

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Turn the Mars Spirit Loose on Earth

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—In less than a week, the three exciting, much-anticipated visits to Mars are set to begin. On Feb. 9, the “Hope Mars” probe launched by the United Arab Emirates will reach Mars. On Feb. 10 China’s

Tianwen-1 spacecraft will reach and enter Mars' orbit. The craft weighs five tons, and will slow down its engines enough to be tugged into Mars' gravitational pull. On Feb. 18, NASA's Perseverance rover is to make its landing onto the surface of Mars.

Taken together, these achievements signify humanity's potential to develop, and increase "natural" resources, on Mars, the Moon, here on Earth, and untold places beyond. As the saying goes, "the sky's the limit," and in fact, mankind has the power to literally expand the sky! What we urgently need, is to turn this spirit loose on Earth right now.

What stands in the way is the anti-human, anti-development movement, ironically named "green," which is downgrading production and conditions of life, insisting there are limits to growth. They hold that people foul the universe. Implementing this outlook is the fast track to de-population and war. Among the reasons this green thinking, embodied in the "Davos Agenda" of the Great Reset—now defensively renamed Stakeholder Capitalism—is being pushed so hard is that the financial system serving its core originators and backers is itself blowing out. The ESG con game ("environment, social issues, and governance") offers them the prospect of short-term green bubbles, while they plot to put in place dictatorship over what's left of the human race.

What is required is a new system of financial practices of credit and investment, deployed in the interests of building up the productivity and achievements of nations and peoples. The thinking and programs of statesman economist Lyndon LaRouche have never been so necessary. There is a dramatic demand for his outlook and policies, ranging from activists in France—the Yellow Vests, sovereignists, and other groups—to the millions of disenfranchised in the United States, to the farmers in India.

In the United States, the latest green push is to shift agriculture policy away from food and fiber production, into "carbon sequestration," for contributing to an early "Net Zero" of CO₂. At his Senate hearing yesterday for Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack—who never knew a policy he couldn't peddle—gushed how committed he is to change over

from traditional agriculture to the new green mandate. For example, he said he can't wait to use the FDR-era Commodities Credit Corporation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has some \$30 billion in it, for a new purpose of funding carbon reduction programs, not commodities. Thus, the 75-year-old agency, which has been concerned, however effectively or not, with real farmers, real food needs (such as school lunch programs) and real food—butter, wheat, corn—is now to be a destructive kook operation. Vilsack told the Senators that the CCC is “a great tool to pursue what will encourage carbon capture. I hope you would allow me the opportunity to utilize that.”

Instead of this insanity, we need the “spirit of Mars” to guide a mobilization to deal with the pandemic and famine, and, in the course of that mobilization, to establish a high-productivity economy in the process.

Today an internet seminar was held, centered in Germany, on this perspective, focusing on the need for rapidly building a world health security system. Speakers reported on lessons from China's experience, including the physical logistics involved, as well as the emergency financial measures that must be taken for accomplishing these goals. It requires a whole new paradigm of thinking, said Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche, who gave the keynote address. She stressed international collaboration, not the conflict politics which endanger full scale war.

An example of the new paradigm, of leadership in the mutual interests of nations comes from Argentina. President Alberto Fernández earlier this week spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin. They discussed not only the need for more Sputnik V vaccine in Argentina, but joint projects of various kinds in the future, including infrastructure and aerospace. Fernández has accepted an invitation to visit Moscow. In May, Fernández will be in Beijing conferring on cooperative ventures. China has sent 42 planeloads to Argentina in an air-bridge bringing medical supplies to fight the coronavirus.

Zepp-LaRouche said yesterday in a briefing with European associates, “The only way the world will get out of this absolutely insane mess it's in

right now, is a new paradigm around cooperation around fighting the pandemic: There is not going to be any solution if there is not a modern health system in every country, and that must be the beginning of overcoming the underdevelopment in the developing sector and the so-called Global South. And obviously, for Germany and other European countries—as Hungary has already done—to start overcoming their ideological prejudices and actually cooperate on such lifesaving questions as fighting COVID-19, is a very important step. I think it also reflects the fact that, as [Chancellor Angela] Merkel said in her speech to the virtual Davos, that she is not interested in having new blocs being built, and she even mentioned in her speech, ‘the Great Reset, do we really need that?’....

“So I think all of that makes our task more urgent, more clear, because the time bomb is ticking. The danger of a blowout of the system is clearly in the air. The madness of what it would mean if there is more green policy, green transformation, means the end of European and U.S. industry, so we are not in the least in safe quarters. There are only tiny silver linings on the horizon in the cooperation around the vaccines and we should build on it.”

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Argentine President Coordinates with Putin and Xi Jinping on Vaccines, Economic Cooperation

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—Two days ago, Argentine President Alberto Fernández spoke by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin for a broad-ranging discussion on topics of mutual interest, key among which was the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine. Argentina has already acquired almost 1 million doses of Sputnik V, has begun its national vaccination campaign, and is scheduled to receive much larger quantities weekly for some months. At the same time, Fernández has been in contact with Chinese President Xi Jinping to pin down a contract for the first 1 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine, with a goal of eventually purchasing 30 million doses. For the past year, Argentina has maintained an effective “air bridge” with

China, receiving a total of 42 planeloads of medical supplies needed to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Fernández's discussion with Putin covered a range of topics, including Russian investments in infrastructure and aerospace as well as an invitation to Fernández to visit Russia, which he readily accepted. Fernández thanked Putin effusively for providing his nation with Sputnik V and said he hoped to receive as much as possible as it has proven to be so effective, *Página 12* reported him as saying. The report published by the British medical journal *The Lancet* confirming Sputnik V's safety and effectiveness has received wide coverage in Argentina, much to the chagrin of the neoliberal political opposition which has attacked both the Russian and Chinese vaccines.

Putin promised not only to continue meeting the terms of the contract with Argentina, but also to also make Sputnik V available to other Ibero-American nations. Fernández pointed out that Putin's display of solidarity toward developing nations is very different from "other" unnamed nations that make it impossible for vaccines to be exported. The Russian leader further stated that he was very pleased at how joyfully Sputnik V had been received by the Argentine public—an exuberance also seen among Bolivians last weekend when the first 20,000 doses of Sputnik V arrived in that country.

Vaccine production is being ramped up in Russia, and Kirill Dmitriev, head of the Russia Direct Investment Fund, the sovereign investment fund, announced in a press conference that he is already in discussion with several Argentine companies, "so that we can produce Sputnik V [in the country].... We will sign contracts with some producers," so that production can begin in the next three months, *Cronista Comercial* reported him saying Feb. 2. Dmitriev wouldn't name the companies involved, as negotiations are ongoing, but said they are "highly qualified." The AstraZeneca vaccine is already being produced in Argentina by the national mAbxience lab.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Agriculture Secretary Nominee Vilsack Pumps Climate Change, Not Food, Not Farming

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—The Feb. 2 Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the nomination of Tom Vilsack for Agriculture Secretary, became a platform for Vilsack to call for shifting U.S. agriculture from traditional concerns for farming and food, to instead, climate change. The hearing had exchanges on carbon markets, carbon credits, greenhouse gases. Vilsack pledged he would work with farmers towards a Net Zero emissions goal for the U.S.

Vilsack was Agriculture Secretary for eight years under President Barack Obama, and afterward took a high-salary job pushing U.S. dairy exports. He is known for peddling whatever policies he gets paid to push.

He gushed to the Senators about he would use the Commodity Credit Corporation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in ways departing from its traditional role in supporting farmers and managing commodities (cheese, wheat, cotton, etc.) and provisioning such programs as school lunch programs. He said there are new “opportunities” that must be utilized for atmospheric carbon sequestration, methane capture, biofuels and so on, and the CCC figures in this. The CCC currently has some \$30 billion in it. He demurred, “The first responsibility of the CCC is to make sure farm programs are adequately funded, but to the extent that vehicle is available, it’s a great tool to pursue what will encourage carbon capture. I hope you would allow me the opportunity to utilize that.”

Vilsack’s nomination, a former governor of Iowa (1999-2007), was voted up unanimously by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Biden Administration States Support for Space Force

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki tweeted yesterday that the Biden regime will keep the Space Force around after much commentary in recent days wondering what the Biden Administration will do with it. “We look forward to the continuing work of Space Force and

invite the members of the team to come visit us in the briefing room anytime to share an update on their important work,” Psaki tweeted yesterday evening. This is the first time that the new regime has said anything definite about the new service, the establishment of which Trump saw as one of his signature achievements.

The tweet, however, came after she appeared to dismiss the service in response to a question during a press briefing earlier in the day. “Wow, Space Force. It’s the plane of today,” she replied, in an apparent reference to a question at a previous briefing about the Air Force One paint job. “It is an interesting question,” she continued. “I am happy to check with our Space Force point of contact. I’m not sure who that is. I will find out and see if they have any update on that.” This caused an uproar among Republicans in Congress with Rep. Mike Rogers, the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee demanding that she apologize to the men and women of the Space Force.

Kathleen Hicks, Biden’s nominee to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, unambiguously said “yes” in her written response to advance questions for her confirmation hearing when asked if she thought that the creation of Space Force and U.S. Space Command was warranted. Their creation “reflect recommendations from independent commissions and studies conducted over several years and multiple administrations about how to best address the growing security challenges in space.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Italy, Enter Draghi

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—The bad news: Italian State President Sergio Mattarella has given former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi a mandate to form an Italian government. Draghi accepted, subject to successful negotiations with the political parties. Draghi’s credentials in service for the British Empire go way back to his complicity in the infamous 1992 business meeting off the coast of Italy on the *HMS*

Britannia, where the royal yacht was the venue for plotting against the Italian government. Draghi has since become known as “Mr. Britannia.”

The good news: The Five Star Movement, M5S, said they will never vote for a Draghi executive.

The other bad news: In Italian politics, never say never.

In announcing his decision today, Mattarella called “on all political forces to support a high-profile government, that should not identify with any political formula.” Unbelievable how a State President liquidates elected representatives in favor of a technocratic solution.

To a superficial observer, Mattarella’s move might look like a predictable one, as the EU lobby has been calling for a Draghi government for a long time now. Indeed, the move is a pretty desperate one. Mattarella hopes that he can blackmail political parties with 1) the interest rate spread; 2) the “EU funds”; 3) the pandemic—and he hopes he can force Draghi himself to accept a mandate, knowing that Draghi has other plans (namely, to be elected State President next year).

The media and some political parties reacted with orgasmic euphoria to the “Savior of the Euro,” pushing the narrative that Draghi is respected and even feared at international level and therefore has the best chance to do “whatever it takes” to defend Italian interests in the EU.

Draghi needs the support of either the M5S or the Lega to get a majority. If he fails, Mattarella said, there will be early elections. The political leader of the M5S, Vito Crimi, said they will never vote for a Draghi executive. However, the M5S is split and in full chaos. Lega leader Matteo Salvini said they are not *a priori* against a Draghi government, but they will support it only if it agrees to a precise program, which includes tax cuts. The Lega is also split, with a pro-Draghi faction led by number-two Giancarlo Giorgiotti.

GameStop Episode, So Much For 'Small Investors'

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—According to Investor's Business Daily, nine large hedge funds gained \$16 billion from speculation on GameStop. Thus, the narrative of David against Goliath is definitely rebuked.

“Nine investors, including large fund-running institutions like Fidelity's FMR and BlackRock plus some well-positioned individuals like Chewy co-founder Ryan Cohen watched the value of their GameStop holdings soar more than \$1 billion apiece just this year....

“All told, these nine investors made a total of roughly \$16 billion on their GameStop stakes, just in January. That means they grabbed roughly three-quarters of the \$20.4 billion gain in the company's market value this year. GameStop is now worth \$22.7 billion, up from just \$1.3 billion a month ago.”

Meanwhile, GameStop shares have plunged 65% since Friday, Jan. 29. This means that gains by investors who bought real shares will be somehow cancelled—but not gains from derivative bets.

Platforms, such as Robinhood do not charge for trading shares, but the music changes when it comes to derivatives, on which they demand high fees. And derivatives, leverage and cryptocurrencies are the main business of those trading apps.

According to [Federico Fubini](#), a journalist and editor at large with *Corriere della Sera*, who is very close to the ECB and the EU Commission: “Trading apps such as Robinhood or eToro are not the revenge of the small people against Wall Street titans or hedge funds, but the opposite: a well-concealed system to syphon money from the bottom of the social ladder to the top. From small savers to Wall Street. Why? Simple.

“Who, do you think is supplying Robinhood or eToro with their stock of options, derivatives and the money to invest in leverage, which money they lend you at 6% or 7% (after borrowing at 0%)? Hiding behind the apps, the suppliers are large Wall Street banks and hedge funds.”

The New European Stability Mechanism Treaty Is Signed and Sealed

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—Representatives from EU member states signed the amending agreements to the Treaty on the European Stability Mechanism and the Single Resolution Fund (SRF) Intergovernmental Agreement on Jan. 27. The amended treaty expands the functions of the ESM, which from being a “state bailout” fund, to now become a backstop for the bank bailout fund SRF as well. In reality, the bank bailout function was indirectly there, already, as the 2011 Greek crisis demonstrated.

The ESM has a committed and callable capital of nearly €702 billion, of which €80 billion is paid in and the rest callable within a week from member states.

The ESM has also a special “pandemic facility” which offers up to 2% of national GDP in credits on the only condition that they be used for expenses related to the pandemic emergency. However, once the emergency is over, borrowing members will be subject to monitoring according to the ESM treaty rules, which have not been changed. Such rules demand a hard landing towards budget balancing, to use a euphemism.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

B-1 Bombers Deploying to Norway

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—U.S. European Command confirmed rumors circulating for about the past two weeks yesterday that a contingent of B-1 bombers will indeed be deploying to Norway. “For the first time in Norway, more than 200 U.S. Air Force personnel from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, with an expeditionary B-1 Lancer bomber squadron, will arrive to support upcoming Bomber Task Force (BTF) missions out of Ørland Air Base, Norway,” a Eucom release said without providing any further details. “The Airmen will be a part of the advance team for scheduled missions in the coming weeks which will occur for a limited time. While at Orland, the airmen will conduct operations in the High North and work with allies and partners across the European theater,” reported *Stars & Stripes*.

Ørland is just over 300 miles from the Arctic Circle, about a half-hour's flight time for a B-1. This means that Russia's military complexes on the Kola Peninsula are well within strike range for the big bombers, a fact that the Russians undoubtedly will take notice of. According to a report in "The War Zone" website, "the deployment signals the Air Force's increasing commitment to working alongside NATO allies and other partners on Russia's northwest borders as well as its ability to work in the High North."

Sputnik reports the Russian Embassy in Oslo earlier said that the activation of a foreign military presence in Norway, including the placement of U.S. strategic bombers, doesn't contribute to overall stability in the region. It also pledged to monitor the situation and vowed to implement measures to defend the security of its country and region.

Russia Will Consider Return To Open Skies Treaty if U.S. Rejoins

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) said in Moscow, yesterday, that if the U.S. returns to the Open Skies Treaty, Moscow will consider returning also. "If the United States fully returns to observing the treaty, the Russian Federation would be ready to constructively consider that new situation," Lavrov said during a joint press conference with Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde.

The U.S. State Department, however, was not so quick to reciprocate. "We're studying the issue. We'll take a decision in due course," spokesman Ned Price said during a press briefing hours later. "To the best of our knowledge, Russia is still not in full compliance with the treaty."

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As Hualong-One Nuke Plant Goes Online, China Plans Mass Production for Export

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—As China's first domestically produced third generation reactor goes online, Chinese nuclear officials said that they would begin to consider mass production of this type of reactor in order to export to the rest of the world. Yu Jianfeng, chairman of CNNC, said this week that the

corporation will accelerate the progress of mass constructing Hualong One reactors and developing a new series of technologies in a bid to promote the Hualong One to export and achieve the target of carbon neutrality.

With a design life of 60 years, the Hualong One reactor adopts a 177-reactor core design that refuels the fuel every 18 months. It innovatively uses a combination of “active and passive” safety systems and a double-shell containment, which meets the latest international nuclear safety requirements.

The installed capacity of each Hualong One unit reaches nearly 1200 MWe, and each unit is able to generate nearly 10 billion kWh of electricity annually, meeting the electricity demands of 1 million people, within a setting of a moderately developed country.

China's *Science and Technology Daily* Covers Princeton's Concept for Fusion Propulsion

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—*Science and Technology Daily* in China yesterday covered the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab's new fusion propulsion concept. Dr. Fatima Ebrahimi, who invented the technology is quoted by the daily: “Such a long-distance journey [to Mars] will take months or years. Because the specific impulse of the chemical rocket engine is very low, it will take a while for the spacecraft to reach its maximum speed. However, if the propeller is manufactured based on magnetic reconnection technology, we can achieve a shorter complete long-distance flight mission within a short time,” she said.

Science and Technology Daily continues: “Although the use of fusion technology to power the rocket is not a new concept, the thruster designed by Ebrahimi differs from the current leading thrusters in three aspects. The first is to change the strength of the magnetic field to increase or decrease the thrust, so that astronauts can better maneuver when crossing the dark abyss of space; second, the new thruster sprays plasma particles and magnetic bubbles (plasma clusters). Generating power, plasma pellets add new power to the thruster. No other thruster has included plasma pellets; third, in this conceptual study, a magnetic field is used to eject plasma

particles from the back of the rocket, and other similar concepts. The thruster uses an electric field.”

COVID-19

***The Lancet* Reports That Phase 3 Trials of Sputnik V Find It Safe and Effective, with High Efficacy**

Feb. 3 (EIRNS)—The British medical journal *The Lancet* yesterday published the results of Phase 3 clinical trials of Russia’s [Sputnik V](#) COVID-19 vaccine which found it one of the safest and most effective ones worldwide. For volunteers over 60 years old, the efficacy of the preparation amounted to 91.6% to 91.8%. Antibodies to the coronavirus after inoculation with Sputnik V were detected in 98% of volunteers.

The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a statement in response. “The WHO welcomes the fact that all developers and manufacturers of vaccines share with the scientific community through such publications as in *The Lancet* journal. This is very good news,” Melita Vujnovic, WHO representative in Russia, told the Rossiya-1 TV yesterday.

Austrian Health Ministry told a TASS correspondent Feb. 2 that, while Austria currently can satisfy its own needs for a vaccine, it is ready to research the possibility of using additional preparations if such are registered in the European Union. “Austria within the framework of a joint European process of purchases receives about 24.5 million doses of a vaccine so it can sufficiently cover its demand for a vaccine. If the EU approves additional vaccines, we certainly will attentively study their use within the framework of Austria’s vaccination strategy. The European Union and Austria do not have problems with vaccines which were reserved by contracts for 2021, yet [there are issues] only with the fact that vaccine manufacturers cannot supply large volumes of doses in the first quarter,” the ministry stated in response, according to TASS.

In addition the leader of the Freedom Party of Austria, Norbert Hofer stated that Austria should follow Hungary’s lead and enter into an

agreement with Russia in order to purchase Sputnik V and include it in its vaccination plan.

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Thursday, February 4, 2021: 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.