

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Helga Zepp-LaRouche: Message for the New Year

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—This coming year is going to be one in which a lot of very crucial strategic issues will come to a head, where humanity is being confronted with choosing a path; a path to either solutions which will bring mankind into a New Paradigm, or a path to Hell. That is why I want to officially declare 2022 the year of my late husband, Lyndon LaRouche, because it is his 100th birthday.

There is no more adequate way to celebrate this great man and the incredible richness of the works he had produced, than to declare 2022 the year of Lyndon LaRouche. I already can promise that we will conduct many meetings, conferences, and seminars. We will publish the second volume of his collected works—that is, by the LaRouche Legacy Foundation. We will make everything possible that the solution which Lyndon LaRouche offered to the strategic situation, to the economic crisis, to the cultural crisis; that these solutions will be on the table for every responsible government and parliament around the world to consider. I think this will be a very fruitful endeavor, so I invite all of you to join with us in the celebration of Lyndon LaRouche for the entire year.

Having said that, I think that the situation around the US-Russia strategic crisis is still one of incredible danger, because this has been building up for more than 30 years, since the end of the Soviet Union. It has now reached a point where a solution has to occur. President Putin has responded to the endless series of provocations coming from NATO, by demanding legally binding treaties which will guarantee the security of Russia. Not only was this the subject of discussion between Presidents Biden and Putin in the discussion they just had yesterday, but it will be the issue of discussion on January 9th and 10th in Geneva between the United States and Russia for two days. Then on January 12th, it will be discussed in Brussels between NATO and Russia, and then on the 13th, it will be a discussion among the OSCE in Vienna. That is the framework where results have to be produced. Both President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov have said clearly that they will not agree anymore to just have long talks which will be then used in the meantime to build up the weapons systems along the Russian border in Ukraine, the Baltics, and other states. They want written, legally binding guarantees, having in mind that there has been a long history of deception on the side of NATO.

I think this is something every concerned citizen, patriot, world citizen should be on the side of demanding that these treaties must be signed, because any continuous escalation has the danger of leading to nuclear war. Given the fact that the head of the US Strategic Command, Admiral

Richard, had already in February instructed the Pentagon to requalify the likelihood of nuclear war from not likely to very likely. Naturally, the situation between the United States and China also is similarly tense. Therefore, we should really mobilize all to create an environment where the world returns to reason. We need a completely new security architecture; namely, what was on the table in 1990 and '91, where the option existed to include Russia into NATO, or to abandon NATO and create a completely new security architecture. That should be emphatically on the table for this coming year, and that security architecture must also take into account the security interests of Russia and China for it to be a valid one.

There is the danger, and Foreign Minister Lavrov has warned again that if there would be the option to have provocations, basically done by private military agencies in East Ukraine, or anything like that, that this will find a very harsh response. Putin has said very clearly there is no longer the question of Russia drawing red lines. Russia has been pushed into a situation where they have no more room to go. That is why this is a point of no return, and a solution must be found; which really means humanity has to go back to being the reasonable species and not continuing a course of confrontation which threatens the extinction of the entire human species

Lyndon LaRouche: To Stop Thermonuclear War, Bring on the World Economic Recovery

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—Ten years ago this holiday season, Lyndon LaRouche issued an emergency webcast warning of an onrushing thermonuclear war being prepared against Russia and China. Reading the transcript of that event today creates, within anyone who has not capitulated to existentialist angst induced by the breakdown of civilization taking place across the trans-Atlantic world today, a wonderment at the prescience of this genius. It must also provoke in us a recognition that the failure of civilization to respond to his warning at that time, that the only means of preventing this disaster is to “Bring On the World Economic Recovery,” has made the current situation far more dangerous.

A few selections from that webcast on Dec. 23, 2011

Lyndon LaRouche: We are now on the verge of what must be called World War III: This will be thermonuclear World War III—not pre-nuclear war, not nuclear war, but *thermonuclear* war. The targets, principally, are Russia and China. These are the two principal targets. The war is intended to start, as of now, with an operation coming out of Iran, and it will probably be set up in some form. This war targeting Iran, is supposed to bring Israel into play; that may or may not happen, but that is the option with which this war plan started.

The issue is as follows: The present world system, the economic system, is in the process of disintegrating. Exactly how that will occur is uncertain, but it is happening. The intention is to eliminate two nations—Russia and China—and this means nuclear weapons; it means thermonuclear weapons. That part is engaged....

Now, at this point, the United States, nations of Europe, Russia, China, and other countries, are poised for exactly this war.

The background of the war is the fact that the entire world is going bankrupt, especially the trans-Atlantic region, especially Europe, and also the United States, and the nations of South America and elsewhere, as well. This war has been on the way since the beginning of President Obama's illegal war in Libya. This Libyan war was intended to set up the trigger for launching the larger war which would nominally involve nations such as Syria and other nations around there, but then with the attack on Iran, with the attack on Syria, it would bring into play Russia, because Russia would be, then, a major target. And Russia is prepared for this: Russia is the leading nuclear power, together with China, on the other side.

The major capability of conducting this war depends upon the nuclear capabilities and related capabilities of the United States. European nations, such as Britain and so forth, are nuclear powers, but they don't have the depth of nuclear weaponry that we in the United States have. And therefore, the heavy burden of launching a nuclear war—or thermonuclear war, actually—depends upon the capabilities of the United States. And we, of course, have the naval forces of the United States in the eastern

Mediterranean, and also in the Persian Gulf area now, staged to actually unleash a thermonuclear capability against the targetted enemies for this attack, which are Russia and also China, but other targets as well....

The other part of the background, is—and there's a lot of foolery in this as well—that the trans-Atlantic region of the world is now bankrupt. The bankruptcy from the United States' standpoint, was set into motion back in 2007, when the beginning of the bailout process was set into motion. Since that time, the entirety of the trans-Atlantic region, particularly the United States and Europe, have been trapped into a bailout crisis, a hyperinflationary bailout crisis. At this point, the debt which has been accumulated since 2007, under this program, is such that every part of Europe at this time, under the present rules and the present arrangements, is *hopelessly bankrupt! They could never recover as living nations, under the present degree of indebtedness they have.* The same thing is true of the United States; Europe is a little more acute. That's what's happened....

The author of this thing is the British, but we've had President Bush, the young President Bush, and we've had now, with Obama, for nearly 12 years in office; and in these 12 years, the wreckage that has been done to or made of the U.S. and Europe has brought us to this point, with the aid of this hyperinflationary process, set into motion, beginning in the Autumn of 2007. That's where we stand.

Now, what we have to do—there are solutions for this bankruptcy. First of all, we have to put the world through bankruptcy—that is, a legitimate bankruptcy operation. We can do that, by, first of all, in the United States, for example—and other nations can copy this measure in cooperation with the United States—we go with a *Glass-Steagall law, a U.S. Glass-Steagall law.* And there are nations of Europe who are thinking of adopting the same Glass-Steagall law.

Under a Glass-Steagall law, the greater part of the debt of European nations, and the United States and others, will be wiped out, in effect, because under Glass-Steagall, the gambling debts, which are the major part of the indebtedness of the United States, will be simply put into a special

category where somebody's going to try to figure out how to get these debts paid—and they will never be paid! They will simply be wiped off the books; there's no other solution.

Wiping that debt off the books, cancelling the bailout debt, will mean that the United States, and Europe if they join, will be in a position to reorganize their finances, to create a credit system, and actually going into a new kind of Hamiltonian kind of credit system, a banking system, which will enable the United States, and also Europe if they join, and other nations, to organize a financial recovery.

In other words, what would happen, immediately: Remember, most of this bailout debt, the Wall Street debt, the London debt, the other bailout debt, is absolutely worthless! *It can never be repaid!* It never could be repaid: And the only solution, of course, for this thing, was to have this war. And if the British Empire came out as the victor in such a war, with the support of the United States, then they would cancel their debts, and they would go about their business. But, the population of the world would be reduced, greatly, through hunger, starvation, and so forth, which is about to occur anyway....

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EIR: At that time, LaRouche demanded the removal of President Barack Obama from office as the only means of stopping the rush to war, both because Obama had followed the British into launching the war on Libya, and gloried in the public assassination of Qaddafi, but also because he and his economic controllers had prevented the implementation of Glass-Steagall at the time of the 2008 collapse of the Western financial system. Only that would have forced the British and others to step down, since they could not fight such a war without their “dumb giant” across the Atlantic.

Today, we are on the cusp of that war. President Putin has offered a way out, with his proposed agreement between Russia and NATO, and a treaty between Russia and the U.S. President Biden has apparently taken this offer

of peaceful cooperation seriously, speaking with Putin on Friday and agreeing to negotiations on these two proposals in the week of January 10.

Mobilize yourselves, your associates, and your political representatives to demand that these offers be accepted, to make this New Year one of peace and development, rather than the end of civilization as we know it.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday January 3, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

- **Editor's Note:** *EIR Daily Alert* will skip publishing on New Year's Day (for Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022). The first two issues in 2022 will appear on Saturday, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 3.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Lavrov Warns Russia Will Take Measures Against Threats to Its Security

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—In the aftermath of the Biden-Putin phone call of yesterday, Russian [Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov](#) warned in an interview with Sputnik that “If a constructive response does not follow within a reasonable time and the West continues its aggressive line, then Russia will be forced to take all necessary measures to ensure a strategic balance and eliminate unacceptable threats to our security.” He explained that Moscow’s proposals on security guarantees envision the non-expansion of NATO to the east and deployment of strike weapons near Russia’s borders, but they all contain other elements that in the end should “form those very reliable, legally binding security guarantees.”

“Our proposals are aimed at creating and legalizing a new system of agreements based on the principle of the indivisibility of security and abandonment of attempts to achieve military superiority, which was approved unanimously by the leaders of all Euro-Atlantic states in the 1990s. I would like to emphasize that what we need is legally binding

guarantees since our Western colleagues systematically fail to fulfill political obligations, not to mention voiced assurances and promises given to Soviet and Russian leaders,” Lavrov said. “Participation of high-ranking military personnel of the United States and the countries of the [NATO] alliance is fundamentally important for us,” Lavrov said, adding that Russia will not allow the U.S. and NATO to delay the process with “endless discussions.”

Lavrov charged that NATO is trying to use Kiev as a tool against Russia. “NATO member states are systematically transforming Ukraine into a military foothold against Russia, building their bases there, using its territory to conduct exercises. If this year there were seven such maneuvers, then in the coming year, according to a law adopted by the Verkhovna Rada [the parliament] of Ukraine, 10 [drills are planned], including one year-round [exercise],” Lavrov said. He observed that the number of troops participating in drills in Ukraine will double in 2022 and reach 64,000.

He also said that the Ukrainian government has no intention of ending a military conflict with the self-proclaimed republics that has been plaguing the country since 2014. “The civil war, which has been going on for the eighth year in Ukraine, is far from over. The country’s authorities are not going to take steps to resolve the conflict in Donbas on the uncontested basis of the Minsk Package of Measures,” Lavrov said.

According to him, the Ukrainian authorities consider support from NATO “as carte blanche for a military operation.” “As for the residents of Donbas, where hundreds of thousands of citizens of our country live, Russia will take all the necessary measures to protect them. We will continue to make efforts to resolve the internal Ukrainian conflict by political and diplomatic means,” Lavrov said. He further stated that there will be an “adequate response” to any possible military provocations from Kiev.

Zakharova Confirms, Greatest Threat to Ukraine Is Its President

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, during her regular press briefing Dec. 30, said that the greatest

threat to Ukraine is its own President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. “I think that Zelenskyy himself has become a threat both for Ukraine and other European countries, particularly in terms of preserving democratic principles and foundations,” she said, reported TASS. “Everything that the Kiev regime has been issuing is an immediate and direct threat to Ukraine’s statehood.”

“Ukraine has got out of control for the country’s people, society and elites, which certainly threatens national security,” she continued. “The most important thing is for European sponsors to understand it because Ukraine is a European country and many of the European continent’s problems are related to it, which is becoming increasingly threatening for our European space. They need to understand it since they have taken to patronize, support and protect the young Ukrainian democracy.” Zakharova was likely referring to, among other things, the ongoing repression of political opposition in Ukraine, including Viktor Medvedchuk and the Opposition Platform-For Life Party that he leads, and the most recent decree shutting down two broadcast outlets critical of the government.

It was probably in this context that Zakharova warned that there’s a real risk that the Kiev regime will use NATO-supplied weapons against the population of the Donetsk and Luhansk self-declared republics. She was responding to an earlier statement by [Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba](#) in which he complained about Germany’s opposition to arms transfers to Ukraine, calling it unacceptable and stressing that Ukraine was pressing for the lifting of such restrictions.

“This is not the first such statement. In principle, the statements that have been made in line with the proclaimed policy confirm our fears the Ukrainian leadership has no intention to work for a peace settlement of the intra-Ukrainian conflict, but plans to use force against civilians in Donbas,” Zakharova said about Kuleba’s statement. “The way I see it, this issue must not be ignored. The NATO countries should be asked if they realize that the regime in Kiev will be using their weapons and their assistance to shoot at Ukraine’s civilians.”

U.S. Tells Iran It Can't Have a Space Program

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—The U.S. has told Iran, not for the first time, that its space program is a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The latest occasion for this statement was the launch by Iran of three “research cargoes” into orbit using its home-grown Simorgh satellite carrier. Seyed Ahmad Hosseini, a Defense Ministry spokesman, said on Dec. 30 that in this launch, the performances of the space center and the satellite carrier were properly done and the research objectives were achieved, reported Tasnim.

The U.S. continues to view the Iranian space program as nothing more than a cover for the development of nuclear-capable long-range missiles. A State Department spokesperson told *The Hill* that Iran’s space program, which Tehran describes as for civilian purposes, violates a resolution in the UNSC that calls upon Iran not to undertake activity related to ballistic missiles “designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.”

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

China Moves Against Walmart for Removing Xinjiang Products

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—China’s government and its citizens have responded to reports that Walmart has taken Xinjiang products off their online store following the insane bill signed by Biden to ban products from Xinjiang over the claimed forced labor of Uighurs. (Being provided with real employment in China means forced labor and therefore sanctions.) Walmart has a huge operation in China—\$11.43 billion revenue in the country during its fiscal year that ended Jan. 31, with 423 retail units in China, Reuters reports from the Walmart website.

The CPC’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) accused Sam’s Club of boycotting Xinjiang products and trying to “muddle through” the controversy by remaining silent. “To take down all products from a region without a valid reason hides an ulterior motive, reveals

stupidity and short-sightedness, and will surely have its own bad consequences,” it said on its website.

Reuters also reports that the Weibo hashtag “Sam’s Club card cancellation” went viral, with over 470 million hits. On Dec. 31, *China Daily* reported that domestic rivals had organized campaigns to promote goods from Xinjiang. In July, after Swedish fashion retailer H&M issued a statement that it had stopped selling products from Xinjiang, there was a 23% drop in local sales in China.

On Dec. 31, CCDI accused H&M, Intel, and Walmart of collaborating with “Western anti-China forces” to destabilize Xinjiang by suppressing and boycotting products from the region. “These Western companies, which once boasted that they were free from political interference, have slapped themselves in the face with their own actions.” That kind of thinking can only make them red in the face, now, and soon to be red in the books.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

The Virus Hits the Fan

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—Before Dec. 22, the world had never counted as many as 900,000 identified cases in a day. From Dec. 22-30, that record has been broken six times. From Dec. 27-30, over 6.5 million new cases have been recorded—averaging over 1.6 million per day. On Dec. 30, there were 1,993,000 new cases, more than double the total cases in one day at the peak of the Delta variant in late April. The new records were not just the United States (582,000), as France (206,000), Spain (162,000) and Italy (127,000) hit unimaginable new records. Along with the United Kingdom (188,000), these five countries account for over 63% of all the recognized cases in the world.

Is there consolation to be had in the hope that Omicron is less virulent than Delta? So far, the U.S. has increased the hospitalization of COVID-19 patients—a pretty good indication of virulence—from around 71,000 to

around 85,000, or by about 20%. That rise correlated with the rise of cases from around 80-90,000/day up to 120,000/day. We're about to find out what the 2 million new cases from Dec. 27-30 will do to the present level of 85,000 patients in the next few days. Last January, the U.S. hospital system was severely strained at 100,000 COVID patients, and was cracking apart at 120-130,000; so, we're only about a net 40,000 new patients away from that intolerable level.

None of this takes into account the massive amount of cases that only require isolation at home, not hospitalization. This factor has already turned up in the thousands of airline flights that have been canceled. Now we're looking at an increasing and already massive number of citizens pulled out of other areas of normal life for 5-10 days of isolation—not just healthcare, but sanitation, garbage removal, police and fire, etc.

Otherwise, there were 2,500 more children hospitalized last week. Pediatric cases are rising significantly, and of 74 million Americans under the age of 18, fewer than 25% are vaccinated. Children under age 5 are particularly vulnerable. And Washington, D.C. passed New York City as the country's most dense concentration of cases. Per 100,000 population, D.C. has zoomed to the top in cases (291) and hospitalizations (54) per 100,000 population. (For comparison, the national average is 91 and 23.)

COVID-Related Travel Disruptions, Healthcare and Essential Workers' Staff Shortages Wreak Havoc

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—The number of COVID cases, many of them caused by the Omicron variant, occurring among healthcare workers, in the transportation, essential services and retail sectors, is wreaking havoc across the United States. The number of sick workers in the airline industry prompted the cancellation of 1,300 flights into, from and within the U.S. by the evening of Dec. 30, with more expected for today and tomorrow.

According to the *Washington Post*, the Federal Aviation Administration issued a statement the same day warning it is facing staffing shortages due to COVID, and warned of more flight cancellations in the coming days—possibly weeks. Amtrak has had to cancel two dozen trains between Dec.

31 and Jan. 6 in both the Northeast Corridor and along its long-distance routes during the same time frame, due to bad weather on the West Coast, but to a large number of COVID cases among staff in the Northeast. The *New York Times* reported Dec. 30 that New York City had “slowed to a crawl” because so many subway workers and emergency personnel had called in sick.

There is great concern about COVID cases among healthcare workers, whose numbers have already been reduced due to illness, or exhaustion and burnout. The *Washington Post* today headlines its coverage: “Hospitals’ Latest Pandemic Shortage: Staff.” The Omicron variant is taking a big toll among healthcare workers, causing hospitals to cancel elective procedures, due to the numbers of staff calling in sick. Several states have called in medical personnel from the National Guard to help fill in the gaps. Nor are all medical personnel happy about the CDC’s new guidelines which allow asymptomatic, but possibly still infected healthcare workers to return to work after five days of isolation; some physicians aren’t keen on having someone who might still be actively carrying the virus working alongside them or treating other patients.

In an interview with MSNBC yesterday, Dr. Michael Osterholm, PhD, director of the Minnesota-based Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy estimated that in the coming couple of months, between 10-20% of the healthcare workforce could become infected. “How can we do without 980,000 to 1.8 million healthcare workers, when there are already severe shortages?” he asked. In the next 3 to 4 weeks, he predicted, the country will see a “viral blizzard,” the likes of which, he said, he’d never experienced in 46 years in healthcare. “All of society is going to be pressured by this,” he warned. There will be big disruptions, and the emotional and psychological toll on workers will be great.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

China's EAST Fusion Reactor Sets New Record

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—On Dec. 30, China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) fusion reactor in Hefei, Anhui Province was able to run for 1,056 seconds at high plasma temperature, the longest duration for an EAST fusion energy reactor, Xinhua reported. EAST already scored a previous record in May, running for 101 seconds at a temperature of 120 million degrees Celsius.

The results were reported widely on China's New Year's Day news. At this point EAST has reached all three major tokamak targets separately—1 million ampere current, 1,000-second duration, and temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius. The next mission for the EAST tokamak is to reach all the targets in one try. The experiment is conducted by the Institute of Plasma Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP). The institute has discharged electricity more than 10,000 times since phase 2 of EAST began in 2011.

NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

RCEP, World's Largest Trade Agreement, Starts Jan. 1, 2022

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—New Year's Day 2022 marks the opening of the world's largest trade agreement, the Regional and Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP. Launched over 10 years ago by Association of Southeast Asian Nations, together with China, the 15 RCEP members, now, are the ten ASEAN nations, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Five of these members have yet to ratify, the deal but are expected to soon.

It is, of course, noteworthy that the U.S. and the European nations are not part of RCEP. Unlike the Trans Pacific Partnership, it is purely a trade deal—no breaches of sovereignty regarding human rights, environment, labor, etc., as imposed by IMF-style deals. India, which was invited to join,

stayed out ostensibly out of concern that cheaper Chinese goods would undermine their development process.

RCEP represents 30% of world trade and a third of the world's population. Over time, it will eliminate tariffs on 90% of the region's commodities. It is hoped that it will increase trade by 2% right away, by about \$42 billion, and help the recovery from the slowdown caused by the pandemic.

Wang Yi Reviews China's 2021 Diplomacy in Year-End Interview

Dec. 31 (EIRNS)—In a lengthy year-end interview with Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) gave a thorough review of the major aspects of China's diplomacy during 2021, highlighting its relations with the developing sector, with Russia and making some very pointed remarks about the hypocritical nature of U.S. foreign policy.

Among the many points he stressed, he placed special importance on the relationship with Russia, which he said has “a global significance and plays an irreplaceable role,” based on their strategic coordination and practical cooperation. Recalling that this is the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between China and Russia, he observed that Putin has officially announced the renewal of the Treaty and “made it more relevant in the new era.” The two Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin have stayed in “close strategic communication throughout the year,” and will be meeting during the Winter Olympics in February. Commenting on their close coordination on combatting COVID, and on global economic recovery, Wang stressed the two nations' role on the issue of regional stability, where they have “provided a solid safeguard ... have maintained high-level strategic coordination, promoted a constructive role of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) and the BRICS and strengthened strategic coordination on hotspot issues.” And, he underscored, “we are convinced that as long as China and Russia, as two major countries, stand together shoulder to shoulder and deepen coordination hand in hand, the

international order will not fall into disarray, justice in the world will not collapse, and hegemonism will not win.”

In contrast, Wang pointed to the U.S. obsession with the “rules-based international order,” which really boils down to “true and false rules.” A small number of countries talk about the “rules-based order, but they refuse to accept that rules should be based on commonly recognized international law,” as spelled out by the UN Charter, he remarked. “What they actually want is to impose the ‘gang rules’ by them and their allies on all other countries.” And don’t forget about the absurd U.S. attempt to divide the world into “democratic” and “authoritarian” nations. Then, Wang pointed out, there’s the hypocrisy of what the U.S. says its China policy is, and what it is in reality, as the U.S. continues “to stir up trouble on issues concerning China’s sovereignty, security and development interests, causing harm and damage to bilateral relations. This is a typical case of saying one thing yet doing another. This has left U.S. credibility in serious doubt.” China’s development and revitalization “is a legitimate right of a sovereign country and, more importantly, an inevitable trend that cannot be changed or stopped by anyone,” the Foreign Minister warned. It would be a good idea, therefore, for the U.S. to recognize this trend, “rather than go against it. As long as the U.S. gives up its obsession with suppressing and containing China, relations between the two countries could return to the right track and develop rapidly.”

Wang underscored the importance of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, explaining that development is “at the top of the governance agenda and the permanent theme of human society. Without development nothing would be possible. The GDI is an international global public good from China.” It puts people at its center, with the goal of overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic and accelerating economic development. “Its most fundamental pursuit is to meet the aspirations of people around the world for a better life and realize the common values of humanity.”