

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Defining Moment: Paradigm of Collaboration, or Pandemic, Famine and War

March 4 (EIRNS)—Two contrasting strategic initiatives came from the United States this week. On March 3 Secretary of State Antony Blinken

gave a formal presentation, “[A Foreign Policy for the American People](#),” in which he singled out China for being the “biggest geopolitical test of the 21st century” for the U.S., as a threat to democracy. In contrast, on March 2, legislators from seven U.S. states and seven Chinese provinces met online, for discussions of mutual economic benefit, which Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai addressed, saying, “A China-U.S. relationship based on coordination, cooperation and stability is both in the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and meets the shared aspiration of the international community.”

The latter gathering, officially titled, “[5th China-U.S. Sub-national Legislatures Cooperation Forum](#),” shows the capacity for deliberating on reality, fortunately still alive in the United States; favoring economic progress, cultural optimism, and respect; and discussion and collaboration on potential concrete projects for infrastructure, power, health care, transportation, agriculture, and food. The extremist, pre-war style demonization of China is not all-pervasive. The U.S. states represented were Alabama, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Michigan, and Tennessee. The Chinese provinces and municipalities were Beijing, Hebei, Shanxi, Jiangsu, Hubei, Guangdong, and Yunnan.

In opposition to such a spirit of collaboration, Secretary Blinken asserted yesterday that China is a menace to the stability of the world order, which order, he said, is based on American values, so China must be contained. He spoke of “standing up for our values when human rights are abused in Xinjiang or when democracy is trampled in Hong Kong, because if we don’t, China will act with even greater impunity.” Elaborating more on this, the White House the same day released its 20-page “[Interim National Security Strategic Guidance](#).”

What this geopolitics means in action was seen yesterday in the threat for another U.S. bombing strike on a target in Syria or elsewhere in the region, which was made not only by Secretary Blinken, but by President Biden, as well as John Kirby, Pentagon Press Secretary. Their prospective strike is discussed as retaliation for another terrorist hit on a U.S. base

inside Iraq this week, as was the U.S. retaliatory strike Feb. 25. This chain of events has nowhere to go but toward all-out war, if it is not stopped. The only “solution” is to not only end the strife, but to combat the pandemic and famine in the region with emergency measures, and to initiate the essential regional development programs, along with the international collaboration that goes with them. The famine situation in Yemen is acute, and urgent in Syria.

Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche today in her weekly strategic webcast, “[As War Danger Grows, There is No Alternative to U.S.-China Cooperation](#),” denounced the hypocritical talk of “democracy” while nations are being destroyed. She said, “I don’t want to hear the words democracy and human rights from anybody who is not mobilizing to change the fate of the Yemen people. It would be so easy to bring in ships to the ports for Sana’a and basically say, this food will be delivered, and there is no resistance permitted by Saudi Arabia. There would be means to pressure Saudi Arabia to allow this food to go through. The fact that this is not being done cries to Heaven. I think that this is a complete bankruptcy declaration for Europe—they’re not doing anything about it—and for the whole so-called West.”

Zepp-LaRouche described more of the situation in the region, for example, that in Syria, one-third of the population is suffering from hunger as well as the pandemic. She stressed her call for action. She spoke of the China-USA legislators meeting in this context, describing it as one of a very few “tiny signs of hope.” She said, “There was the Fifth China-USA Sub-national Cooperation Forum, and that included legislators from many Chinese provinces and state legislative leaders... [from seven states] and the Ambassador of China to the United States, Cui Tiankai. He pointed to the fact that, all of humanity is, really, sitting in one boat. The two most important economies in the world have everything to gain from cooperating with each other, and absolutely nothing to gain from having a policy of confrontation. So one would hope that on that level there is a return to a different approach of cooperation.

“We have so many problems in the world right now. If you think of the unbelievable misery in many countries. If people don’t change, and have an agapic approach, that we are one human species; it would be so easy to get rid of famine. Most diseases are absolutely containable. If there would be common research, we could make crash programs, as it was done for the vaccine for COVID-19, where some researchers developed a new technology in less than a year.... And this you could do, and find a cure for all the many diseases which cause incredible suffering for millions of people.

“So, why not shift? Can we not shift the orientation? Stop geopolitical confrontation, which is really the method which led to two world wars in the 20th century and will lead to annihilation in the 21st century because of thermonuclear weapons, if it is not stopped. So I think this effort to contain China with the Indo-Pacific policy is definitely the biggest danger right now. And I think that the idea to really make a step in a different direction and define the common aims of mankind ... we have to absolutely make this jump.”

Zepp-LaRouche, after then discussing this further, including with reference to the great potential shown in the successes of three Mars missions right now, asked, “Why not really go and make a huge leap, go to a new paradigm in thinking? And rather than destroying each other on Earth, that we find a new paradigm of tackling the challenges which confront all of civilization? I think that here is hope, absolutely, but I think it requires a major shift in policy.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

U.S. Threatens Retaliatory Strike in Response to Rocket Attack on U.S. Base in Iraq

March 4 (EIRNS)—The White House indicated yesterday that the U.S. will retaliate for the March 3 rocket attack on the Ain al Assad air base in Iraq. “We are following that through right now,” Biden told reporters. “Thank God, no one was killed by the rocket, but one individual, a contractor, died

of a heart attack. But we're identifying who's responsible and we'll make judgments" about a response. White House press secretary Jen Psaki suggested that the "calculated" U.S. airstrike against Iraqi militias operating just across the border in Syria last week could be a model for a military response. "If we assess further response is warranted, we will take action again in a manner and time of our choosing," Psaki said.

Unnamed U.S. officials told Reuters that yesterday's rocket barrage fit the profile of an attack by Iran-backed militia, but the Pentagon said it was too soon to come to any conclusions. "We cannot attribute responsibility at this time, and we do not have a complete picture of the extent of the damage," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement yesterday. It still seems to be the case that no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Debate Grows in Norway over U.S. Military Presence

March 4 (EIRNS)—Debate is intensifying in Norway over the expanding U.S. military presence on Norwegian soil, particularly since the arrival of a contingent of four U.S. B-1B bombers at the Ørland air base west of Trondheim. According to a lengthy report "[New U.S. Bombers Sound the Alarms](#)," in the Norwegian news site NewsinEnglish.no, the debate falls mainly along the expected lines, with the ruling Conservative Party and the official military establishment supporting the deployment and the tightening of Norway's relationship with NATO, and the left parties, which oppose NATO anyway, speaking out against the U.S. military presence. There are some notable singularities cited in the report, however.

Much of the debate centers on Norway's long-standing policy, referred to as the base policy and dating back to 1949, of not hosting foreign forces on Norwegian soil during peacetime, and on the fear that that policy is now being undermined. Even a former deputy leader of the Labor Party, which otherwise supports NATO and cooperation with U.S. allies, expressed concern this week: "When and where and by whom was this doctrine phased out?" queried Thorbjørn Berntsen, a former government minister, on social media.

Perhaps most notable, according to the report, however, were the criticism and warnings from a lieutenant colonel and professor at Norway's own defense college, Forsvarets høgskole, Tormod Heier. He has publicly stated that Norway risks becoming "a battlefield in a steadily more escalating rivalry between the superpowers." Russia had already been complaining about the bombers' arrival all month. What worries Heier most, and which he clearly and rather bravely expressed on national newscasts last week, was the lack of public or political debate long before the bombers arrived last week.

"We have one of the world's most highly educated and well-informed populations, but major decisions that involve our security are made almost without prior press coverage or open debate," he also told the *Dagens Næringsliv* newspaper, which published an extensive article on the issue during the weekend, after it had finally exploded. "If we under-communicate the consequences of the country's own policies, we have a big democratic problem."

Another notable exception appears to be Norway's new Chief of Defense, Gen. Eirik Kristoffersen, who warned against cutting all communication with Moscow. He thinks Norway and Russia must begin speaking more together, in order to lower tensions between them. "We had dialogue during the Cold War, and we see that the dialogue going on in Afghanistan with the Taliban is critical for us to move forward," Kristoffersen said during a recent conference in Kirkenes, the Norwegian town located closest to the border crossing between Norway and Russia. Kristoffersen noted that dialogue won't necessarily solve anything, but it must be attempted. "The most dangerous thing that could happen for Norway, NATO, and the world is an open conflict with Russia," he said. "Fortunately, that's not so probable."

Germany, France, and U.K., Drop Draft Resolution Against Iran at International Atomic Energy Agency

March 4 (EIRNS)—In something of a diplomatic breakthrough today, the U.K., France, and Germany (the "E3") dropped a draft resolution at the

meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency that would have condemned Iran for reducing its cooperation with the agency's inspectors and that would have demanded that Iran answer questions about traces of uranium which inspectors reportedly found at two undeclared locations in Tehran. The scrapping of the resolution followed an agreement between Iran and the IAEA for a technical meeting to take place in Tehran in early April.

“We are trying to sit down around the table and see if we can resolve this once and for all,” IAEA chief Rafael Grossi told reporters in Vienna during a hastily called press conference, outlining a process that will start next month. “We are going to be starting this process of focused analysis of the situation with a technical meeting which will take place in Iran at the beginning of April, which I hope will be followed by other technical or political meetings.”

A French diplomatic source told reporters that the resolution had been put on hold because the E3 believed they had won concessions allowing Grossi to work on the outstanding issues, and because it would have harmed the prospects of a meeting between Iran, the United States, and other parties to the deal, reported Reuters. “If we had gone through with the vote [on a resolution] it would have made it more difficult to quickly start this meeting,” the source told reporters. “Cooler heads are prevailing,” said a diplomat from a country on the board that was skeptical of the resolution.

“Today's development can preserve the path of diplomacy that was created by Iran and the IAEA and pave the way for returning to full compliance by all parties to the JCPOA,” Iranian state media quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh as saying. Iran's ambassador to the IAEA Kazem Gharib Abadi tweeted that “due to extensive diplomatic consultations ... a glimpse of hope is looming to prevent unnecessary tension.”

The breakthrough in Vienna followed a warning from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani that the E3 should not play political games in the IAEA. “The [International Atomic Energy] Agency is not a venue for political

games. Political games must be abandoned. The Agency is a place for technical work,” he said on March 3 after inaugurating a number of projects carried out by the Interior Ministry, reported Tasnim.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Ambassador Cui Tiankai Lauds Collaboration as China and U.S. State Legislators Hold Fifth Meeting

March 4 (EIRNS)—The 5th China-U.S. Sub-national Legislatures Cooperation Forum met online on March 2. Attending were state legislators from the states of Alabama, Hawaii, California, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, and Tennessee. On the Chinese side were leaders of the standing committees of provincial or municipal people’s congresses of Beijing, Hebei, Shanxi, Jiangsu, Hubei, Guangdong and Yunnan. The forum was the outcome of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States in 2015.

During the forum, the two sides had extensive discussions on the theme of “Win-win Cooperation for a New Chapter.” The U.S. legislators’ organization participating in the meeting is the State Legislative Leaders Foundation, whose president is Stephen Lakis.

China’s Ambassador to the U.S. [Cui Tiankai](#) addressed the group. He said that this was the first such event since the change of administrations, and he emphasized the importance of U.S.-China cooperation, particularly in a year in which the world is still in a major fight against COVID-19. Cui referred to the two presidents’ phone call in February as the possible beginning of an improved relationship between the two countries.

“A China-U.S. relationship based on coordination, cooperation, and stability is both in the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and meets the shared aspiration of the international community,” he said. “The two countries need to work together under the principle of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect, and win-win cooperation, focusing on cooperation and managing differences, to promote the healthy and stable development of China-U.S. relations, to bring more tangible benefits to the two peoples, and contribute to peace and development of humanity.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

House Cancels Session over Alleged Threat of Plot for Another Assault on Capitol

March 4 (EIRNS)—Yesterday, the U.S. Capitol Police issued a warning of a possible plot to assault the Capitol today, prompting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to cancel today's session of the House. The Senate remained in session as usual, while Pelosi and others conducted plenty of danger-mongering, serving as cover for Big Tech censorship and other moves on the nation. Five thousand National Guard troops remain deployed to protect Capitol Hill. House Democrats used the session on March 3 night to rush through expansive so-called election reform legislation, as well as a police reform bill.

The threat is connected to, among other things, a far-right conspiracy theory, mainly promoted by supporters of QAnon, that Trump will “rise again to power” on March 4. Online chatter identified by authorities included discussions among members of the Three Percenters, an anti-government militia group, concerning possible plots against the Capitol on March 4, according to two unnamed law enforcement officials.

“The United States Capitol Police Department is aware of and prepared for any potential threats towards members of Congress or towards the Capitol complex,” the agency said in a statement. “We have obtained intelligence that shows a possible plot to breach the Capitol by an identified militia group on Thursday, March 4.” Police did not identify the militia group in the statement.

It's not clear that there's any actual evidence that such militia groups are preparing to enter Washington, D.C. Federal agencies were said to be seeking to determine whether there was an increase in the number of hotel rooms being rented in Washington, as well as monitoring flights to the area, car rental reservations and any buses being chartered to bring groups into the capital, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

D.C. Guard Commander Reveals Pentagon Delayed for Hours Before Ordering Troops to Capitol Hill on Jan. 6

March 4 (EIRNS)—Maj. Gen. William Walker, the commander of the District of Columbia National Guard, asserted during testimony to the U.S. Senate yesterday that Army officials delayed deciding to authorize deployment of the National Guard by three hours during the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol. “The Army senior leaders did not think that it looked good, [that] it would be a good optic. They further stated [during a conference call with police officials] that it could incite the crowd,” he told a combined hearing of the Senate Rules and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees. The Army officials told those on the call “that it would not be their best military advice to have uniformed Guardsmen on the Capitol,” he continued.

According to *The Hill*, Walker’s account backs up testimony last week from law enforcement officials, including D.C. Police Chief Robert Contee and then-Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund, who said the Army was reluctant to immediately deploy the Guard, in part because of concerns about the “optics” of having armed troops at the Capitol. Walker named Director of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. Walter Piatt and Lt. Gen. Charles Flynn, a deputy chief of staff in the Army, neither of whom were testifying, as expressing concerns about the “optics” of such a deployment. However, Robert Salesses, acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security, said Piatt had told him in advance of the hearing “that he didn’t say anything about optics.” Walker responded that “there were people in the room with me on that call that heard what they heard.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Draghi’s Government Issues First Italian Green Bond, Largest Ever

March 4 (EIRNS)—The Italian Treasury sold an €8.5 billion Green Bond on March 3, the largest Green Bond ever, according to the *Financial Times*. The demand was almost tenfold, indicating market frenzy for such assets.

The Italian government said it will use the money to finance projects as much as possible, consistent with the EU taxonomy.

Italy follows several other European countries, including Poland, Ireland, Sweden, and the Netherlands, into the green debt market. France has issued 11 green bonds since 2017, totalling \$30.6 billion, according to Moody's Investors Service. Germany joined the market last year with two green Bunds. In its budget on March 3, the U.K. announced plans to sell at least £15 billion of green bonds in two offerings this year.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

China Announces Plans To Produce 3.5 Billion Vaccine Doses in 2021

March 4 (EIRNS)—A major expansion of COVID-19 vaccine production is underway in China, now surpassing 3.5 billion doses in 2021. Further, China has decided to vaccinate 560 million of its citizens by June 30, an average of about 5 million/day. The U.S. is just now arriving at the capacity for 2.5 million/day, on its way to a 3-4 million/day level.

At a major meeting of the Chinese Center for Disease Control on March 2, decisions were made to escalate vaccinations on a vast scale. Up to now, China has targeted 52.5 million vaccinations, concentrating upon those who are most exposed to people and products coming into the country at airports, train stations, and harbors, and upon those exposed internally, such as health workers. Their testing and tracking methods have pre-empted a need to rapidly vaccinate. However, they have decided that it would undermine the efforts of neighbors, such as India, who are going for herd immunity levels of vaccination, if China were unvaccinated when their neighbors had achieved their goal. Social responsibility dictates that China should not be the weak link at that point. Health authorities were sent around the country after the March 2 meeting, to organize the vaccinations of 560 million people by June 30 and another 330 million by the end of the year.

The 3.5 billion vaccine doses will come from Sinovac Biotech, which, according to CEO Yin Weidong, is expanding to a capacity of 2 billion doses/year; CansinoBIO, which is building a new factory in Shanghai and plans on 500 million doses in 2021; and Sinopharm, which guarantees at least 1 billion doses in 2021. Previously, India has led the world, with a production schedule of 2.25 billion COVID-19 vaccines in 2021.

The EU Discovers the Russia's Sputnik V Vaccine

March 4 (EIRNS)—Today, the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the EU's regulatory agency for vaccines, showed on their website that the “decision to start the rolling review” of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine “is based on results from laboratory studies and clinical studies in adults.” The studies “indicate that Sputnik V triggers the production of antibodies and immune cells that target the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and many help protect against COVID-19.” This understatement ends weeks of confusion and delay. In late January, the Russia Direct Investment Fund submitted its application for the EU to use the Sputnik V vaccine, and the confusion has reigned, as the EU at times suggested that there was no application.

Now, according to *Corriere Della Sera*, two specialists from Italy's Lazzaro Spallanzani National Institute for Infectious Diseases will go to Russia to inspect the production of Sputnik V vaccines. Prof. Francesco Vaia, the director of the Institute, indicated that it was being done in coordination with the EMA. The phrase “rolling review” suggests that the EMA is now interested in expediting the processing of the application.

Meanwhile, the latest figures from the World Health Organization show that the Czech Republic and Hungary, and actually most of Central and Eastern Europe, are undergoing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in the last week or two, after about six weeks of consistent decline.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Paraguay in Jubilation after Successful Launching of First Satellite

March 4 (EIRNS)—With great pride and excitement, Paraguay launched its first satellite, GuaraniSat-1, on Feb. 20, from NASA’s launch facility on Wallops Island, Virginia, an event considered of great historic significance for the country. Two days after launch, the Northrop Grumman Cygnus supply ship carrying the nanosatellite docked at the International Space Station from which GuaraniSat-1 will be placed in orbit in the next month or two. This CubeSat satellite which measures only 10x10x10 cm, was developed by the Paraguayan Space Agency (AEP) as part of multi-nation program known as BIRDS-4, developed by Japan’s Kyushu Technological Institute and backed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). Once in orbit, GuaraniSat-1 will be involved in monitoring the prevalence of Chagas disease in the Chaco region, but Paraguayan engineer Adolfo Jara told EFE that the satellite will perform nine missions in 18 months.

Amidst much jubilation, an AEP tweet showing two small children happily reporting on the launch and waving the Paraguayan flag, captured the nation’s sentiment. AEP Planning Division head Jorge Kurita told EFE that the AEP’s participation in the program has had a “domino effect” in “the creation of research teams in the space sector, applied to solving problems on Earth.” AEP director of Aerospace Development Alejandro Roman explained that for a country like Paraguay, subject to annual floods and forest fires, the GuaraniSat-1 observation satellite can help in “planning responses. This is an example of how science and space technology can help improve a government’s and a nation’s management” capabilities, “The AEP isn’t just dedicated to the launching of a satellite. It’s a means to advance in technological development.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, March 5, 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.