

EIR Daily Alert Service

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- The War Drums Are Deafening, But There Are Signs of Sanity Which Must Be Expanded
- Germany Expels Two Russian Diplomats
- Libya ‘Stabilization’ Fades Away
- New Anti-China Provocations from U.S. Congress Proclaim, Don’t Say Tibet Is Part of China
- Blinken Outlines Strategy To Turn Indo-Pacific Region into a NATO Satrapy
- Jack Matlock Insists, To Avoid a ‘Suicidal Course,’ Ukraine Must Understand It Needs ‘Close and Civil’ Relations to Russia
- Finnish President Call for 2025 Helsinki Summit; Endorsed by Putin
- France and Germany Want Revival of Normandy Format on Ukraine Issue
- Dr. Shah Mohammad Mehrabi Briefs *EIR* How U.S. Policy Is ‘Suffocating’ Afghanistan's People

EDITORIAL

The War Drums Are Deafening, But There Are Signs of Sanity Which Must Be Expanded

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—As the blatant insanity of the war party is increasingly apparent to anyone with an ounce of concern for humanity, the perpetrators are becoming even more reckless, but some courageous souls are stepping forward to sound the warning and demand a return to diplomacy to prevent a holocaust and a new dark age.

On the insane side: Sixty members of Congress have issued a letter calling on President Biden to recognize Tibet as a separate nation, invite the Dalai Lama to the White House, and treat him as a head of state. They assert that China's insistence that Tibet is part of China is an "obstacle to dialogue." Perhaps these Malthusian fanatics would prefer that Tibet be returned to its condition under the Lama's rule, with life expectancy of 35 and illiteracy at 95%.

Then there is [Tony Blinken](#), who toured Southeast Asia this week, giving a policy speech in Indonesia on his plan to NATO-ize the Indo-Pacific—perhaps he should say "NAZI-ize." America is here to counter "Beijing's aggressive actions," he said to a nation whose vast majority of infrastructure developments are joint projects with China. He said that the U.S. will work "to connect our relationships in the Indo-Pacific with an unmatched system of alliances and partnerships beyond the region, particularly in Europe.... At NATO, we're updating our strategic concept to reflect the Indo-Pacific's growing significance, and address new threats, like the security implications of the climate crisis." What happened to the "North Atlantic" in NATO? He also called for the further militarization of diplomacy, promoting "a strategy that more closely weaves together all our instruments of national power—diplomacy, military, intelligence—with those of our allies and our partners."

On the sane side: Senior U.S. diplomat and China expert [Chas Freeman](#) and former senior CIA official and Islamic expert [Graham Fuller](#) have stepped forward to conduct interviews with *EIR* and the Schiller Institute, both issuing extremely stern warnings, from a highly informed perspective, that emergency measures must be implemented immediately if we are to avoid global war and possible nuclear annihilation. Both assert that the U.S. must come to terms with the fact that it is no longer the "only superpower" which can dictate terms and policies globally. There is a new reality, as China and Russia are offering peace through development to the world, rather than the economic and social decay of the degenerating trans-Atlantic powers, through the Belt and Road and respect for national

sovereignty, so long ignored under the British “responsibility to protect” doctrine used to assert a new colonialism.

Also on the sane side, a call was issued by President Sauli Niinistö of Finland for a new Helsinki Summit of the Organization on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2025, the 50th anniversary of the 1975 conference which launched the institution. This was a key part of the détente process which kept the peace in Europe and allowed some level of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Western nations. Following discussions with both President Biden and President Putin, Niinistö said this was a “good time to bring the spirit of Helsinki back to the world. Once again, a positive spiral is needed, a precious foundation of the OSCE,” posing this as a way to defuse what he sees as growing tensions among major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia. Beginning the negotiations now for such a conference can and must break through the madness.

Schiller Institute President [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#) added a profound call for sanity in an panel on China’s CGTN TV “Think Tank” today. Asked to make suggestions for today’s youth in a moment of great peril, she responded that the fundamental issue is the image of mankind, with two opposite views being contested. The one is that of the Malthusian and oligarchical view, that man is a parasite, polluting Mother Nature, and the fewer people the better, a view most evident in those promoting the climate scare. The other view is that which perceives that every person is sacred, blessed with the power of reason, capable of making discoveries of new principles of nature which can be applied to enhanced production and higher standards of living for all. She said that it is time for all of humanity to unite behind this elevated view, to form a common party of mankind which unites citizens of all countries in a common mission, without contradicting the interests of the diverse and beautiful cultures of the world. To start such a process, she said, mankind must unite behind the urgent need to end the pandemic, and all future pandemics, by building modern health facilities in every country. That would create a potential branching point for the human race, building the basic infrastructure required for the

health of all people, and ending once and for all the idea that poverty is an unavoidable part of civilization which can not be eliminated. In 100 years, she remarked, when we have become a space-faring species, national boundaries will be less important.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday December 17, 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

Germany Expels Two Russian Diplomats

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock expelled two Russian diplomats after the Berlin court on Dec. 15 found a Russian citizen guilty in the “Tiergarten Park murder” case, referring to the 2019 murder in Berlin of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, a Georgian citizen of Chechen ethnicity. The German judge said the killing was “state terrorism.”

Russia’s Ambassador to Germany Sergey Nechaev argued that the guilty verdict was “politically motivated.” The [Russian Foreign Ministry](#) statement said: “The Russian side strongly believes that the guilty verdict brought in by the German court against ... Vadim Sokolov on Dec. 15 in the case of the murder of Georgian citizen Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, former terrorist gang leader in the North Caucasus ... is clearly a case of an explicit political put-up job. We insist that the Russian citizen is innocent....

“We are deeply disappointed by the fact that ... Germany chose, under the guise of the above verdict, to perpetrate another unfriendly action against the Russian Federation and proclaim *persona non grata* two diplomatic employees ... who were not and could not have been involved in the Zelimkhan Khangoshvili case, which fact the German authorities are well aware of. Berlin should rest assured that Russia will respond proportionately.”

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the “Solovyov Live” YouTube channel on Dec. 16, “Berlin announced yesterday that it was expelling two Russian diplomats over a court ruling in the case. As we all understand, the case is politicized, to put it mildly, and has nothing to do with any notion of law and justice.”

Libya ‘Stabilization’ Fades Away

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—Armed groups surrounded institutional buildings in Tripoli, Libya yesterday. It is not clear whether it is a coup or a counter-coup. What is clear is that national elections won’t take place Dec. 24 as planned.

Italian sources claim that former UN Libya envoy Stephanie Williams is behind a plot to cancel elections, as polls indicate that Muammar Qaddafi’s son Saif al-Islam Qaddafi has 70% support. Williams was named on Dec. 6 as UN Secretary General Guterres’ advisor on Libya. She previously served as Acting Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) (2020-2021), and as Deputy Special Representative UNSMIL (2018-2020). A member of the United States Senior Foreign Service, Williams had also served as Chargé d’Affaires a.i. for the Libya External Office (Tunis) in 2018.

Saif Qaddafi is opposed by Islamist militias and their sponsor, Turkey. It is possible that those militias, centered in Misrata, acted preemptively yesterday. That elections would not take place as scheduled was already clear last week, when the High National Election Commission failed to publish the list of candidates, 25 of whom had been disqualified earlier, and most of whom the HNEC had to readmit to ballot status according to Al-Monitor.

New Anti-China Provocations from U.S. Congress Proclaim, Don’t Say Tibet Is Part of China

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—Sixty members of Congress have penned a letter to Under Secretary of State for Civilian Democracy, Security and Human Rights Uzra Zeya, who is about to be named [Special Coordinator for](#)

Tibetan Issues, urging the Biden administration to take a series of steps to advance Tibetan “autonomy” as an entity that is completely “apart” from the People’s Republic of China in religious, ethnic, and cultural terms and should really never be referred to as “a part of China.” (Tibet is referred to as Xizang in China.) *Global Times* appropriately lambasts the letter as a ploy of the U.S. and separatist forces who are “racking their brains in playing all cards with China’s Xinjiang and Xizang region in order to push for tougher policies against China.” It quotes Zhu Feng, a professor of international relations at Nanjing University, who warns, don’t expect anything less from the “anti-China hawks” who inhabit the U.S. Congress in large numbers.

The rabidly anti-China, pro-separatist Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) were the initiators of the letter, which among other things, calls on the Biden administration to “engage the Dalai Lama” by inviting “His Holiness” to the White House, as past Presidents have done, to “discuss shared interests and strategies for addressing the world’s most pressing problems”—as if he were a head of state. If the Holy Man can’t come to the White House, Biden should try to meet with him in India where he has lived in Dharamsala since the 1950s, or send a high-level representative such as Vice President Kamala Harris to meet with him. The letter urges resumption of the Sino-Tibetan Dialogue, last held in 2010, and recommends that the U.S. and like-minded partners seek “novel strategies” to encourage forward motion in this regard. But, it continues, Beijing’s insistence that Tibet is part of China is an “obstacle” to dialogue. “Consistent with the State Department’s call for dialogue without preconditions,” the letter urges “the continued exclusion of this phrase” that Tibet is part of China “from future reports and statements.”

The letter addresses several other issues, such as facilitating access to Tibet and meeting with its government in exile, etc. It urges the administration’s continued support for the Tibetan Policy and Support Act, which establishes that decisions regarding the Dalai Lama’s reincarnation are “religious in nature” and “belong solely to him and the Tibetan people.”

The administration should support this policy as “the international norm” and as a “strategic counter to the Chinese Communist Party and Chinese government’s claim to ownership of the lands of the Tibetan people and control of the religious institution of the Dalai Lama.”

Blinken Outlines Strategy To Turn Indo-Pacific Region into a NATO Satrapy

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—With Orwellian hypocrisy, Secretary of State Tony Blinken’s main policy speech on his COVID-shortened trip to Southeast Asia countries, delivered on Dec. 14 in his first stop, Indonesia, asserted the U.S. intention to turn “[A Free and Open Indo-Pacific](#)” into an integrated network of proliferating military/security “alliances”—more Quads, more Orcuses—through which to impose the “rules-based order,” and crush China and any other government that dares to develop with China.

Blinken spoke about “five core elements” of the State Department’s Indo-Pacific strategy, largely a rehash of the now-standard attacks on “Beijing’s aggressive actions,” which necessitate enforcing “the rules-based order,” “freedom of navigation,” and International Court at The Hague’s ruling against Chinese maritime claims in the South China Sea, blocking Chinese investments, etc. Also included, of course, was the deployment of “anti-corruption” and “human rights” operations against any regional government which does not play ball with the strategy, with Burma the example cited.

Blinken’s second “core element” makes clear that the new U.S.-U.K.-Australia “AUKUS” alliance is envisioned as the first of many more such alliances to be cobbled together. “We will deepen our treaty alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand.... We’ll foster greater cooperation among these allies, as well. That’s one of the things we’ve done by deepening U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral cooperation, and launching an historic new security cooperation agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom. We’ll find ways to knit our allies together with our partners, as we’ve done by reinvigorating the Quad,” Blinken pronounced.

With the NATO clause: The U.S. will work “to connect our relationships in the Indo-Pacific with an unmatched system of alliances and partnerships beyond the region, particularly in Europe. The European Union recently released an Indo-Pacific strategy that aligns closely with our own vision. At NATO, we’re updating our strategic concept to reflect the Indo-Pacific’s growing significance, and address new threats, like the security implications of the climate crisis.” ASEAN is to be pulled in also; he remarked that the G7’s ministers had met with their ASEAN counterparts for the first time in the Dec. 12 Liverpool “hybrid virtual” meeting.

All this “allows us to assemble the broadest, most effective coalitions to tackle any challenge, to seize any opportunity, to work toward any goal,” Blinken deludes himself.

The final “core element” reiterates the military premise underlying the talk of “bolster[ing] Indo-Pacific security.” Policy is to be based on Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin’s policy of “integrated deterrence ... a strategy that more closely weaves together all our instruments of national power—diplomacy, military, intelligence—with those of our allies and our partners.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Jack Matlock Insists, To Avoid a ‘Suicidal Course,’ Ukraine Must Understand It Needs ‘Close and Civil’ Relations to Russia

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—In a Dec. 14 article posted to the website University of North Carolina’s Krasno Global Affairs & Business Council, the last U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock discusses the origins of Ukraine’s current disunity, which has nothing to do with “Russian interference.” Under the headline, “[Ukraine: Tragedy of a Nation Divided](#),” Matlock points to the folly of U.S. policy, especially during the Ukraine Maidan coup in 2014 and subsequent years, which, by targeting Russia, the United States, together with NATO, interfered in Ukraine’s civil struggle and took action that Russia perceives as a threat to its national security,

exacerbating the crisis and raising “the specter of possible conflict between nuclear-armed powers.” In the 30 years since its independence from the Soviet Union, “The fact is, Ukraine is a state but not yet a nation,” the dangerous situation which the West’s interference has produced. Matlock lays out what steps must be taken to remedy the situation, which reached a point that “could easily turn out to be a suicidal course.”

Matlock reviews Ukraine’s history since the end of World War II, to explain the source of its disunity, depicted on an excellent map, as it was “haphazardly” made up by outsiders of disparate parts of interwar Poland and Czechoslovakia, and Russian-speaking Crimea, and added to what had been the 1922 Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, thus made up of people with different historical experiences, languages, and deeply divided along linguistic and cultural lines. No leader has ever appeared able to unite the nation around a “shared concept of Ukrainian identity.” Rather than centralized government, it needs a federal government that could grant a degree of autonomy to regions.

Matlock pulls no punches in discussing the Maidan coup, in which, he describes the U.S. and the European Union openly advocated detaching Ukraine from the Russian security sphere and attaching it to the West through EU and NATO memberships. “Never mind that Ukraine was unable at that time to meet the normal requirements for either EU or NATO membership,” argues Matlock. He points to the role of “irregular militias” taking over the local offices headed by appointees of then-President Viktor Yanukovich and to the fact that many peaceful demonstrators were shot by sniper fire. Claims that the government’s security force, the Berkut, was responsible for the shooting were never substantiated in subsequent trials, Matlock points out. When Yanukovich fled the country, the U.S. and EU immediately recognized the successor government (referring to Victoria Nuland’s installed Arsenyy Yatsenyuk, but Matlock doesn’t mention that), but Russia and many Russian-speaking Ukrainians considered Yanukovich’s ouster to be an “illegal coup d’état.” Thus, he says, Russia supported the rebellion in the eastern provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, and provided them with military equipment and irregular forces.

Matlock points out that the events that followed 2015—the non-implementation of the Minsk agreement, economic sanctions against Russia for “annexing” Crimea, and other things—have only “stimulated hostile emotions rather than encouraged solution of problems. What needs to be understood is that Russia perceives these issues as matters of vital national security.” Just as the U.S. would be and has been, Russia is very sensitive about foreign military activity adjacent to its borders. “It has signaled repeatedly that it will stop at nothing to prevent NATO membership for Ukraine.” Yet since the times of Cheney and Bush, “Ukraine membership in NATO Nevertheless, eventual Ukrainian membership in NATO has been an avowed objective of U.S. and NATO policy.... This makes absolutely no sense. It is also dangerous to confront a nuclear-armed power with military threats on its border.”

When the U.S. denies that Russia has a right to oppose extension of a hostile military alliance to its national borders, it “ignores its own history of declaring and enforcing for two centuries a sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere.” Matlock points to the example of how Kennedy and Khrushchev intelligently resolved the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 by making concessions each side could accept; but now, he writes, “the only thing that will convince Moscow to withdraw its support from the separatist regimes of the Donbas will be Kiev’s willingness to implement the Minsk agreement.” He points to the emptiness of the U.S. demand that Russia respect Ukraine’s “territorial integrity,” since Russia already complied with this in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, and when that was signed, there was no plan for NATO to expand East, and Mikhail Gorbachev had been assured in 1990 that the alliance wouldn’t expand. But, when it did expand right up to Russia’s borders, “Russia was confronted with a radically different strategic situation than existed when the Budapest agreement was signed.”

Concluding, Matlock warns that “ultimately all these legal arguments and appeals to abstract concepts are beside the point. *So far as Ukraine is concerned, it can never be a united, prosperous country unless it has reasonably close and civil relations with Russia.* That means, *inter alia,*

giving its Russian-speaking citizens equal rights to their language and culture. That is a fact determined by geography and history. Ukraine's friends in Europe and North America should help them understand that rather than pursuing what could easily turn out to be a suicidal course.” (Emphasis in original.)

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Finnish President Call for 2025 Helsinki Summit; Endorsed by Putin

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—Finnish President Sauli Niinistö has proposed a Helsinki summit in the spirit of the 1975 Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which led to the founding of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The proposal has already been endorsed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, most recently in their telephone discussion on Dec. 14. Niinistö made the suggestion in an op-ed column published in the leading daily, *Helsingin Sanomat*, on Sunday, March 28, this year, entitled “Arctic Cool and the Spirit of Helsinki.”

In his article Niinistö suggested that such a meeting could be a way to defuse what he sees as growing tensions among major powers such as the United States, China, and Russia. Such a summit has not been held since 2010. Summits are not held regularly and are held at the request of members, requiring a consensus among all members to approve the convening of a summit. While he lays much emphasis on such a summit taking up the issues of climate change from where COP26 left off, he also emphasized the security situation and East-West tensions over Ukraine and arms control.

Niinistö also referenced his proposal for an Arctic summit, which he said would be useful not only on climate matters, but also in relieving military tensions in the region. He wrote that he has stated before that Arctic issues are “cool enough for discussion even in hotter atmospheres.” He proposed that such a summit be held in 2025, fifty years after the original Helsinki Accords.

In the 1975 meeting, the heads of state of 35 countries in Europe and North America came together, which lowered Cold War tensions and led to the establishment of the OSCE in 1995. The OSCE Council of Ministers, which met in Stockholm earlier this month, named Finland to be president of the OSCE in 2025.

“In four years’ time, the celebration would be a good time to bring the spirit of Helsinki back to the world. Once again, a positive motion is needed, a precious foundation of the OSCE, respecting the values of freedom, democracy and rights,” the President wrote in his March statement. While 2025 is a long way off, he did not say such a meeting could not be held earlier. He has already held talks this week with Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden.

According to the White House readout on the Dec. 13 telephone call between Presidents Biden and Niinistö, “they discussed their shared concerns about Russia’s destabilizing military buildup along Ukraine’s border and the importance of transatlantic efforts to de-escalate the situation.”

According to the Kremlin readout of the Dec. 14 telephone discussion with Putin, they discussed the Ukrainian crisis, in which Putin emphasized the importance of Kiev’s complete and unconditional fulfillment of the Minsk Package of Measures.

Further, “Putin again stressed the importance of immediately starting talks with the United States and NATO. The goal of the talks would be to draft international legal security guarantees for Russia, ruling out NATO’s further movement eastward and the deployment of weapons systems threatening Russia in Ukraine and other adjacent states.” Significantly, Putin “emphasized that this fully conformed to the principle of indivisible security sealed in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1999 Istanbul Charter. In this context, Vladimir Putin supported President Niinistö’s initiative to convene a summit in 2025 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.”

Niinistö on Dec. 15 spoke by telephone with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during which he described the situation around Ukraine as “worrying.” He also spoke Dec. 13 with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in which they discussed Mitsotakis’s Dec. 8 visit with President Putin in Sochi, the Ukrainian situation, and the Finnish President’s the proposal for a summit.

Niinistö, who has said in the past that he sees Finland playing a mediating role between Europe and Russia, began promoting the idea of reviving the “Spirit of Helsinki” earlier this year, presenting it in September during his United Nations General Assembly speech, and in November during a working visit to Berlin with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at which the two presidents discussed the issue, as did German and Finnish experts.

France and Germany Want Revival of Normandy Format on Ukraine Issue

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke on Dec. 15 in Brussels with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on the sidelines of an EU summit, the three leaders agreeing that the Normandy Format be revived to find a solution to the Ukraine crisis. Macron also had been on the phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin before the Brussels meeting.

“The three leaders reaffirmed their commitment to this format of negotiations in order to find a lasting solution for the conflict and to preserve Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Macron’s office told the press. Zelenskyy said at a news conference that Ukraine is ready for talks in the Normandy Format or any other, but he stressed at the same time that Ukraine believed keeping sanctions against Russia was necessary.

Apparently, the Normandy Format will not be changed but will run parallel to the Biden-Putin talks. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Dec. 14 said that the issue of including the United States in the Normandy Format was not on the agenda. “There is no question of reformatting the Normandy Format,” Kuleba told reporters in Kiev.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Dr. Shah Mohammad Mehrabi Briefs *EIR* How U.S. Policy Is 'Suffocating' Afghanistan's People

Dec. 16 (EIRNS)—Dr. Shah Mohammad Mehrabi, the economist who has served on the Supreme Council of the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) Central Bank since 2002, in a Dec. 15 interview with *EIR*, characterized the freezing of Afghanistan's \$9.5 billion of reserves being held in the U.S. Federal Reserve and several European banks as illegal and immoral, punishing not the Taliban but the Afghan people. Most Afghans have experienced war nearly all of their lives, he said, and now that there is peace, the freezing of the funds and the imposition of sanctions are "suffocating" the people, creating famine and misery, and many deaths from disease and starvation.

Some of his points:

The denial of access of the funds belonging to the DAB Central Bank has already caused a 14% devaluation of the currency, which will rapidly become much worse, as the bank is almost out of funds to defend it at all. Soon the people's savings will be rendered worthless.

Inflation is horrendous: 74% for gas; 20% for wheat; 30% for flour.

Since sanctions have denied Da Afghanistan Bank access to the SWIFT system, foreign trade has essentially stopped. Even trade with its neighbor Pakistan has declined by half.

Humanitarian aid is needed, but bypassing the banking system means the aid is at best short-term, and does nothing to fix the problem.

Claiming the sanctions and freezing of funds are due to the Taliban's treatment of women and children makes no sense, since the actions of withholding those funds are killing women and children. If not reversed immediately, there will soon be millions of women, carrying their babies in their arms, walking out of the country to Iran, with hopes of reaching Turkey and Europe.

The Afghan people are being punished, while the policy does not harm the Taliban, who are cooperating with the Da Afghanistan Bank.

The proposal to bypass the DAB Central Bank by establishing a private bank to take over its functions is unworkable—commercial banks need profit, and cannot serve as a lender of last resort, while they will not have the trust of the population. Doing so would destroy the trust that exists in the Central Bank.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) already has a bad name in Afghanistan. Now the UN, despite warning that the banking system is collapsing and is needed to run humanitarian assistance, nevertheless has delivered two gifts of \$16 million each in aid, but bypassed the Central Bank.

The two-page letter from members of Congress to Biden to release the funds now has 23 endorsers in the House and Senate, while Dr. Mehrabi continues to meet with members and staffers to gain more support. The letter has not yet been released.

He fully supports Helga Zepp-LaRouche's call for Operation Ibn Sina. The health situation is drastic, since the entire system was supported by the World Bank, which has cut off all funds. The COVID pandemic is out of control. As for clean water and electricity needed for health care, they are essentially nonexistent. Ibn Sina is indeed beloved in the country, as evident by the main hospital in Kabul being named Ibn Sina Hospital.

The U.S. policy is not only short-sighted, but represents the “final abandonment of the Afghan people.”