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EDITORIAL

LaRouche Would Have Praised the Putin-Xi Actions of Yesterday, but Does Biden Even Know What Happened?

May 20 (EIRNS)—On May 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping met via videoconference to jointly inaugurate the beginning of construction of four new nuclear plants in China, based on

Russian technology and advanced industrial input. More than simply celebrating that event alone, worthy though it is, the two heads of state used the occasion to present a global policy determination for their associated nations, and for all of humanity, centered, as President Xi put it, on making “a sizable intellectual contribution to the innovation-driven development of the global nuclear sphere,” based on “strengthening scientific and technical cooperation.”

The importance of this development, on the eve of the May 21 Rome meeting of the G20 Global Health Summit, is that it represents the only pathway forward to solve the current existential breakdown crises facing Mankind. Small wonder that nations across the developing sector—from Africa to Central America to Asia—which have been written off by the Malthusians running the trans-Atlantic sector, are increasingly turning to China and Russia.

There is a reason Lyndon LaRouche insistently called for a “Four Power” agreement to solve the crises facing humanity—an alliance of the United States, Russia, China, and India to combine their historic national self-interests; their current economic, demographic, and military weight; and their future potential of scientific and cultural breakthroughs, to decisively defeat the British Empire’s policy of Malthusian deindustrialization and associated bestial concept of Man. China and Russia are providing a clear alternative to that collapsed imperial order. India is currently sidelined in a life-and-death battle against an uncontrolled explosion of the COVID-19 pandemic. And the United States needs to be radically shifted in the direction identified by LaRouche.

In an Oct. 10, 2009 address to the Seventh Annual Rhodes Conference, which he titled “A Four-Power Agreement Can Create a New World Credit System,” LaRouche prophetically stated:

“The task, as I defined it, is, if Russia, and the United States, and China, and India, agree, as a group of countries, to initiate and force a reorganization of the world financial and credit system, under those conditions, with long-term agreements, of the same type that Franklin

Roosevelt had uttered before his death, in 1944, under key nations, the intention of Roosevelt all these years later, could have been realized, and we could do that, today.

“That’s our chance: Either we do that, or we go under. I can assure you, if you think that there’s any possibility that the present system could continue into the coming year, as a system to work with, that there will not be a general, continuing, worsening crisis, at the present time, there will be no economic recovery in any part of the planet, under the present conditions.

“We’re now headed for a general chain-reaction breakdown crisis, caused by not only this particular financial crisis, but caused by globalization. Because under these conditions, every nation has become so dependent upon other nations, that any disease, of the economy, any breakdown disease of the economy, will bring down all nations of the economy, in chain-reaction form. At what speed, we can’t be sure. But that’s the danger.

“So, the issue now is the political decision: Can we have the United States, under an improved Presidency—and it does require improvement—can we have the United States, Russia, China, and India, become a bloc of countries, which each have different characteristics, but if they recognize among themselves, that they have a common interest, they will adapt to each other, and respect each other’s different characteristics. The result of this, will be the elimination of the monetary system of the world that has been dominating European civilization since the Peloponnesian War.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, May 21, 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.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Putin and Xi Break Ground on Four Nuclear Plants in China and Emphasize 'Innovation-Based Development'

May 20 (EIRNS)—The Presidents of Russia and China, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, participated in a videoconference yesterday to launch the beginning of construction of four new nuclear plants in China, based on Russian technology. These are two units each at the Tianwan nuclear power plant in the Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, and at the Xudapu nuclear plant in Huludao, Liaoning Province.

The Presidents chose to make this a major policy-shaping occasion for their two countries, as well as one globally focused on the role of innovation and scientific and technological cooperation in achieving development. “We should deepen scientific and technological cooperation on nuclear energy by sticking to the driving force of innovation” [Xi Jinping](#) stated, reiterating that the two countries had agreed to “contribute more to the development of the global nuclear energy industry.” The Chinese President asserted that “China and Russia have firmly supported each other and cooperated closely and effectively” in many areas. “Energy has always been the biggest and most successful branch in our practical cooperation while nuclear energy cooperation has been its strategic priority. We are jointly upgrading our cooperation in this area and have already put into operation a host of major projects.”

Through their joint work, Russia and China will “contribute more wisdom to the innovative development of nuclear energy globally,” he stated.

[Putin](#) responded by effusively greeting “President Xi Jinping, my dear friend,” emphasizing that “Russian and Chinese specialists are working on this flagship joint project which is truly a milestone. They are building powerful, modern Russian-designed nuclear reactors that meet all safety and environmental standards. It is planned that they will start operating as soon as in 2026-2028, which, as President Xi just said, will be a solid contribution to China’s energy security.”

Putin went on: “Russia’s unique high technology capabilities in industrial production,” and that “President Xi and I determined the main areas of our genuinely close partnership, the cooperation between Russia and China on nuclear technology, during my state visit to China in 2018.... It can be said that Russia-China relations have reached their highest level in history.

“Returning to the topic of nuclear energy cooperation, I would like to note, with great satisfaction, that all the agreements reached at the highest level are being consistently and unfailingly fulfilled. In addition to the construction of new power units at the Tianwan and Xudapu nuclear power plants, there are many other large Russian-Chinese initiatives that have been and are being implemented. These initiatives include an experimental fast neutron reactor built in China with Russia’s participation.... Russia also supplied China with radionuclide heating blocks for the spacecraft that was the first in history to land on the far side of the Moon in 2019. We were extremely happy about your success, dear Chinese friends.

“I am convinced that Russia and China will have many more ambitious and successful projects together. We are ready to develop our cooperation in the construction of nuclear power plants, and innovative partnership in the development and implementation of low-carbon and other technologies.”

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, responding to a question from RIA Novosti on May 18, said that “This has been the biggest China-Russia nuclear energy cooperation project to date and represents the highest level of practical cooperation between the two sides.”

China Makes Case at UNSC, Supporting Africa Now Against COVID Is Our Defense Line

May 20 (EIRNS)—Speaking as host at a virtual meeting of the United Nations Security Council on May 19, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on the international community to ensure the “accessibility and affordability of vaccines” against COVID in Africa. The event was called “Peace and Security in Africa.” Wang declared: “The international

community should give more help in pandemic prevention materials, medical supplies, technology and funds, especially through free assistance, preferential procurement, technology transfer, cooperative production and other means to ensure the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in Africa.” *South China Morning Post* further quoted Wang as saying: “Africa is an important part of the global anti-pandemic effort. An urgent task now is to build a defense line against the pandemic in Africa ... China calls on all countries with the ability, to provide vaccines to Africa urgently.”

Wang continued: “China welcomes more countries and international organizations, especially Africa’s traditional cooperation partners, to join this initiative, adhering to the principle of ‘Africa-led, equal-footing, and openness,’ strengthening coordination and cooperation, committing to real multilateralism, so as to gather the strong force to support Africa’s development.”

Also speaking at the event, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said that, of the 1.4 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses administered around the world, only 24 million, or less than 2%, had reached Africa. “Equitable and sustainable vaccine roll-out worldwide is the quickest path towards a fast and fair recovery,” Guterres said. “This requires sharing of doses, removing export restrictions, ramping up local production and fully funding the ACT-Accelerator and its Covax Facility.”

Wu Peng, the director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Africa department, told a press conference on the same day that China had provided vaccines to nearly 40 African countries at “favorable prices.” In a not-so-veiled reference to the U.S., Wu compared China’s actions to those of “some countries that have said they have to wait for their own people to finish the vaccination before they could supply the vaccines to foreign countries. We believe that it is, of course, necessary to ensure that the Chinese people get vaccinated as soon as possible, but for other countries in need, we also try our best to provide vaccine help.”

South China Morning Post reported that the figures from Beijing’s Bridge Consulting show that African nations have ordered about 33 million

vaccine doses from China and have been outright donated another 5.45 million by Beijing. China has also donated 10.5 million vaccines to countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Facing U.S. Sanctions Threat, El Salvador Turns to China and Russia To Back Its Sovereign Development

May 20 (EIRNS)—All over the world, nations are beginning to recognize that an alternative to the dying old order of geopolitics, colonialism, and usury is coming into being, with sovereign nations joining together for mutual development. Central America is no exception to the process.

“We are very enthusiastic about strengthening the relationship with Russia, we are facing a world with new challenges and opportunities, and we want to take advantage of those opportunities,” Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele told Russian Ambassador Alexander Khokholikov yesterday, in receiving the new ambassador’s credentials. Bukele declared that El Salvador recognizes “the importance of Russia in the world.” Khokholikov responded in the same spirit, assuring President Bukele that the Russian government also wishes to increase cooperation. “We are going to work bilaterally and multilaterally,” he said, “because that is how it should be to maximize mutual benefit, both of Russia and El Salvador.”

Today China’s Embassy in El Salvador issued an important communiqué, reiterating that the agreement signed with El Salvador for China to oversee the construction of four development projects requested by the Salvadoran government, spells out that China is covering the costs of the project (see accompanying slug). President Bukele immediately posted the communiqué to his Twitter, much followed by others in the region, as well as Salvadorans at home and abroad.

The Biden administration, which has supplied neither vaccines nor economic development aid to the region, is publicly threatening to overthrow the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras if they break with the old order.

This is being done in the name of “fighting corruption” in Central America. The State Department included in its list of corrupt officials in those countries which it released on May 18, for example, two top Bukele administration officials: the President’s Chief of Cabinet Carolina Recinos and Minister of Security and Justice Rogelio Rivas. The charges are preposterous: Recinos is accused of engaging in “significant acts of corruption during her term in office” (no further details), while Rivas’ “significant acts of corruption” were that he allegedly “awarded his own private construction company several noncompetitive and unadvertised contracts to build police stations and other buildings that fall under his official capacity and inflated the cost of materials.”

U.S. Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA), head of the Central American Caucus in the House of Representatives, and a close ally of Vice President Kamala Harris, proclaimed on May 18 as she released the list: “I will be relentless in demanding accountability from our government—if we know someone is corrupt, I expect our government to use all levers at our disposal, including sanctions, visa restrictions, withholding support to deter future acts of corruption, and dismantling the systems that allow corruption to occur.”

China’s Embassy in El Salvador Issues Press Release on Grant Aid

May 20 (EIRNS)—The Chinese Embassy in El Salvador issued a communiqué this afternoon explaining China’s policy on economic aid that it provides to developing nations such as El Salvador. The Salvadoran legislature earlier this week approved the implementation of a previously negotiated \$500 million grant agreement signed with China by President Nayib Bukele, an agreement which met with sharp displeasure from the U.S. State Department. Excerpts from the [Chinese statement](#) follow:

“1. China develops friendly cooperation with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which are: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity; mutual non-invasion; non-interference in internal affairs; equality and sharing of benefits; and peaceful coexistence. As the largest developing country in the world, in the framework of South-South cooperation and within the limits of its ability,

China provides aid to developing countries throughout the world, and these projects do not involve any political conditions or geopolitical considerations.

“2. China’s aid projects are grants; they are not profitable commercial or investment projects. The Chinese side takes care of the entire process of market research, design and construction of the projects....

“Communication and coordination with the government of the receiving country is always maintained, strictly complying with all the laws and regulations of both countries, with no risk of corruption. Once they are finalized, the projects are completely handed over to the benefiting country under the turn-key modality... They represent great opportunities in terms of employment, improvement of infrastructure, stimulus to economic growth, and promotion of the welfare of the population that benefits from this help.

“3. China and El Salvador established diplomatic relations on the basis of the principle of One China. All of China’s grant projects with El Salvador were proposed by the Salvadoran government, based on the needs of their population, and were not decided unilaterally by China.

“Currently the projects of the National Library, the National Stadium, the water treatment plant on Lake Ilopango, and the La Libertad Wharf are moving forward...

“4. China is firmly opposed to the powerful nations’ trampling of nations that are fighting for their development under less favorable conditions. China has never in the past, nor will it in the future, use foreign aid to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, let alone to gain benefit from them. Cooperation between China and El Salvador is not targeted against any third party.”

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

Latest Atlanta CDC Guidelines on Coronavirus Mean Trouble

May 20 (EIRNS)—The latest guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), stating that vaccinated people can stop wearing masks in most places, went into effect this week, and are a misguided capitulation to popular opinion and “COVID fatigue.” As various state governors, scientists, nurses associations, and others have observed, the obvious problem is that there is no way of knowing whether people who are not wearing masks have actually been vaccinated or not. Given that a large number of anti-vaxxers are also anti-maskers, and have no problem entirely ignoring the regulations or just lying outright—such as purchasing phony proof of vaccination documents that are readily available—this is a formula for a new spike in contagion nationally.

Many governors are complaining about the CDC announcement, and some are saying they won't go along, including California. The state's health director announced on May 17 that California will require people to keep wearing masks and practice social distancing indoors until June 15—the date when Gov. Gavin Newsom had already said nearly all COVID-19 restrictions would be dropped if cases remained low. AP reports that the California Nurses Association said the state is being prudent: “We must protect the lives of our patients, the lives of nurses, and other health care and essential workers across the country,” California Nurses President Sandy Reding said in a statement. “We know the best way to do that is with multiple layers of protection, which includes masking as well as social distancing, and isolation following exposure.”

East Indian Community in U.S. Calls on Biden To Send India 60 Million Vaccines, Now

May 20 (EIRNS)—On May 19, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. joined with prominent Indian leaders, who came to Washington, D.C., to call upon President Biden to give the stored 60 million AstraZeneca doses to India, and to do so now. The crisis is urgent, and continued delays are deadly. Biden has sat on the stockpile of 60 million doses for at least 10 weeks,

despite a promise that he would export them, made more than a month ago. Biden stipulated that he wouldn't export any doses until the FDA approves doing so—even though India both has approved the vaccine and been producing it for other countries. Biden's announcement a few days ago, bragging about sending vaccines sometime in the next six weeks, has the appearance of holding a glass of water before a man dying of dehydration.

India has recorded new records for COVID-19 deaths this week, almost every day. Jackson contended: “Not only are they our neighbor in democracy and ally, the disease is airborne. We help ourselves and the world when we help to ameliorate the virus.... It is imperative for President Biden and the United States to step up even more to prevent the continued loss of life.”

Dr. Bharat Barai, the chairman of the U.S.-India Friendship Council, urged Biden also to facilitate the supply of the “much-needed antiviral medications of remdesivir and tocilizumab to India immediately.” Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, the national chairman of the American Association of Multiethnic Physicians asked Biden a) to get the vaccines out before May 31, that is, a month earlier than Biden indicated; and b) to invoke the Federal International Emergency Production Act “to increase vaccine production. “We need to protect India first; only then can America and the rest of the world be protected.” His appeal made headline news in India, but Americans neither heard nor saw a word in the U.S. media.

When the State Department was asked on May 19 if and when and India would get any of the promised vaccines, Principal Deputy Spokesperson Jalina Porter repeated the party line: The “United States will send 80 million U.S. vaccines to help countries battling the pandemic by the end of June of this year....” And, “we'll have more to say about how they're distributing the vaccines in the coming weeks.” Don't hold your breath.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Lavrov Finds Cautious Optimism in Iceland Meeting with Blinken

May 20 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov remarked to media after their discussion yesterday that “the conversation seemed to me constructive,” referring to his nearly two-hour talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Reykjavik, Iceland. Scheduled for an hour on the sideline of the Arctic Council Ministerial, Lavrov continued: “There is an understanding of the need to overcome the abnormal situation that took shape in relations between Moscow and Washington in the previous years.”

Lavrov elaborated the areas of agreement: “We will be preparing proposals for our Presidents on these issues and on ways to promote our dialogue on strategic stability—this is the key problem whose solution is a matter of concern for the majority of states in the world community. It is also the duty of Russia and the United States as the major nuclear powers. We have reaffirmed our proposal to start a dialogue by considering all factors influencing strategic stability: nuclear and non-nuclear, offensive and defensive. I did not see this concept being rejected, but experts have a lot of work ahead in this regard. We have agreed to continue joint efforts, ones that are going ahead with sufficient success, on regional conflicts, where Russian and U.S. interests coincide: the nuclear problem of the Korean Peninsula; the efforts to restore the JCPOA on the Iranian nuclear program; and Afghanistan, where an extended Troika, including Russia, China, the United States, and Pakistan, is operating actively. We discussed how we could make all our joint actions more effective at this stage.” Otherwise, Lavrov said that he told Blinken: “Our task is to make the best of the diplomatic opportunities that we have, and we are glad to see that you are demonstrating such an approach.” It will work if our dialogue is “honest, factual and with mutual respect.”

In contrast to Lavrov’s the-glass-is-half-full account of the meeting, the State Department’s Ned Price provided a readout that was decidedly unenthusiastic: “The Secretary also reiterated President Biden’s resolve to protect U.S. citizens and act firmly in defense of U.S. interests in response

to actions by Russia that harm us or our allies.” Then came the litany of complaints: release Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed; concern for the health of Aleksey Navalny and for the repression of opposition organizations; and stop the “continued military deployments in and near Ukraine.”

The last item on Blinken’s list takes the cake for *chutzpah*: “The Secretary underscored the imperative of ensuring humanitarian access for the people of Syria.” This from the country that has invaded Syria, set up military bases there, stolen oil and wheat, backed terrorists, and has now launched the deadly Caesar Sanctions.

There was a hint that Blinken was at least in the same meeting with Lavrov with the last two sentences: “They also discussed areas in which both of our peoples could benefit from sustained and enhanced cooperation, including Afghanistan, strategic stability, and curbing Iran and the D.P.R.K.’s nuclear programs. The Secretary and the Foreign Minister committed to continued discussions going forward.”

Sen. Konstantin Kosachev, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council (the upper house of Russia’s Federal Assembly), applauded Lavrov’s cautious optimism, reported TASS, and saying: “The best result would be resuming the bulk of previous negotiating formats and eliminating the most egregious issues.... I liked the cautious optimism of our foreign minister after the talks. Given that traditionally Sergey Viktorovich [Lavrov] provides a realistic evaluation, this is a rather good sign.... [T]he recognition that the current situation is an anomaly and that this mess needs to be cleaned up is a good place to start. It’s clear that the sides view the reasons and ways out differently, but that’s why there is dialogue to boil the approaches down to a common denominator.”

Netanyahu Continues To Call the Shots, as U.S. Now Only Seeks ‘Sustainable Calm’

May 20 (EIRNS)—Late reports this evening indicate that a ceasefire was reached in Gaza at about midnight local time (21:00 UTC May 20)—precisely the Friday, May 21 schedule that had been widely reported as Israel’s intention all along. Over the course of the week, a choreographed

diplomatic dance of sorts was performed, with the Biden administration first suggesting to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that “significant de-escalation” was needed, followed by the State Department downgrading the White House request to make it a call for “sustainable calm.” Throughout, Netanyahu made it clear that he had no intention of doing anything other than completing his deadly military objectives—which the Biden administration de facto endorsed.

For example, after hearing President Joe Biden call for a de-escalation to begin on May 19, Netanyahu proceeded to brief his ambassadors: “We’re not standing with a stopwatch in our hand; rather, we are making sure to meet the goals of this operation.” Israel’s Ambassador to the U.S. Gilad Erdan provided the more diplomatic version, on Israel Radio on May 20: “The U.S. government wants a ceasefire already. There is no disagreement between us on that. We also want this fighting to end quickly ... but we need to know that the Hamas infrastructure has been sufficiently damaged.” In between, there was a lot more bombing of Gaza.

Israel’s Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi had told U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on May 19, according to Axios, that Israel “needs another few days to complete its Gaza operation.” Israel’s Channel 12 likewise reported, “Israeli military and politicians share an opinion that there will be no ceasefire” May 21.

Many EU governments also provided Netanyahu with the cover he required. Foreign Ministers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany arrived in Tel Aviv, on May 20. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas pontificated: “The fact that we see that Hamas is again firing missiles into the south of Israel, since we have arrived here in Tel Aviv, is for us an indication of how serious the situation is that the people of Israel find themselves in.” However, the “casualty numbers are rising by the day. That also concerns us greatly, and for that reason we support international efforts for a ceasefire.” Maas already has blamed Hamas for the escalation and has ruled out talking to them. Foreign Minister Ashkenazi happily thanked Germany and the other European nations for their support.

At this point, 58,000 Gazan Palestinians are displaced. At least 230 have been killed and 1,710 wounded. Hamas and Islamic Jihad, together, say 20 of their fighters have died. Israel claims that 110 more of the dead are non-civilian. Twelve more have died in Israel, including one soldier. World Health Organization says that 18 hospitals and clinics, and one health facility are damaged or destroyed. Gaza's Ministry of Education says 46 schools had been hit. Gaza is a pretty small place, so there can't be much left for the Israelis to target unless they start carpet bombing.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

U.S. Waiving of Sanctions on Nord Stream 2 Is Limited to CEO

May 20 (EIRNS)—According to the official statement by U.S. Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#), sanctions have been waived only on the corporate entity and executives of Nord Stream 2 AG, but not the ships that are involved. Nonetheless, German officials and others consider it a significant climb-down by the U.S. on the prior course of total confrontation with Germany (and Russia) over Nord Stream 2.

“As a result of such sanctions on the entities listed in the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act report, the four vessels listed in the report and nine additional vessels owned or controlled by the Federal State Budgetary Institution Marine Rescue Service that are involved in the Nord Stream 2 pipeline's construction, will also be subject to sanctions,” Blinken said in a statement released on May 19.

“Furthermore, I have determined that it is in the national interest of the United States to waive the application of sanctions on Nord Stream 2 AG, its CEO Matthias Warnig, and Nord Stream 2 AG's corporate officers.”

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who spoke to Blinken May 18 by phone, welcomed the decision, telling reporters the next day that the U.S. move on Nord Stream 2 was a “constructive step that we will gladly continue to discuss with our partners in Washington.” This is in line with what Axios reported on May 18, from anonymous officials, that the White

House was “not willing to rupture its relationship with Germany over Nord Stream 2.”

***China Daily* Concludes That ‘Biden Has Not Brought America Back’**

May 20 (EIRNS)—A May 19 editorial published by *China Daily* reached the conclusion that, despite Biden’s campaign promises to “bring America back,” this hasn’t happened. The editorial notes that there were hopes and expectations internationally when Biden first came in, that “the United States was ready to play a more constructive role in the international arena” than had occurred under previous administrations. “Yet four months after taking office, Biden seems to have squandered both the opportunity and the goodwill. On vaccines, he obviously has not deviated much from the course of ‘vaccine nationalism’ set by the Donald Trump administration—by continuing to hoard the vaccines and holding back raw materials needed for vaccine production, even though the U.S. has already secured enough supplies to vaccinate its population multiple times.” The editorial cited a May 12 *Foreign Policy* magazine article which commented that “Biden’s flashy posturing on waiving vaccine patents obscures the very inconvenient fact that it’s actual shipments of doses that save lives,” and then goes on to expose that “the number of doses the U.S. has shared with the rest of the world is a miserly 3 million, as compared with around 200 million the European Union has shipped to non-EU countries.”