

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **Our Decisions Will Determine Our Durable Survival**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—At the conclusion of a meeting with Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary today, Russian President Vladimir Putin reported: “Let me note that we are closely analyzing the written responses received from the U.S. and NATO on Jan. 26. However, it is already clear, and I

informed Mr. Prime Minister about it, that the fundamental Russian concerns were ignored.” Those concerns, including stopping the Eastern expansion of NATO, and reversing and preventing the deployment of strike weapons near Russian borders, and returning the military infrastructure of NATO in Europe to the positions existing in 1997 when the Russia-NATO Founding Act was signed, are existential for the Russian state. The United States and NATO, it has now become clear, however, do not have the cooperation of the present Ukrainian government for the “defense of democracy” pretext they wished to present to their own largely clueless, mentally captive populations as justification for their mad adventure.

“The march of folly” we are seeing, despite certain efforts which are exceptions to that march, will get us to war, one way or another, if not today, tomorrow, or the day after. Though more and more organizations and individuals are speaking out, opposition to war is not enough. Something original, outside of the geopolitical domain, firmly rooted in the immediate moment but tied to the long-term best interests of humanity, that will restore the very idea of humanity, must be adopted, universally, and now.

Thanks to the collaboration of South African, Chinese, and other epidemiologists, we now know that a new bat coronavirus, NeoCov, is capable, under certain circumstances, of transmitting a MERS-CoV-2 like disease to humans with, potentially, the sort of efficiency seen in the Delta and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2. It has not happened yet, but the proposal Jan. 24 made by [Xi Jinping at Davos](#) for a worldwide collaboration to overcome the impending mass death of millions through as yet unknown, as well as known lethal pandemics, a danger possibly greater than even that last seen 660 years ago with the bubonic plague, is probably the only way that it could be avoided, if it can be avoided at all, at this time. His proposal needs an inspired response from the morally depraved trans-Atlantic sector. The World Health Platform proposal of [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#), [Dr. Joycelyn Elders](#), and others is, and has been available. But a morally degenerate elite that has lost the will or moral fitness to survive would never properly respond to Xi Jinping in time, particularly if they

have just proven themselves incapable of properly responding to Russia, and the immediate danger of accidentally launching thermonuclear war on the planet as a whole—which is what we have seen so far. Nonetheless, the scientific capability to do it exists, and because of the Operation Ibn Sina proposal of the Schiller Institute, with respect to Afghanistan and the world generally, a clear plan to do this exists. So why is this *really* not happening?

In a June 1981 *EIR* document entitled “[The Strategic Significance of the Ecumenical Negotiations](#),” Lyndon LaRouche identified the reasons for the morally depraved character of the Roman Empire *and* the Roman Republic. “St. Augustine addressed the practical side of the doctrinal issue in his devastating proof that not only the Roman Empire but the City of Rome before the Empire represented a morally degenerate society. Pre-Imperial Rome, according to the Roman historian Livius, was controlled by the Cult of Apollo, the same cult notorious as Aristotle's master at Delphi, and known in the Middle East by the names of Marduk and Lucifer. Imperial Rome was a result of control of the Roman cults from Ptolemaic Egypt. These were representatives of the forces which the Apostle St. John’s Apocalypse (Revelations) identifies as the ‘Whore of Babylon.’ ”

While the United States is still the world’s oldest and most successful republic, since the death of Franklin Roosevelt in April 1945, America has been culturally dominated in all aspects of policymaking by the Whore, not of Babylon, but of “Perfidious Albion.” In the last weeks and months, whether at the COP26 Malthusian “Kill Humanity, Save the Planet” fest, or in the Black Sea military chicken game with the Russian fleet, with the AUKUS (Australia-United Kingdom-United States) adventure, or the present mad gambit against Russia in Ukraine, itself the latest incarnation of the never-ending Christopher Steele/Sir Richard Dearlove/Robert Hannigan/GCHQ “Russiagate” assault on the American Presidency—the City of London has been in the driver’s seat. Britain is now deploying the “junior varsity” of the United States State Department, not only for the greater glory of BAE Systems and such, but for the self-destruction of the United States itself. That’s why the policy pronouncements are both insane,

and continuous. Perhaps it was Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's one undisputed skill, his penchant for comedy, that has led him to realize that the joke has gone too far. He does not intend to incinerate his nation. He and others have seen "up close" the mental difficulty the United States has in facing reality in the form of "the other," be that in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Ukraine.

A recent example: Take Tony Blinken's ham-fisted attempt to stop Argentina's President Alberto Fernández from visiting, first, Vladimir Putin, and then China's Xi Jinping, where a MOU on the Belt and Road Initiative is to be signed. On top of that, Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro will visit with Putin on Feb. 14. Brazilian Vice President, Gen. Hamilton Mourão (ret.), says that he doesn't think that Russia plans to invade Ukraine, or that Bolsonaro should not visit Russia because of tensions with the United States. "Let's remember that Brazil is part of a group, the BRICS, through which we have a partnership with Russia. Russia is an important country for doing business ... and we can't give that up."

This is the real world, the world of physical economy, the world of what was once termed the American System, but which has been rejected in the United States since the largely successful 1980s campaign to destroy the reputation and influence of Lyndon LaRouche. In all those areas now in the existential crosshairs—from the spread of lethal pandemics, to the collapse of the international monetary system and what to do about it, to stopping the danger of thermonuclear war through an ecumenical dialogue of cultures, to joint missions for the industrialization of space, and the production of advanced high-density energy platforms based on a revolution in nuclear power plant production, including thorium reactors, HTGR reactors, fission/fusion hybrids, etc.—the writings and campaigns of Lyndon LaRouche, featured through the pages of *Executive Intelligence Review*, has provided a record of what to do, and how to do it.

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday February 2, 2022: Every weekday morning on **The LaRouche Organization**, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Putin Weighs In, Asserts U.S. and NATO Ignoring 'Inalienable' Principle of Security Amongst Nations**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—Today, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, after weeks of silence on the subject, made a measured public statement, calling out the U.S. and NATO for deliberately ignoring Russia's clearly expressed fundamental security concerns. After his meeting with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Putin informed the media: "Let me note that we are closely analyzing the written responses received from the U.S. and NATO on Jan. 26. However, it is already clear, and I informed Mr. Prime Minister about it, that the fundamental Russian concerns were ignored."

The **three fundamental concerns** are to stop the Eastern expansion of NATO; to prevent offensive weapons near Russian borders; and for NATO to return to the military infrastructure of the 1997 agreements. However, Washington focuses upon the right to choose security alliances, while disregarding another key principle of the indivisibility of security. "The second inalienable part says that no one should be allowed to strengthen their security at the expense of the security of the other states," TASS quoted the President as saying.

Putin explained that NATO "took advantage" of Russia, after having promised not to deploy east of the Oder River, in deploying forces close to its border, in Poland, the Baltic states, and Romania. Now, Tomahawk cruise missiles can be launched from "defense systems" in Poland and Romania. Also, while Ukraine wants to join NATO, yet it has an official, documented doctrine to retake Crimea, "including through military means." Does NATO want to commit to such adventures? "I hope we will ultimately find a solution. Although it will be quite hard to do, we are fully aware of that. But today I am not ready to say what it can be."

Putin remarked that the discussion with Orbán lasted five hours: “Naturally, the issues relating to the Ukrainian conflict were addressed. [We discussed] the overall situation in Ukraine, including the sphere of human rights, which are violated on a regular basis there.” According to TASS, Putin also said that the Hungarian partners were making some strenuous attempts to settle the Ukrainian crisis. Putin also reflected on the “large projects, such as Paks—two new units, the construction of a nuclear power plant. In general, energy is a big part of our cooperation: 55% of oil and 80% of natural gas consumed by Hungary come from Russia.” He announced long-term contracts with Hungary, giving them discounted gas until 2036, pointing out that Hungary’s present gas price from Russia is one-fifth that of the European market rate. Another project he mentioned is a “good joint contract to build carriages for Egypt.”

### **Lavrov Says Blinken Reacts Negatively to Principle of Indivisibility of Security**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov** spoke by phone today, but the readouts were not in agreement. According to the State Department readout, **Blinken** “emphasized the U.S. willingness, bilaterally and together with Allies and partners, to continue a substantive exchange with Russia on mutual security concerns, which we intend to do in full coordination with our partners and Allies.”

Lavrov, however, said afterwards that Blinken reacted negatively to Moscow’s insistence that OSCE documents stressing the indivisibility of security interests must be abided by. “As for the key issue that generally prompted us to turn to the United States and the North Atlantic alliance with the initiative, the reaction was negative. I mean our demands that all must responsibly implement the agreements on indivisible security reached within the OSCE framework in Istanbul in 1999 and in Astana in 2010,” he said, reported **TASS**. The U.S. reply to Russia’s proposals on security guarantees that was received last week showed that “the Americans prefer to focus on discussing still important, but secondary issues,” Lavrov

insisted. “In order not to let this happen, when we received a reaction from Washington to our original proposals, I described this in detail in a special message and sent it to all OSCE foreign ministers and the foreign ministers of other countries to let them know our position,” explained the minister.

“Today, I confirmed to Antony Blinken that, after all, this is an issue which we will not allow talking down. And we will insist on an honest talk and on an honest explanation why the West is unwilling to implement its commitments or wants to implement them selectively in its favor.” At the same time, Lavrov said that Blinken did agree that there was a subject matter for discussion with Russia regarding the issue of indivisible security. “We will see how things will develop,” he said.

## GREEN ‘GREAT RESET’

### **German Farmer Calculates, EU Green Deal Will Cut Food Needs for 400 Million People To Live**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—On Jan. 23, the Schiller Institute posted a short video, “Food Crisis: Why Are Farmers *Not* Allowed To Produce Food?” Among the responses to the video from around the world, a German farmer supplied his calculations that if the EU Green Deal “Farm-to-Fork” dictates are enforced, food for 400 million people will not be produced. On Jan. 24, the German farmer wrote on Facebook (translated by *EIR*):

“The EU Biodiversity Strategy, or Green Deal, which is to be implemented to protect nature, habitats and animals (especially insects), creates serious consequences for world food. Please read the following. The calculations are based on realistic values which were partly rounded.

“Just by the single regulation that in Europe 25% of agriculture must be ‘organic,’ 145 million fewer people can be fed. (Conventional agriculture requires 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>, organic agriculture 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>, to feed one person.)

“10% set-aside Europewide, takes 17.4 million hectares of land out of production, which means feeding another 87 million fewer people!

“50% plant protection (pesticide) reduction will mean another 20% less in yields, depriving another 112.5 million people of food!

“20% fertilization below what is required will bring down yield about another 10%, which equals 56.25 million people not having food.

“These measures altogether add up to 400 million fewer humans—according to European standards and/or consumption—who can be fed after implementation of this EU regulation. If one considers that, for an African, for whom perhaps half of this food volume is enough for living [i.e., the food is consumed directly for subsistence, and not through the animal protein chain], these Green Deal regulations take away food for 800 million people. This comes in addition to the fact that 24,000 humans already starve every day worldwide!

“The 400 million people will certainly not starve in Europe, because the rich countries will buy the food away from the poor countries. Thus, additionally these 400 and/or 800 million humans in the poor countries, will have to starve, and yet it goes unnoticed in Europe.

“With it, the EU certainly goes down in history! For comparison: In the Second World War, 60 million humans perished in 6 years!

“Everyone who demands that [Green Deal] must also bear responsibility for it!”

## SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Swiss Team Works on Developing Thorium Reactor

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—The Transmutex company is developing a new type of nuclear reactor that burns thorium instead of uranium. These power plants would be able to produce electricity safely without highly radioactive waste—an ambitious project which could change the landscape of nuclear energy.

Thorium is a weakly radioactive metal that occurs abundantly in rocks in almost the entirety of Earth’s crust. “It is much more democratic than

uranium,” Swiss.info quotes Federico Carminati of Transmutex in a Jan. 30 wire. There are many advantages to a thorium reactor using a particle accelerator, according to Carminati. The radioactive decay time of thorium byproducts is much shorter than for uranium, 300 years instead of 300,000. The amount of hazardous waste would also be significantly reduced. “We are talking about a few kilograms instead of tons,” Carminati says. The thorium cycle also has the advantage of preventing nuclear proliferation, because its byproducts cannot be used to make an atomic bomb, he says.

Moreover a thorium reactor could also be powered by nuclear waste from existing NPPs. The flow of ultra-fast particles makes it possible to burn the waste and produce energy. In addition, in what is technically known as “transmutation” (whence the name of the Transmutex start-up), some of the short-lived radioactive waste could also be transformed into stable elements. “This could solve the problem of the accumulation and storage of highly radioactive waste,” says Carminati.

Transmutex has already attracted international partners. The Russian company Rosatom, which specializes in nuclear engines for submarines, is studying the possibility of developing a thorium reactor. Argonne National Laboratory is working on thorium fuel.

“We have all the essential elements to build a new type of reactor, and all that remains is to assemble them,” says Carminati. The company’s goal is to have a demonstration prototype ready by the early 2030s.

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### George Soros and Hoover Institution Join on Regime Change against China’s Xi Jinping

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—The inimitable George Soros found a friendly reception at the Hoover Institution yesterday, as Soros announced that it was time for regime change in China. Evidently, the policy has worked so well in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and Ukraine, that it is time to take on the big enchilada.

Soros proclaimed that China, the “world’s most powerful authoritarian state,” is “the greatest threat that open societies face today.” (With very little effort, one can find out that “open societies” means, primarily, the freedom for financial scams to proceed unhindered.) Soros, whose collaboration with the Nazis against fellow Hungarian Jews has gained him some infamy, asserted that China, “like Germany in 1936, ... will attempt to use the [Olympics] spectacle to score a propaganda victory for its system of strict controls.”

The West could cut China some slack when Deng Xiaoping was introducing free market reforms, but he insists Xi Jinping—who quotes Confucius more than Mao, but why should Soros tell the truth about that?—is “a true believer in communism.... Mao Zedong and Vladimir Lenin are his idols. It is to be hoped that Xi Jinping may be replaced by someone less repressive at home and more peaceful abroad. This would remove the greatest threat that open societies face today, and they should do everything within their power to encourage China to move in the desired direction.” How “open” can you get, overthrow the President who completed bringing 800 million of his fellow citizens out of poverty!

While the public embrace of George Soros and the Hoover Institution may be meant to signal a “new, bold campaign for democracy,” it is more a mark of desperation that Xi has left them eating dust.

## UKRAINE

### **Russia at UN Security Council Asks Whether U.S. Is Sacrificing Ukraine for ‘Geopolitical Interests’**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—Yesterday, Russia’s Permanent Representative to the UN Vassily Nebeniza was fairly blunt in the UN Security Council debate on Ukraine, that was invoked by the United States: “Our Western partners talk about the need for de-escalation, but first of all themselves ramp up tension with their rhetoric and provoke an escalation. Talk about an impending war is provocative in itself. It looks like you’re calling for this, wanting and waiting for it to happen. As if you want to make your allegations a reality,”

RT quoted him as saying. He followed up regarding the U.S. connecting Russian troop movements on Russian territory to allegations of threatened “invasion” of Ukraine, saying, “It seems that our American colleagues are ready to sacrifice Ukraine to their geopolitical interests.”

Afterwards, Nebenzia acknowledged to reporters that the U.S. Representative had made no mention whatever of the Minsk Agreements, and told reporters that the U.S. should “encourage Ukraine to implement the Minsk agreements, which they sabotage all the time.”

Today, Nebenzia assumed the presidency of the Security Council, where he repeated his remarks at his press conference. “I don't know why the U.S. is escalating tensions and at the same time accusing Russia of escalating tensions. We never said anything on that. This all is linked to alleged presence of Russian troops at the Russian-Ukrainian border. That is not true. Russian troops are not at the Russian-Ukrainian border. They are where they normally stay....”

### **Ukrainian Security Chief Claims That Implementing Minsk Agreements Would Mean Ukraine's Destruction**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—**Oleksii Danilov**, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, made clear in an interview with The Associated Press yesterday that the Kiev regime has no intention of complying with the Minsk agreements to settle the conflict in Ukraine's Donbas region. “The fulfillment of the Minsk agreement means the country's destruction,” Danilov said. “When they were signed under the Russian gun barrel—and the Germans and the French watched—it was already clear for all rational people that it's impossible to implement those documents.”

Danilov warned the West against pressuring Ukraine into fulfilling the Minsk deal, which involves Kiev holding direct negotiations with the Donbas “republics,” claiming that it would provoke dangerous instability. “If they insist on the fulfillment of the Minsk agreements as they are, it will be very dangerous for our country,” he said. “If the society doesn't accept

those agreements, it could lead to a very difficult internal situation, and Russia counts on that,” he charged.

He also argued that if Ukraine honors the deal, it will allow Russia to demand lifting Western sanctions that were contingent on progress in implementing the Minsk agreement. Danilov called for negotiating a new document that could be realistically implemented, adding that it should force “Putin to simply pull his troops and tanks back.”

Otherwise, Danilov agreed with Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov that the likelihood of an “imminent” Russian invasion is low. He alleged that about 120,000 Russian troops are concentrated near Ukraine and that Moscow may stage provocations “at any moment,” but he argued that launching a full-fledged invasion would require massive preparations that would be easily spotted. “The preparatory period that will be noticed by the entire world could take from three to seven days,” Danilov said. “We aren’t seeing it yet. We clearly understand what’s going on and we are calmly preparing for it,” AP quoted him as saying.

## COVID-19 AND FAMINE

### **Omicron’s Sister, BA.2, Coming to Your Town**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—A variant of SARS-CoV-2 is now spreading that is much like Omicron, though possibly even more contagious. Omicron, aka “BA.1,” has a sister, “BA.2,” which has the same ancestor strain but has about 20 different mutations. Most of them are outside of the areas that are important for immune recognition—meaning that whatever vaccines or therapeutics work against Omicron will likely work against its sister. BA.2 has presently been found in more than half of the United States.

Denmark’s State Serum Institute has determined that more than half of the cases in Denmark are now BA.2. While, early on, they find the rate of hospitalizations about the same, “preliminary calculations indicate that BA.2 is effectively well over one-and-a-half times more contagious than BA.1.” While that doesn’t bode well, it is also the case that Omicron has

already infected what might be considered a good portion of the target population for its sister; so, there is no linear projection—say, of “one and a half times”—of additional cases that can be assigned. Genomic epidemiologist Mark Zeller, at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, estimated that BA.2 will drive another rise in cases, though people who were infected with BA.1 should have some immunity to BA.2.

### **New Bat Coronavirus, NeoCoV, Threatens Humans**

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—The newly discovered coronavirus, called NeoCoV, found by a team of Chinese scientists among bats in South Africa, poses the possibility of a more transmissible version of the virulent Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, MERS-CoV-2 (a precursor of SARS-CoV-2). The discovery comes out of ongoing scientific work monitoring and investigating mutations and variations amongst other living species that may breed a viral strain that can cross over into humans. It is exactly the sort of collaborative work among nations and scientists called for in February 2020, by the joint team of World Health Organization and Chinese scientists investigating the SARS-CoV-2 that hit Wuhan.

The lead author of “[Close Relatives of MERS-CoV-2 in Bats Use ACE2 as Their Functional Receptors](#),” is Qing Xiong, from the Institute for Vaccine Research and Modern Virology Research Center at Wuhan University’s College of Life Sciences. The paper was just entered into the bioRxiv electronic library, and has not yet been peer-reviewed. The scientists find that the coronavirus in the South African bats is closely related to the MERS coronavirus; however, no previous MERS-like coronavirus—that is, before NeoCoV—has employed, for a receptor, the bat Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2). NeoCov prefers the bat ACE2, but also “less favorably, human ACE2 for entry.” Hence, the study’s conclusion: “Our study demonstrates the first case of ACE2 usage in MERS-related viruses, shedding light on a potential bio-safety threat of the human emergence of an ACE2 using ‘MERS\_CoV-2’ with both high fatality and transmission rate.”

The mutations are occurring, whether or not countries collaborate to identify such threats ahead of time. Similar to the danger of various large rocks and such space debris hurtling through our solar system, also with tracking viral developments, it takes some statesman-like maturity for countries to act before it is too late. Such is the minimal level of national leadership, established as the real ‘new normal.’

## AFGHANISTAN

### State Department Warns Argentine and Brazilian Presidents To Cancel Trips to Russia

Feb. 1 (EIRNS)—On behalf of the Anglo-American imperialists, Secretary of State Tony Blinken has been busy warning the Argentine President Alberto Fernández and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to drop their scheduled trips to Moscow this month. Premised on the lie that Russia is planning to invade Ukraine “at any moment,” Blinken has argued that meeting with President Vladimir Putin at a time when he should be “isolated” internationally sends “the wrong signals,” and might suggest that both nations are taking Russia’s side in the so-called “conflict,” the Brazilian establishment daily *Folha de São Paulo* reported Jan. 31.

It’s likely that Blinken conveyed this message when he met with Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero in Washington last week, and, according to *Folha*, he has been burning up the phone lines with Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Franca, most recently on Jan. 31, to again warn against Bolsonaro’s trip. As of this writing, President Fernández is already on his flight to Moscow, where he will meet with Putin on Feb. 3 to discuss a number of bilateral cooperation agreements in the areas of trade, science and technology, and vaccine production, among others. He will then go on to Beijing on Feb. 4 for three days of intensive activities, including two bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping, culminating in signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Feb. 6 to join the Belt and Road Initiative. Bolsonaro is scheduled to be in Moscow Feb. 14-17, and also plans to visit Hungary to meet with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Reports from *Folha* and other Brazilian media indicate that Blinken didn't get the response he wanted from Franca, who instead told him that Bolsonaro had no intention of discussing the Ukrainian situation with Putin, and that there are other pressing bilateral issues to be taken up in trade and investment, science and technology, etc. It would appear that the Foreign Ministry is setting the tone for the trip, which is more in line with the pragmatic, non-interventionist foreign policy Brazil has followed historically when it has had decent leadership.

Add to this the fact that, at yesterday's special UN Security Council session on Ukraine, called by the Anglo-Americans, Brazil's UN Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho did not join the vilification of Russia, but instead urged all parties "to strictly observe international law. It is imperative to apply the principles enshrined in the Charter consistently, in a non-selective manner.... Open references to military actions, unilateral economic sanctions and other measures are developments that should be avoided, under the UN Charter.... Brazil also highlights the need for good faith in order to address legitimate security concerns of all parties, including Russia's and Ukraine's." Blinken had secured Brazil's vote in favor of the meeting, but certainly didn't get its support for his warmongering.

In an interview with Record TV in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, Bolsonaro echoed Franca's remarks, emphasizing that Brazil "is a peaceful country," and expressed the hope that the conflict in Ukraine could be resolved. If the subject of Ukraine were to come up, "it would be raised by the Russian President, not by us. What we want is to increasingly integrate ourselves into the world on trade relations, and to the degree it's possible, collaborate on world peace." According to *Poder360*, he mentioned that Brazil belongs to the BRICS, the five-nation bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (which he has largely ignored during his Presidency). Brazil and Russia are partners in the BRICS, and "we do business with Russia," and collaborate in important areas such as agriculture.

Brazil's Vice President, Gen. Hamilton Mourão (ret.), who has tended to be intelligent on many important issues, in contrast to Bolsonaro, also brought up the BRICS in comments covered by *Folha*. "Let's remember ... Russia is an important country for doing business and we can't give up on that," he said. He also commented that he didn't believe Russia would invade Ukraine. Brazil is "very far away from that conflict," although "there are pressures from other countries that are more involved." He emphasized that Brazil's foreign policy is based on non-intervention, defending people's right to sovereignty, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.