

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Did Biden Even Know What He Said?
- Russian Response to Biden Won't End with Recall of Ambassador
- Former President Medvedev Comments on Biden's State of Mind
- 21 U.S. States Are Suing To Overturn Biden's Cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline
- Britain's Imperial Ambitions Stand on 'Rotten' Feet
- Moscow Disgusted with British Using Russia as Excuse To Increase Its Nuclear Warheads
- Biden Says U.S. May Keep Troops in Afghanistan Beyond May 1 Deadline
- U.S. War and Reconstruction Effort in Afghanistan Is a Total Failure
- More EU Countries Demand Approval for Russian Sputnik V Vaccine
- Biden Gives in to Global Pressure, Agrees To Share a Few Doses of AstraZeneca with Mexico and Canada
- U.S. Financial Regulators Require Climate Risk Assessment, as Republicans Fight Back
- Two Monstrous Solar Farms Planned; Are These Part of Biden's New Green Deal?
- Environmental Activist Shellenberger Briefs Senate on Danger from Abandoning Nuclear Power

EDITORIAL

Did Biden Even Know What He Said?

March 18 (EIRNS)—The extreme danger of electing a President whom the entire world knew was suffering from senility, possibly the early stages of dementia, has now been proven, as President Joe Biden was guided by George Stephanopoulos of ABC News on March 16 to respond positively to the question, “Do you think Putin is a killer?” The reaction from Moscow was immediate. The Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Antonov was recalled to Moscow, indefinitely, with a statement from the Embassy that “certain reckless statements of U.S. senior officials pose a threat of utter collapse to bilateral relations.” Sen. Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Federation Council, said: “Such remarks cannot be tolerated under any circumstances,” and called for an immediate “explanation and apology.” He further insisted that these “boorish remarks have killed off all expectations that the new U.S. administration will pursue a new policy towards Russia,” observing that they come from the President of a country which “drops a bomb somewhere in the world every 12 minutes,” and has been responsible for more than 500,000 deaths in illegal wars since 2001.

This pending disaster is not cut in stone. Putin himself spoke playfully, saying Biden was “looking in the mirror,” and reflected on children in the playground saying: “Whatever you say [about others] is what you are yourself.” He added the pregnant greeting: “I wish him good health.” Indeed, former President Dmitry Medvedev stated that he had had several meetings with Biden over the years: “He gave the impression of a reasonable person then. However, it seems that time hasn’t been kind to him.”

The interview comes as Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin spent the last two days meeting their counterparts in Japan and South Korea, openly calling for joint preparation for military confrontation with China. Blinken announced 24 new sanctions

on Chinese citizens over alleged human rights violations in Hong Kong, even as he was preparing for today's meeting in Anchorage with China's leading foreign policy officials.

Blinken and National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan are holding two days of meetings with Yang Jiechi, the director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. These crucial meetings could serve as a starting point in reversing the rapid descent into military confrontation, or it could be a virtual declaration of war. It will soon go one way or the other.

There is no reason for such war-mongering diplomacy. There is no threat from China. There is no threat from Russia. The threat comes from the hyperinflationary madness which has seen trillions of dollars printed up to bail out the bankrupt banks in the trans-Atlantic, as the real economies are collapsing. The danger comes from the "Great Reset" madness of Green Finance under the dictatorship of the central banks and the too-big-to-fail financial institutions, whose executives are seizing power from elected governments, cutting off credit to fossil fuels, industries, and agriculture, under the fake-science argument that carbon will burn up the world. The danger comes from the cultural decay which has turned Western civilization into a wasteland of ugliness, violence, pornography, and drugs, devoid of any classical aesthetic or beauty.

There is great urgency that the largest possible attendance be mobilized for the online Schiller Institute conference this weekend, "[World at a Crossroad: Two Months Into the New U.S. Administration](#)," which will address this cultural crisis, this economic crisis, this strategic crisis, and this pandemic/famine crisis. The conference is a call for a unity of purpose, to restore sanity, through the scientific cooperation of all nations in meeting this crisis with the required new paradigm, based on the common aims of mankind. The alternative is unthinkable.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC**Russian Response to Biden Won't End with Recall of Ambassador**

March 18 (EIRNS)—In the wake President Joe Biden calling President Putin a “killer” in a set-up interview by George Stephanopoulos of ABC News, Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov has been recalled to Moscow, and will leave Washington on March 20, according to a statement today by the Russian Embassy. The statement, quoted by TASS, reported: “The current situation stems from Washington’s deliberate policy. As a matter of fact, Washington has been deliberately driving bilateral cooperation to a dead end in the recent years. The U.S. administration’s non-constructive policy towards our country is in the interest of neither Russia nor the United States and certain reckless statements of U.S. senior officials pose a threat of utter collapse to bilateral relations, which are already excessively confrontational.”

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the “Solovyov Live” YouTube channel that Antonov will stay in Russia for consultations for as long as it takes. “The consultations will take place not only in the Foreign Ministry, but also in various government agencies. How long will it take? Exactly as long as the consultations themselves will take,” she said.

Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council (the upper house of the Federal Assembly legislature) Sen. Konstantin Kosachev commented on Biden’s statement on Facebook: “Such remarks cannot be tolerated under any circumstances and will inevitably raise tensions between our countries. The recall of the Russian ambassador to the U.S. for consultations is a prompt, adequate and the only sensible response in such a situation. I suspect that if the U.S. fails to provide an explanation and apology, it won’t end there.”

“This is a fault line. These boorish remarks have killed off all expectations that the new U.S. administration will pursue a new policy towards Russia,” Kosachev wrote. According to him, “evaluations like these from a statesman of such a high rank are generally unacceptable.”

The Russian senator stressed that the remarks had come from the President of the country “that drops a bomb somewhere in the world every 12 minutes, according to expert estimates. As a result, the deaths of more than 500,000 people have been linked to U.S. actions since 2001. Could you comment on that, Mr. Biden?” Kosachev demanded to know.

Former President Medvedev Comments on Biden’s State of Mind

March 18 (EIRNS)—President Joe Biden’s statement that Russian President Vladimir Putin is “a killer” drew a veiled reference from former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, to the current state of Biden’s mind. “I met with incumbent U.S. President Joe Biden at various international events,” Medvedev pointed out, reported TASS. “He gave the impression of a reasonable person then. However, it seems that time hasn’t been kind to him,” Medvedev said, declining to give further comment. “I can only quote Freud: ‘Nothing in life is more expensive than illness and stupidity.’ ”

21 U.S. States Are Suing To Overturn Biden’s Cancellation of the Keystone XL Pipeline

March 18 (EIRNS)—Attorneys General of 21 states have filed suit to overturn President Joe Biden’s executive order shutting down the Keystone XL pipeline, among the most absurd of the “Green New Deal” dictates of the numerous executive orders Biden put his name to. AP reports that AGs Ken Paxton of Texas and Austin Knudsen of Montana are leading the effort, arguing that the order overstepped the President’s authority in revoking the permit for the project, which is already well underway. They assert that because the pipeline would run through multiple U.S. states, Congress should have the final say over whether it’s built.

Construction on the 1,200-mile pipeline began last year when President Donald Trump stopped the sabotage started by the Obama Administration.

The pipeline would move up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily from the oil sand fields of western Canada to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect to other pipelines that feed oil refineries

on the U.S. Gulf Coast. The oil will be delivered in any case, by truck, which is actually more dangerous than the pipeline.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Britain's Imperial Ambitions Stand on 'Rotten' Feet

March 18 (EIRNS)—In an interview with the Solovyov Live YouTube channel today, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#) threw cold water on Great Britain's latest imperial reflex, expanding their nuclear arsenal. "The problem of imperial ambitions has not gone anywhere. There are ambitions, but there is no basis for them. Moreover, unfortunately the basis is rotten," Zakharova said.

Her statement came in response to this week's release of the U.K. government document, "[Global Britain in a Competitive Age: Integrated Review of Security, Defense, Development and Foreign Policy](#)," which labels Russia an "acute threat." Zakharova, referring to the British Empire pretenses to regain the status of a leading superpower, remarked that "decorations are ruined more and more."

Moscow Disgusted with British Using Russia as Excuse To Increase Its Nuclear Warheads

March 18 (EIRNS)—The Russians have reacted very strongly to Britain's decision to increase the size of its nuclear stockpile. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov called it a serious blow to the very concept of arms control. "London's new strategy regarding nuclear stockpiles is unmotivated, politically harmful, and erodes global security, while also undermining the unity of the five recognized nuclear-weapon states vis-à-vis arms control," he told Sputnik.

At the Kremlin, spokesman Dmitry Peskov charged that the decision potentially harms global stability. "We find it very regretful that Britain has selected the path of increasing the number of warheads. This decision harms international stability and strategic security," Peskov said. He stressed that "some ephemeral threat allegedly coming from Russia was

used as an excuse” for the decision. “Attempts to describe Russia as some threat are utterly unacceptable to us, because this is not true,” Peskov declared.

Biden Says U.S. May Keep Troops in Afghanistan Beyond May 1 Deadline

March 18 (EIRNS)—The Biden administration is clearly leaning in the direction of not pulling troops out of Afghanistan by May 1, as called for in the February 2020 agreement the Trump administration signed with the Taliban. President Joe Biden, in an [interview with ABC News](#) that aired on March 16, said he was consulting with allies on the pace and scope of the drawdown, and that if the deadline were extended, it would not be by “a lot longer.”

“That was not a very solidly negotiated deal that the President, the former President worked out,” Mr. Biden said. “We’re in consultation with our allies as well as the government, and that decision is in process now.” Biden said it would be difficult for all service members to leave by May 1. “It could happen,” he said, “but it is tough.”

The Brits agree: “It’s important we get this right, and that we again keep our eyes on the strategic goal rather than work to one or another deadlines,” said Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab yesterday in an interview with the Aspen Security Forum.

The two most powerful Senate committee chairmen on such matters—Robert Menendez (D-NJ) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Jack Reed (D-CT) of the Armed Services Committee—appear to be giving Biden cover to keep the troops there longer. At least, that’s how Axios characterized recent statements that they’ve made on Afghanistan.

Menendez said last week that Biden may have to reconsider the deadline. He told reporters he’s concerned about “the viability” of the peace process in Afghanistan. “We have to look at the realities of what’s happening in Afghanistan,” he told Axios yesterday. “It seems to me the Taliban is not meeting its obligations. After so many [American] lives and

national treasure, we need to make sure that when we leave, we leave in a way that can provide stability.”

Reed has gone even further: He said Biden should not withdraw all forces and is worried that having no presence in the region could give way to further terrorist attacks. “I would expect some extension,” Reed ultimately said of the timeframe.

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), one of Biden’s closest allies in Congress, told Axios, “This is weighing very heavily” on the President. “He’s having a hard time.”

U.S. War and Reconstruction Effort in Afghanistan Is a Total Failure

March 18 (EIRNS)—John Sopko, the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), testified this week to just how much of a failure two decades of U.S. war in Afghanistan has become. Speaking on March 16 to the National Security subcommittee of the House Oversight Committee, he said that the war-shattered nation “may be fighting for its very survival.” After nearly two decades of war, tens of thousands of dead and wounded American troops, countless more Afghans, and \$143 billion in U.S. reconstruction support, Afghanistan’s prospects for successfully governing and defending itself remain far off, he said, reported Military.com.

Sopko did not take a position on whether U.S. troops should stay in Afghanistan or go, saying instead that Congress and the Biden administration need to figure out whether, and to what extent, U.S. support for Afghanistan’s reconstruction will continue. He warned the subcommittee that the collapse of the Afghan regime in 1992 did not follow the Soviet Union’s 1989 troop withdrawal, but Moscow’s withdrawal of funding.

And in another alarming sign, he said Afghan security forces are “nowhere near achieving self-sufficiency.” The Afghans cannot maintain their own equipment; manage their supply chains; or train new soldiers, pilots, or policemen without the Pentagon’s 13,000 contractors, which are

also supposed to be withdrawn on May 1 under the terms of the agreement, he said. Without those contractors, Sopko went on, the Pentagon believes every last aircraft in the Afghan air force will be out of commission and unable to carry out combat missions after a few months. If U.S. troops, contractors, and funding—about 80% of the revenues the Afghan government relies upon come from the U.S. and donors—are all withdrawn, “it’s a disaster for Afghanistan,” he said.

Would another decade or two of doing the same thing really generate different results?

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

More EU Countries Demand Approval for Russian Sputnik V Vaccine

March 18 (EIRNS)— German and Austrian political leaders who would rather be living human beings than dead Europhiles are calling on the European Union to speed up its approval of the Russian Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine. The Minister Presidents of the German states of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia expressed support for the use of the Russian Sputnik V, the Funke media group said March 18.

“Trust plays a major role in such matters as healthcare, medicine, and vaccines. Russia is a great country in terms of science. I have no doubts that its scientists have managed to develop an efficient vaccine,” said Saxony’s Minister President Michael Kretschmer reported TASS. “The vaccine should be approved.”

Thuringia’s Minister President Bodo Ramelow said that Germany’s dependence on the AstraZeneca vaccine makes “the vaccination campaign vulnerable. So, it is important to finally consider the Sputnik V topic,” he said, stressing that politicking around the Russian vaccine is inadmissible.

“When it comes to health issues, the origin of a vaccine should play no role,” agreed Saxony-Anhalt Minister President Reiner Haseloff. “When I was a child, I received a Russian polio vaccine and there were no problems.” Saxony-Anhalt was one of the East German states before the

reunification of Germany in 1989. In the late 1950s, a remarkable cooperation between Albert Sabin and Soviet virologists allowed the Soviets to provide the three-dose oral vaccine to 77 million Soviet citizens, and 23 million in the East bloc by the end of 1960. That cooperation, in turn, led the Soviets and U.S. to develop means to sufficiently inoculate the world population against smallpox, wiping the disease out by 1977, reports *Hektoen International*.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz made a similar statement. “Concerning Sputnik V and other vaccines, I strongly insist that the relevant EU bodies issue an authorization for all safe vaccines as soon as possible. The more vaccines we have, the better the situation is,” Kurz told the OE24 broadcaster on March 17. He also said that the country might get Sputnik V for mass vaccination.

Biden Gives in to Global Pressure, Agrees To Share a Few Doses of AstraZeneca with Mexico and Canada

March 18 (EIRNS)—After general condemnation for hoarding of COVID-19 vaccine, even the unused AstraZeneca (which is yet to receive FDA approval), the Biden administration today relented and agreed to send 4 million doses to Mexico and Canada. The White House announced today that some 2.5 million doses would go to Mexico and 1.5 million doses to Canada.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has suddenly discovered that it would be wise to get everyone vaccinated, not just Americans. “Our first priority remains vaccinating the U.S. population,” she said, and remarked: “The reality is the pandemic knows no borders, and ensuring our neighbors can contain the virus is mission-critical to ending the pandemic.”

GREAT RESET / GREEN NEW DEAL**U.S. Financial Regulators Require Climate Risk Assessment, as Republicans Fight Back**

March 18 (EIRNS)—On March 15, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued a call for comment on their intention to require corporations to disclose the “risks” they face from climate change and to detail policies curbing emissions. The *Washington Examiner* reported: “Investors, including large asset managers such as BlackRock, and environmental groups have strongly called for mandatory disclosures, especially as they say it becomes increasingly clear that climate change poses a serious risk to the financial system.” On March 17, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced the creation of a Climate Risk Unit “to help the agency better understand, price, and address climate-related risks,” according to the *Examiner*. These steps follow the Federal Reserve’s announcement last year that they had joined the Central Banks’ Network for Greening the Financial System.

This Malthusian insanity has been denounced by Congressional Republicans, calling it “misguided” and a “self-fulfilling prophecy,” in a letter to Fed Chairman Jerome Powell signed by all of the Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee, led by ranking member Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. The letter says that such regulations would allow the government to “claim there are financial risks with energy exploration and other disfavored investments, then use the levers of government—via the unelected bureaucracy—to ban or limit those activities.”

They say that climate predictions are “inherently and irreducibly uncertain.”

The *Examiner* adds that “Republican lawmakers are also taking aim at big U.S. banks that decline to invest in fossil fuel projects, such as new oil and gas drilling in the Arctic, as they set goals to align their financing activities with the Paris climate agreement. More than half of the Senate’s Republicans introduced a bill earlier this month that would codify a Trump administration effort to keep banks from restricting services to specific

industries, including energy producers. Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY) introduced the House companion bill.

Two Monstrous Solar Farms Planned; Are These Part of Biden's New Green Deal?

March 18 (EIRNS)—Two enormous vast farms are now being planned to be set up in the United States. The first one will be set up across 3,500 acres (~5.5 square miles) near the decommissioned nuclear plant, Duane Arnold Energy Center, in Palo, Iowa. Duane Arnold is Iowa's only nuclear power plant, abandoned in October 2020 following damages suffered to its two cooling towers the previous August. At the time, it was producing 615 MW of steady power on a mere 500 acres.

Owner of the solar firm NextEra Energy of Florida, said the solar unit is expected to produce up to 690 MW of solar energy. "We're also hoping to accompany that solar project with up to 60 MW of AC-coupled batteries," Project Manager Kimberly Dickey said, *The Gazette* of Cedar Rapids reported today. The plant is scheduled to go into operation in 2023 and would require \$700 million capital investment, generating only 300 jobs during the construction period.

The second monstrosity is scheduled for Southern California, where the proposed Oberon Solar Project would cover about 4,700 acres (~7.3 square miles) of federal land in Riverside, inside the boundaries of the sprawling Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Delaware company IP Land Holdings LLC is seeking to establish the 500 MW solar project, promising "750 temporary jobs and 8 permanent jobs, and generate enough clean electricity to power 200,000 homes," according to the Bureau of Land Management. "This is one of the first projects seeking approval under the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, a landscape-level plan that streamlines renewable energy development while conserving unique and valuable desert ecosystems and providing outdoor recreation opportunities," writes the BLM report. The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan covers 10.8 million acres across seven counties in Southern California.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Environmental Activist Shellenberger Briefs Senate on Danger from Abandoning Nuclear Power

March 18 (EIRNS)—Once a raving anti-nuclear proponent, environmental activist [Michael Shellenberger](#), in his written testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on March 11, urged the lawmakers to maintain the current U.S. fleet of nuclear power plants, American Nuclear Society news reported. Testifying right after the cold snap that brought the natural gas and wind-power-dependent Texas to its knees, he wrote: “The premature closure of nuclear plants threatens reliability, resiliency, affordability, as well as America’s reductions in greenhouse gases. Without state or federal action, the U.S. will close 12 nuclear reactors by 2025, which constitute 10.5 GW of highly-reliable, low-cost, and low-carbon power. Despite ratcheting regulations, the cost of operating America’s nuclear plants fell from \$44.57 per MWh on average in 2012 to \$30.42 in 2019.”

Pointing to the fact that nuclear plants are among the most reliable components of America’s power grids, Shellenberger wrote: “restructured wholesale electricity markets, low-priced natural gas, and subsidized variable renewable energy have undermined the economics of nuclear power plants, including those that prevented wider power outages during the recent cold snap. Those plants are Byron and Dresden in Illinois, Palisades in Michigan, Davis-Besse and Perry in Ohio, and Beaver Valley in Pennsylvania. If those nuclear plants are lost, grids may suffer from energy shortages during future heat waves or cold snaps.”

Shellenberger’s long testimony also referred to Germany’s foolishness in abandoning nuclear power. He declared: “Germany has only been able to manage the seasonal fluctuations from intermittent renewables by maintaining a large and diverse fleet of coal, natural gas, and nuclear power plants. Germany added 150% of its total capacity in coal, natural gas, and nuclear in the form of new wind and solar capacity, which was part of why Germany’s electricity prices have risen to the highest levels in Europe.” He

also cited a study by a group of climate and energy scientists who found that when taking into account continent-wide weather and seasonal variation, for the United States to be powered by solar and wind, while using batteries to ensure reliable power, the battery storage required would raise the cost to more than \$23 trillion.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, March 19: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.