question-answer period, the official was asked whether, given Biden’s stress upon corruption at the Summit for Democracy, did this matter of corruption in Ukraine come up with Zelenskyy? The senior official responded that Biden did raise the matter of “democratic resilience

in democratic institutions” with Zelenskyy, and that Ukraine has made “significant progress,” but there’s “a recognition of continued steps that they need to make.”

TASS’s coverage featured the senior official’s response to the first question, about direct engagement with Russia on Putin’s concerns: “In terms of follow-up, this is something that we are actively discussing with our partners. That was the purpose of the conversations that have been happening at NATO, with our Western European partners and then with the Eastern European partners today.... There are existing formats, including the NATO-Russia Council, where there is a longstanding invitation to the Russians to participate in talks. That invitation very much remains open. And we will continue working through ways to continue engaging diplomatically on this full range of issues....

“So, I think within the next couple of days, we’re obviously going to continue talking with our European partners, we’re going to continue talking with our Russian partners, and finding a way forward.... And the one thing that I want to make clear ... is that we are always prepared to talk about security issues with Russia.” The official said that “a large number of formats exist to be able to do that,” citing the NATO-Russia Council and the OSCE. “And so, we are, of course, prepared to talk to the Russians about this, this full set of issues.”

British High Court Buys Justice Department Lies, Rules To Extradite Julian Assange for Trial in U.S.

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Britain’s High Court on the morning of Dec. 10 overturned the previous denial of the extradition of Julian Assange to the United States. The two-judge appellate panel accepted the proffered guarantees from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that Assange: would not be put in the “supermax” prison in Florence, Colorado; would not be put under Special Administrative Measures (SAMs, including solitary confinement), “unless subsequent behavior by Assange justified it”; and, if convicted under the Espionage Act for exposing U.S. torture and war crimes, would be allowed to serve his time in his home country, Australia.

Assange's fiancée, Stella Moris, asked: "How can it be fair, how can it be right, how can it be possible, to extradite Julian to the very country which plotted to kill him?" [Glenn Greenwald](#) found "the High Court's faith in these guarantees ... particularly striking," given the revelation that under then-Director Mike Pompeo, the CIA had "plotted to kidnap or even assassinate" Assange. Yet Lord Justice Timothy Holroyde proclaimed that "the court is satisfied that these assurances" from the Justice Department will protect Assange's physical and mental health. HM's High Court found that the assurances were "sufficient" and also "solemn undertakings" promised from one government to another.

Assange, detained now nine years and four months, the last 32 months "in the high-security Belmarsh Prison, described in the BBC in 2004 as 'Britain's Guantanamo Bay,'" wrote Greenwald. One of the first acts of the Biden DOJ was to appeal the January ruling of Judge Vanessa Baraitser, that Assange's treatment by the U.S. prison system would likely overwhelm his fragile mental health. The DOJ demand that Assange remain in HM Belmarsh Prison while they appeal was granted. Greenwald points out that from 2010 to 2016, liberal advocacy groups were vocal in defense of Assange's journalistic exposure of torture and war crimes. "One thing and only one thing has changed since then," which was Assange's exposure of the Hillary Clinton/DNC corruption in sabotaging Bernie Sanders' campaign, and that vengeance now drives the Biden DOJ. True enough, but the intelligence community, while both Obama and Trump were Presidents, had Assange in their crosshairs.

Trevor Timm, the executive director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation, and a witness in Assange's hearings, stated: "These proceedings, and today's ruling, are a black mark on the history of press freedom. That United States prosecutors continued to push for this outcome is a betrayal of the journalistic principles the Biden administration has taken credit for celebrating. As brave whistleblowers have explained for decades, this kind of abuse of the Espionage Act against sources—and now journalists and publishers—is an embarrassment to basic ideals of justice and to core First Amendment values."

Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry, observed on her Telegram channel that the ruling was made on International Human Rights Day, concluding: "This shameful verdict in this political case against a journalist and public figure is another manifestation of the cannibalistic worldview of the Anglo-Saxon tandem."

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites Seeks To Save Millions of Afghani Lives, Unfreeze Kabul's \$9.5 Billion

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—The Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites issued the following statement on Dec. 10, 2021:

Today, on Human Rights Day, the Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites calls for the immediate release of the \$9.5 billion to the Afghanistan government, now being withheld by the U.S. Federal Reserve, Commerzbank, IMF, World Bank, and others, which is directly contributing to the inability of the nation to function, causing terrible harm to millions of people. This human rights emergency is a moral priority for the world.

We reiterate our call for a multi-nation collaborative approach—called Operation Ibn Sina—to both rush the needed medicines, food, fuel, shelter, logistics, and other necessities to save lives; and also, to start the construction of a full-scale health system, including all needed basic infrastructure to support it (power, water, transportation, medical facilities).

Only in this way, can we respect and provide the means to life—the basic human right—for everyone. This answers the call for the women of Afghanistan, the children, and every soul now sinking in desperation.

Acting in Afghanistan sounds the call for similar action around the world, for all places and people in want and suffering. This means that producers—workers in factories, farms, shops, businesses, mines, schools, shipping, and all productive sectors—can have the opportunity to enjoy the human right to be productive and contribute to humanity.

Let us work together.

The Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites was co-founded in June 2020 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, President of the Schiller Institute, and former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, for the purpose of mobilizing collaboration within and among nations, for concerted action against the pandemic, famine, and other worsening crises. The concept is for joint action in the common interest, across any lesser division. The Committee has initiated pilot projects in Washington, D.C. and Africa on this principle. It has just finalized a special aid project to Mozambique, involving donations for food purchases, as well as donated medicines, medical supplies, and water purification tablets, as a representative initiative and product of what must be large-scale action.

Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites c/o Schiller Institute
Contact: Lynne Speed, New York, lynnespeed@schillerinstitute.org

China and Nicaragua Establish Relations, Begin Talks on the Belt And Road To Open 'a New Era of Development'

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—Nicaragua has just demonstrated that small nations can play a critical role in shifting the global strategic crisis. Yesterday, on the first day of the U.K.-U.S. “Summit for Democracy,” called to prove “we are in control here,” Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada announced that Managua was breaking ties with Taiwan and supporting the One China principle. Today, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu and Nicaragua’s Investment, Trade and International Cooperation advisor Laureano Ortega Murrillo met in Tianjin, China to sign a Joint Communiqué establishing full diplomatic relations. In the video discussions which followed between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Moncada, and then with the Nicaraguan delegation in China, both sides spoke of starting discussions immediately on Nicaragua joining the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Establishing relations “is a rallying call for both countries to forge ahead side by side and pursue common development,” Wang Yi told his Nicaraguan counterpart. Moncada replied that Nicaragua is honored to

inaugurate “a new era of growth” with China, specifying that Nicaragua “stands ready to start talks with China on signing cooperation agreements under the BRI.” He pointed to the “singular importance” of Nicaragua making this decision “in the complex moments such as the world is going through.”

When Wang Yi spoke with Laureano Ortega, and Finance Minister Ivan Acosta who accompanied him, he “warmly congratulated both teams for the record-breaking speed in resuming diplomatic ties. He noted that China is delighted to have a new friend in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a good partner in advancing Belt and Road cooperation and building a community with a shared future for mankind,” the Foreign Ministry reported.

“Nicaragua highly echoes China’s diplomatic vision and proposals, and stands ready to join the great initiative of Belt and Road cooperation and strengthen collaboration with China in various fields to enhance national development and well-being,” Laureano replied. Acosta likewise emphasized “that the resumption of diplomatic ties opens the door to bilateral engagement and to shared prosperity. Nicaragua is convinced that China is a reliable partner for development. It looks forward to learning from China’s experience of success and delivering more benefits to the people of Nicaragua.”

The U.S. State Department was furious. Its hopes of isolating and overthrowing the Ortega government by refusing to recognize the results of Nicaragua’s November 2021 presidential elections, pressuring other nations to do likewise, and piling on more economic sanctions against Nicaragua were outflanked. Press spokesman Ned Price issued a statement last night that was as petty as it was outrageous in insisting that other nations must not recognize China but maintain relations with Taiwan. “The Ortega-Murillo regime has announced it has severed diplomatic relations and ended official contact with Taiwan, but the sham election on November 7 did not provide it with any mandate to remove Nicaragua from the family of American democracies. Without the mandate that comes with a free and

fair election, Ortega's actions cannot reflect the will of the Nicaraguan people, who continue to struggle for democracy and the ability to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms," Price whined. "We encourage all countries that value democratic institutions, transparency, the rule of law, and promoting economic prosperity for their citizens to expand engagement with Taiwan."

GREEN NEW DEAL

Environmentalism Is 'New Apartheid and Colonialism,' Charges South African Energy Minister

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—South African Minister of Energy and Natural Resources [Gwede Mantashe](#) gave a press conference, Dec. 8, in which he let loose on the imperial green juggernaut being deployed against his country. Having watched as the nation's vast coal resources were sequestered—with President Cyril Ramaphosa's signing of the Just Transition compact last month at the COP26 in Glasgow—subsequent attempts by South Africa to explore an offshore natural gas field are now being met by frenzied cries from green banshees.

Shell Oil is proposing to do a simple seismic survey of a suspected gas field off the nation's east coast, prompting complaints rising to a fevered peak. After reviewing the "accepted science" of seismic explorations, and the additional (new) precautions taken to "mitigate" against accidental harm to sea life by surveyors, Mantashe turned to the larger question of the spreading "gangreen." The Minister stated: "I cannot help but ask myself, are these objections meant to ensure the status quo remains in Africa, in general, and South Africa, in particular? That is, the status quo with regards to energy poverty, high unemployment, high debt to GDP ratio at country level and economies that are not growing and, in some cases, jobless economic growth. Could it be possible that this is an extreme pure love for the environment—or an unrelenting campaign to ensure that Africa and South Africa do not see the investment inflows they need?"

Further pointing to the country's vast mineral wealth and the recent attempts to develop natural gas reserves—which produce green eyes among imperialists—Mantashe said: “South Africa deserves the opportunity to capitalize on its natural resources including oil and gas, as these resources have been proven to be game changers elsewhere. We consider the objections to these developments as apartheid and colonialism of a special type, masqueraded as a great interest for environmental protection, further referencing South Africa's ongoing attempts to protect Mother Nature. We therefore appeal to all objectors to ... allow South Africa to exploit its natural resources for the benefit of its citizens.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

German Inflation Highest Since 1992, with U.S. Inflation Highest Since 1982

Dec. 10 (EIRNS)—According to figures of the Federal Statistics Office of Germany, November showed the highest inflation rate since November 1992, with 5.2% against November 2020. The major price driver was energy, at 22.1%; with gasoline at 43.2% compared to November 2020. Households' energy budgets (gasoline, heating oil or gas, electricity) accounts for 10% of the private consumer basket, which implies that even those who make efforts to spend little will face an extra burden of several hundred euros for next year, at present inflation rates.

The CPI for November in the U.S. was also announced today, setting a record of 6.8% since 1982. Food, gas, new and used cars, home rental, and medical costs were named as the leading drivers of inflation. Given that level of inflation, real wages of American workers also fell.