

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### Reviving the Spirit of Elbe

April 25 (EIRNS)—The following news report from today says it all: The U.S. has canceled the “Spirit of Elbe” memorial this year. On April 25,

1945, the Soviet and US armies linked up on the Elbe River, marking the success of the allied effort to defeat fascism. In April 1955, The Spirit of the Elbe memorial was unveiled at the Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and every year since then the occasion has been celebrated as a symbol of cooperation between the two nations to achieve victory in a just cause.

Not this year. Russia's ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Antonov reported yesterday that this year's ceremony at the memorial had to be cancelled. "Sadly, this year we have been denied permission to hold such events. Formally, the decision was made by the Arlington Cemetery, but we have been told quite clearly that they followed instructions from the Department of State. We are well aware of the reasons in the light of the Russophobia that has been unfolded in the United States," he reported.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche today located the significance of the Spirit of Elbe development in the international strategic situation.

"It's a very difficult moment, because what we are seeing right now has nothing to do with Ukraine. What is unfolding is exactly what Prince Charles said, that in order to implement the policies of the Great Reset—which is really another word for population reduction—there has to be a 'militarized approach.' That is what we now see in the form of the present confrontation against Russia. The U.S., U.K. and NATO don't want peace. There is no intention on their part to negotiate and end to the war, but rather to go for a military solution. This creates an acute danger of unleashing World War III."

This Sunday's trip to Kiev by Secretary of State Blinken, Defense Secretary Austin, and the State Department's infamous Victoria Nuland, fully confirmed the accuracy of Zepp-LaRouche's warning.

"The best way to look into the mind of the people who are pushing these policies," she stated, "is reflected by the fact that the U.S. has canceled the Spirit of Elbe memorial this year. Naturally, when you don't mind fascism anymore, not in Ukraine, nor in respect to the depopulation of the developing sector, then that's the logical thing to do."

Zepp-LaRouche called on Americans, in particular, to change Washington's policy direction quickly. "We should all be aware of the fact that right now, the fate of humanity is really hanging by a thread." Therefore, she added, "anything that does not take into account the survival of humanity as a whole, cannot be the right thing. There is no such thing as 'U.S. interests vs. Russian and Chinese and other interests.' There must be Americans who understand that we have to find a higher level, and that it would be in the absolute benefit of the U.S. itself to cooperate in addressing the issues which are right now the burning existential issues of mankind."

Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday April 26, 2022: Every weekday morning on **The LaRouche Organization**, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Blinken, Austin, Nuland in Kyiv, Aim for Unending War, Bleed Russia**

April 25 (EIRNS)—The first U.S. administration trip to Kyiv since the Feb. 24 special military operation by Russia occurred April 24, after which Secretary of State Tony Blink and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that the U.S. would provide an additional \$650 million in military aid to Ukraine, bringing the total of security aid to \$3.7 billion in the last 60 days. Secretary Austin made it clear that the U.S. policy goal is not to achieve a negotiated settlement, but to perpetuate the war in order to "weaken Russia" by bleeding them with unending warfare. Accompanying Blinken and Austin on the trip was the notorious Victoria Nuland, currently Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, who in 2014 orchestrated the Maidan coup d'état in Ukraine, which overthrew the elected President, and brought neo-Nazis into positions of great power in Kyiv.

Blinken further announced that the U.S. would be reopening the American Embassy in Kyiv, and that the new U.S. Ambassador would be Bridget Brink, a Nuland protégé who served under Nuland from 2015-2018

as Senior Advisor and Deputy Assistant Secretary in Assistant Secretary Nuland's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Brink has also held posts at geopolitical flashpoints, including Belgrade, Serbia during 1997-99 (NATO hostilities against Belgrade started in March 1999), and two terms in Tbilisi, (2005-2008)—President Mikheil Saakashvili attacked South Ossetia in 2008—and again as deputy chief of mission in 2011-2014.

The State Department readout explained that the new \$650 million in U.S. military aid “will provide support for the capabilities Ukraine needs as Russia's forces train their focus on the Donbas; this assistance will also help Ukraine's armed forces transition to more advanced weapons and air defense systems.” Secretary Austin told a press conference today that he and Blinken met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top officials, and that he had previewed for them the agenda for this week's Defense Consultative Meeting in Germany. Convened by the United States, the Consultative Meeting will “examine the operational picture on the ground and review near-term Ukrainian defense needs, while providing attendees an opportunity to examine ways in which Ukraine's longer term national security interests can be best met.”

Austin added: Ukraine could win the war against Russia “if they have the right equipment, the right support,” pledging the U.S. would “do everything we can” to help. “We want to see Russia weakened to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done in invading Ukraine.”

At the same April 25 session, Blinken also back-engineered Russia's failures, taking what Russia had not done, identifying that as their goals, and declaring their failure. The Kremlin “has sought as its principal aim to totally subjugate Ukraine” and “take away” the country's independence. “That has failed.” They “sought to assert the power of its military, its economy,” but the opposite was happening. Hence, since Russia is “failing” in its war aims, that means that “Ukraine is succeeding.”

## **Ambassador Antonov: Increased Arms Shipments to Ukraine Are Only Inflaming the Conflict**

April 25 (EIRNS)—Russia’s Ambassador in Washington Anatoly Antonov told Rossiya-24 TV channel yesterday that the U.S. and NATO policy of sending more and increasingly sophisticated weapons into Ukraine is only inflaming the conflict, and preventing a negotiated peace. “What the Americans are doing is pouring oil on the flames,” Antonov stated. “I see only an attempt to raise the stakes, to aggravate the situation, to see more losses.” Antonov said an official diplomatic note had been sent to Washington, but no reply has been received yet.

Reuters reported, citing a U.S. official, that total U.S. security assistance to Ukraine since the Russian operation began now comes to about \$3.7 billion.

Many media in the U.S. are also fanning the flames for increased military aid. *Politico* today reported that “on Friday [April 22], France and Canada unveiled new plans to send long-range artillery systems for the first time, and the U.K. is looking to backfill heavy armor to Poland as Warsaw contemplates sending Polish tanks to Ukraine.” *Politico* continued: “The rapid shift in aid reflects the recognition that the new fight will likely be dominated by artillery barrages and tank battles as infantry units square off over the flat fields of eastern Ukraine. But getting these new weapons to the front quickly will prove critical in the coming days.”

They quote a Ukrainian military leader in the Donbas saying that his soldiers’ situation as “very desperate.... We need air support now. We need drones.” *Politico* also moots the possibility of a direct NATO-Russia engagement. “Russian military leaders have already hinted that they intend to seize territory that would create a land bridge to Transnistria and potentially put Moldova at risk.”

## **Russia Arrests Neo-Nazi Assassins; Putin Identifies Them as the ‘Ideological Cousins’ of Ukraine Neo-Nazis**

April 25 (EIRNS)—Members of a Russian neo-Nazi group, “National Socialism/White Power” (NSWP), were arrested and charged with

preparations for the assassinations of several Russian journalists. Today, Russia's internal security ministry, FSB, provided a video of the detainees, while describing their plans to assassinate Vladimir Solovyov, well-known host of "Solovyov Live" political discussions; Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of Sputnik and RT; Dmitry Kiselyev, television presenter and Rossiya Segodnya media group head (which owns Sputnik and RIA Novosti); Simonyan's husband, TV presenter Tigran Keosayan; and TV hosts Olga Skabeeva and Evgeny Popov. They also claimed that they had received instructions from the Ukrainian Security Services (SBU). The FSB said that searches of the detainees' homes turned up an improvised explosive device, eight Molotov cocktails, six pistols, a sawed-off hunting rifle, an RGD-5 grenade and over a thousand rounds of ammunition of various calibers—along with narcotics, fake Ukrainian passports, and variety of far-right literature and paraphernalia.

The NSWP was officially designated a terrorist organization by the Russian Supreme Court in May 2021, with its activities banned throughout the country. Members have been convicted of violent assaults and murders against ethnic groups from 2009 onwards. The leader, Andrei Kolesnikov, is presently serving a 16-year sentence for killing a migrant from Uzbekistan in 2013.

President **Vladimir Putin** highlighted the neo-Nazi problem in a high-profile meeting with the Prosecutor General's office this morning. His full statement is posted to the Kremlin website. "This morning, the organs of the Federal Security Service [FSB] prevented an attempt by a terrorist group to kill a well-known Russian journalist. Of course they will deny this now, but the facts and the evidence are irrefutable.... And here it should be noted that we know the names of the curators from Western services, primarily of course, from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, who work with Ukrainian security agencies, and who, apparently, give such advice." They have turned to "a policy of terror—to preparations to kill our journalists.... They care only about their own rights—someone from their imperial ambitions, someone else [out of habit] from colonial times. But this won't work in Russia."

Putin described the NSWP members as “ideological cousins” inside Russia of Ukraine’s ultranationalist battalions, those who had committed “grisly criminal acts” against Russian POWs, Ukrainian civilians and even their own fellow servicemen. He called for a comprehensive investigation, from top to bottom, identifying all the organizers and perpetrators, with the necessary evidence to engage in court proceedings, including in international courts, and going back to the 2014 coup. “I want to emphasize that such a base of evidence should be gathered for all the crimes of the neo-Nazis and their accomplices, starting with the 2014 coup in Kyiv, which paved the way for civil war, bloodshed and violence in Ukraine.”

Putin’s addition, that Ukrainian neo-Nazis had committed “grisly criminal acts” against “even their own fellow servicemen,” is not unimportant. A recent defector from his Ukrainian unit, Mikhail Yankovsky, a senior sergeant from the UAF’s 57th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade, testified: “After some young guys began laying down their arms and going over to the Lugansk [militia] side, a group of about 10 people arrived from the center. Our commander, Colonel Meshynchuk, said they would provide psychological support. In reality, this group served as a blocking detachment. During each battle, they would watch us to make sure that nobody abandoned their positions. They fired without warning on anyone deemed suspicious.” He identified the commander of the blocking unit as a Right Sector ideologue named Vuyko, aka “Punisher.” He described some of Punisher’s aides, including “Raven,” a sniper who would “take up a position in the rear during battle and threaten to kill anyone who runs in the wrong direction.”

### **Von Der Leyen Goes to India as EU’s Merchant of Death**

April 25 (EIRNS)—EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is in India as the European Union’s “Merchant of Death.” An unnamed senior EU official told NDTV television channel that she will be trying to boost sales of EU-made military equipment as part of reopening talks on a free trade agreement. This is all part of trying to pull India away from Russia.

Von der Leyen will meet with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

“There are a whole host of Western leaders reaching out to India right now to see what alternatives we can provide,” she said. “The key is that we want to bring forward this relationship, work on technology together and bring India into our camp, that’s the main message of our visit,” TASS quoted her saying.

Bloomberg put it this way: “The European Union plans to relaunch trade talks with India in an attempt to give the South Asian nation a viable alternative to diversify away from Russia, according to a senior official familiar with the plans. In addition to trade, the EU will pursue a technology council with India that could include discussions on the general data protection regulation, social media and broader digitalization efforts.... The EU is India’s third-largest trading partner and accounts for 62.8 billion euros (\$67.8 billion) worth of trade in goods.”

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### May Is When “The Moment of Truth Arrives” on European Ruble Payments for Russian Gas

April 25 (EIRNS)—*Fortune* magazine reports that the world is heading to a crisis point in the month of May, over Russia’s demand that “hostile nations” pay for their gas in rubles, and the European Commission’s continuing refusal to allow companies to do so, on the grounds that “this would be contrary to the sanctions in place” against Russia. “The game of geopolitical chicken could lead to Europe rationing energy,” *Fortune* wrote, followed by a deep industrial collapse.

The EU last Friday, April 22, made a proposal of how companies might dance around Russia’s demand (see separate slug), “but it’s up to Moscow to decide if that’s acceptable,” *Fortune* admitted. “Payments come due in May, and that’s when the moment of truth arrives.”

The *Fortune* article then presents the way that rigor mortis will set in to the European economies without Russian gas. They begin by quoting Katja Yafimava, a senior research fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, who explained that by refusing Putin's payment terms and testing his threat to turn off the taps, European buyers "would be running a very real risk of their supplies being cut." What would that do?

For starters, forward contracts for natural gas could more than triple in price. Reserves may be adequate for the immediate situation, but come winter, all hell could break loose. "Such a surge [in prices] would put governments and central banks under pressure as they seek to control soaring inflation. The risk is that the mounting cost-of-living crisis intensifies and spills over into wider unrest and a deeper crisis," according to *Fortune*.

They add: "With less fuel for gas-fired generators, the risks of rolling blackouts would increase.... Germany has triggered an emergency plan, with a task force meeting daily to monitor consumption and inventories. Its energy regulator is surveying companies about their usage to help determine how to distribute supplies.... Industry would bear the brunt of a rationing plan."

How would that play out? "At Europe's biggest chemical factory, BASF SE churns out compounds used in manufacturing autos, medicines and fertilizers and all fueled by pipelines filled with Russian gas. The company warns that a sudden halt would send shock waves through many industries and cause irreversible damage to German competitiveness. The concerns are echoed by the likes of steelmaker Thyssenkrupp AG, automaker Volkswagen AG and utility RWE AG.

'Stopping the pipeline-bound gas supply at this time would have dramatic consequences,' RWE Chief Executive Officer Markus Krebber said in an advanced copy of a speech for the company's shareholder meeting next week. Many manufacturers 'would no longer be able to operate their plants'."

*Fortune* notes that such likely consequences are the reason that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently stated that a halt to gas flows from Russia could mean the loss of millions of jobs. Similarly, on April 22 French President Emmanuel Macron warned that the European Union would not be able to survive next winter without Russian gas.

The domino effect in the developing sector would be far worse, *Fortune* reports. “Emerging nations would get squeezed by Europe’s thirst for energy, especially liquefied natural gas, as they would struggle to compete on price. The region is already pulling most of the spare LNG supply from the U.S. and other nearby exporters, keeping spot rates for the super-chilled fuel well above normal for this time of year.

“Pakistan is suffering from blackouts, due in part to European nations outbidding the cash-strapped country for LNG cargoes. Argentina is also dependent on LNG from the spot market and has been forced to fork over hundreds of millions of dollars to secure deliveries for the Southern Hemisphere’s upcoming winter.”

## U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### **Atlantic Council ‘Leaks’ New U.S. National Defense Strategy Note That China Now Seen as the Major Threat**

April 25 (EIRNS)—In spite of the Russian war in Ukraine, the forthcoming U.S. National Defense Strategy places China in the position of “most consequential strategic competitor,” with Russia relegated to second position, deemed as an “acute threat”; and Iran, North Korea, and “violent extremist organizations” regarded as “persistent threats,” according to an *Atlantic Council* study of the document. Russia is deemed a threat even after Putin will be gone from power, and would remain as something to be “managed” as it can’t be “solved,” according to the strategy. And the biggest threat the NDS considers is a possible Russia-China “alliance,” with China allegedly building up its nuclear forces. Reliance on the nuclear triad combined with the system of “alliances” is pointed out as the means of dealing with this envisioned threat.

In addition, a two-page [Pentagon Fact Sheet](#) from March 28 explains, “For the first time, the Department conducted its strategic reviews in a fully integrated way—incorporating the Nuclear Posture Review and Missile Defense Review in the NDS—ensuring tight linkages between our strategy and our resources.”

## **Trump Says He Would Get Putin To Stop Threatening the World with Nuclear Weapons**

April 25 (EIRNS)—Donald Trump told British broadcaster Piers Morgan, in an interview scheduled to be aired today: “Putin uses the ‘N-word’ ... the nuclear word, all the time.... That’s a no-no.... I’d say ‘we have far more than you do, far more powerful than you, and you can’t use that word ever again.... You cannot use the nuclear word ever again, and if you do, we’re gonna have problems,” Trump said.

Two facts that seem to have eluded Trump: 1) Putin has not threatened to use nuclear weapons; 2) Russia has more nuclear warheads than the U.S.

At a Saturday, April 23 rally of supporters in Delaware, Ohio, Trump said: “The fact is, the election was rigged and stolen and now our country is being destroyed. Our country is being destroyed, our country is going to hell. We’ve never had anything like this.... [Biden] is doing all of this while Putin does nothing but talk about nuclear weapons and destroying the world.”

## **NEW ECONOMIC ORDER**

### **Russia’s Tectonic Shift Toward Central Asian Industrial Projects; Euros and Dollars Need Not Apply**

April 25 (EIRNS)—Today is the start of a three-day exhibition in Uzbekistan pulling together, according to the Uzbekistan-based site KUN.uz, more than 700 manufacturing companies and business delegations from Uzbekistan, Russia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan—also joined by Hungary, Armenia and France. Russia’s Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov addressed the plenary

session—“Central Asia: Space for a Technological Breakthrough”—of the Innoprom—Central Asia International Industrial Exhibition, providing a strategic overview. He declared, according to RT:

“What is happening today in the global economy and in the world gives us a hint about how we need to rebuild our logistics, industrial cooperation, in what directions we can develop our economies. This [is] de-dollarization, and now we have added de-euroization, that is, the transition to our own currencies in order to be as independent as possible in terms of mutual settlements.”

While hyperinflation has taken hold in Western Europe and the U.S., dragging down “the development of industrial sectors and the economy as a whole,” there is a different pathway. Manturov emphasized that the BRICS, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization represented about 50% of the world’s economy, and they could reorient toward “cooperation within alliances which do not include the EU and the U.S.” By turning toward their respective national currencies to settle accounts, it “will give Russia’s partners maximum independence in the development of joint projects.”

His audience of over 700 delegations primarily represented key industrial areas—metallurgy and materials, industrial automation, mechanical engineering and production of components.

### **Indian and Russian Central Bank Officials Met To Discuss a Rupee-Ruble Payment System**

April 25 (EIRNS)—High-level officials of the Reserve Bank of India and the Bank of Russia central banks met in Mumbai on April 20, to discuss the possibility of setting up a rupee-ruble payment system for trade between the two countries, including Russian oil and fertilizer exports. Although the topic of a non-dollar payment system has been intensely discussed among economists and other experts for some time, given the crisis brought to the surface by the sanctions imposed on Russia, this was the first formal meeting between central bank officials.

However, no agreement was reached at the meeting, according to the *Economic Times*, but it was a serious discussion which will now be taken back to their respective authorities. “Both are still in the process of finding the right way out. It needs some more time to conclude,” one of *ET*’s sources reported. “While the Russian delegation was larger than ours, the Indian (RBI) officials assessed every aspect of possible solutions amid the evolving scenario.”

There is clearly a significant policy fight underway in India on this matter, with very high stakes related to every aspect of their overall policy alignment. The United Kingdom and the U.S. are doing everything in their power to woo India away from Russia, and back into the Anglo-American fold. For example, on the same day that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson arrived in New Delhi to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is described as a “world-famous economist,” published an op-ed in *The Hindu* arguing against the “hurried” dismantling of the dollar structure, recommending instead a go-slow approach on a rupee-ruble arrangement. Moving too quickly, Singh wrote, could upset the “delicate balance” of the current international financial system which, he argued, favors India’s ability to export more than the new proposals.

Singh’s credulous belief that India will do better outside the Belt and Road Initiative and under the “delicate balance” of the current system—which is manifestly bankrupt, and that many times over—is reminiscent of the Brazilian government’s foolhardy response in 1982 to Mexican President José López Portillo’s call for Mexico, Brazil and Argentina to act together to form a debtors’ cartel to resist the bankers’ demands for deadly austerity. Brazilian authorities told the Mexicans, privately, that they preferred to go it alone, since they had assurances from Henry Kissinger that the U.S.-Brazil “special relationship” was, indeed, very special and that Brazil would do better that way than in a debtors’ cartel. The rest, as they say, is history.

## OTHER

### **Solidarité & Progrès President Jacques Cheminade Issues Statement on French Elections**

PARIS, April 25 (EIRNS)—The President of the Solidarité et Progrès political party in France, Jacques Cheminade, a close friend of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, issued a statement “Après le 24 avril: Donner un visage au bloc populaire,” posted on his website:

This presidential campaign has completely neglected the concerns of the French people and the challenges of the world. Our ruling classes are not motivated by the general interest, because they believe they are the sole holders of the legitimate power that they have captured by breaking and entering, as accustomed, or, within the party system, by family or administrative inheritance. They have thus rendered themselves blind and powerless.

Food, housing, lighting, heating, and transportation to work: everything has become too expensive in France. In the world, a France that is subservient to NATO and unable to assert its assets is no longer respected.

- While we are in an emergency at least equivalent to war,
- while an economic dislocation is threatening and an unprecedented technological mutation is taking place,
- while a popular will for change, recovery and social justice is being expressed,

Nobody on our official political scene has elaborated a coherent alternative.

It is with this will, electorally dispersed, that Solidarité & Progrès is listening, trying to give it a face. To give back confidence, hope and enthusiasm to the sovereignty of the people, in order to establish a political project at the level of the world drama that we are going to undergo. Without exclusivity, with [the party of Georges Kuzmanovic] Sovereign Republic, we present candidates to the legislative elections to form an

embryo of union and popular bloc, beyond the dispersion that blunt ideologies and personal ambitions have generated.

With the spirit of Jean Jaurès, Charles de Gaulle and the Preamble of our Constitution, so far misused, we fight the financial oligarchy and its military-industrial complex which is our real enemy, not this or that party or this or that nation, however misguided.

France needs explorers who, faced with the threats and uncertainties of the present, see with the eyes of the future.

To raise to the dignity of man all the individuals of the human species is our ambition. Let us rediscover, by taking up the challenge, this enthusiasm which is love of the beautiful, the true and the good.