

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

**Energy Flux Density as the Criterion for Physical Economy, by Helga Zepp-LaRouche**

May 27 (EIRNS)—*The annual Moscow Academic Economic Forum was held on May 26-27 on the theme “Global Transformation of Modern Societies and the National Development Goals of Russia.” The founder of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, was invited to address a panel at the Financial University of Moscow on May 27, as part of that conference. A report and evaluation of the many other speeches, which included top representatives from the political, economic, and financial institutions of Russia, will be forthcoming. The following is an unedited version of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche’s remarks, and should not be published in this form.*

I want to thank the organizers of this very important conference for inviting me to speak to you. It is almost one and a half years since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic: What have we learned about how the different models of governance and economics—the U.S. and the EU on the one side, and China and some other Asian countries on the other—were able to cope with the crisis? You know the answer: While the pandemic is still not under control in the so-called “West,” and is raging out of control in many countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa—China had brought the situation pretty much under control within two months, and so did some other Asian countries, whose basic value system prioritizes the common good over the exaggerated individualism one finds in the West.

The pandemic also revealed the fundamental flaws of the privatized health system in the West, such as the vulnerabilities in the supply chains for medical equipment due to outsourcing production to “cheap labor” countries, as compared to the efficiency of the Chinese model.

But it was the developing countries that have had the highest price to pay, as the neo-liberal system deprived them of any health system worth mentioning. Already in 1973, my late husband, Lyndon LaRouche, had

warned, that the IMF policy of conditionalities imposed on the so-called Third World, which put debt payments before investments in health, education, infrastructure, etc., would lead to the emergence of pandemics, old as well as new diseases, since one can not lower the immune system for entire continents over longer periods of time without causing such effects.

After the 2008 systemic financial crisis, nothing was done to correct its root causes. Instead, central banks relentlessly pursued a policy of QE, zero and even negative interests, favoring speculation at the expense of investments in the real economy. That widened the gap between rich and poor, eroded the productivity of the physical economy, and built up an inflationary bubble, which remained hidden for some time. When the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns hit, the various “stimulus” and “recovery programs” served as a welcome pretext to continue to bail out an already-bankrupt financial system.

The total assets of the Fed grew from under \$1 trillion in 2008, to \$4.1 trillion in September 2019 to \$7.8 trillion by the end of 2020. Similarly, the balance sheet of the ECB grew from €1.5 to €4.6 to €7.5 trillion by the end of April 2021. At this point, there is an unprecedented 75% increase in money creation year on year, heading into a hyperinflationary collapse, which a recent report by Bank of America ridiculously called “transitory hyperinflation.”

It is that imminent bankruptcy of the trans-Atlantic system which the central banks are trying to postpone by means of the “Great Reset,” “Green New Deal” or “Green Deal,” which is supposed to loot tens of trillions of dollars out of real industrial and agricultural production and direct all investments into a “green finance” bubble. The exit from fossil fuel-related industries into “carbon-neutral” production, construction, and architecture (wood and bamboo) represents a gigantic technological leap backwards. For the so-called advanced countries, it would lead to enormous price increases, a drop in the living standards, and social chaos. For the developing nations, it not only means the perpetuation of poverty and

underdevelopment, but also, in particular under the present conditions of pandemic and famine, massive depopulation.

With his science of physical economy Lyndon LaRouche developed the yardstick needed, by defining the exact correlation of the energy flux density used in the production process and the associated relative potential population density which can be maintained on each level. Since wind and solar have very low energy flux densities, and many countries, such as Germany, are exiting nuclear energy, the “Great Reset” threatens to lead to a population reduction of billions, which is the result desired by the neo-Malthusian advocates of “green finance.” The Green New Deal is the opposite of the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt: It is the revival of the economics of Hjalmar Schacht, with the same results: mass death and war.

Fortunately, the recent agreement by the Russian and Chinese governments to cooperate closely in the development of nuclear energy represents a powerful counterpole. More generally, the Chinese economic model—which famously lifted 850 million people out of poverty—has allowed China to develop in 40 years from a very poor, underdeveloped country into one which has by far the most impressive high-speed train system in the world, which was able to quickly catch up with the leading space-faring nations in the world to become the first to land on the far side of the Moon, and which is in the forefront of the development of thermonuclear fusion technology.

The Belt and Road Initiative offers for the first time a concrete perspective for the developing countries to overcome poverty and underdevelopment, which is why almost 150 nations have joined it. It is the greatest infrastructure program in history, and holds the potential solution to addressing the urgent needs of regions of the world now threatened by the pandemic and famine of “Biblical dimensions,” as David Beasley of the World Food Program (WFP) put it, such as Southwest Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

In light of the threatened hyperinflationary collapse of the trans-Atlantic financial system, there is an urgent need for a real global New Deal, as a

protection against the impact of such a blowout, starting with a global banking separation in the tradition of Roosevelt's Glass-Steagall Act, which puts an end to the casino economy and allows for a new credit system based on a system of national banks in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton. A New Bretton Woods system—as it was intended by Roosevelt, and not as it was implemented by Truman and Churchill—must provide the necessary long-term credit with low interest rates, in particular for the developing countries, to make real industrialization possible.

This pandemic, and looming new pandemics, such as WHO director Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is warning against, underline the urgent necessity to immediately implement a World Health System, which means that every single country on the planet must have a modern health system like that the Chinese were able to mobilize in Wuhan.

The human species is the only one capable of creative reason, and the development of mankind up to the present point is the proof that Vladimir Vernadsky's conception of the increasing power of the noösphere is the law of the universe. Therefore, there is hope that geopolitical confrontation can be replaced with a new paradigm of cooperation toward the common aims of mankind, including international cooperation in fusion research and space cooperation, which will demonstrate that there are greater gains to be made for everybody by bringing civilization into a new era. The summit of the permanent five of the UN Security Council proposed by President Putin could become the beginning of such a new paradigm. We must organize an international anti-Malthusian alliance to support such a new paradigm!

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, May 28, 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.

**STRATEGIC WAR DANGER*****China Daily* Editorializes, Putin-Biden Summit ‘Should Help Reduce Tensions’**

May 27 (EIRNS)—The semi-official *China Daily* has a carefully optimistic view of the June 16 Putin-Biden summit, declaring that it is “significant” and “should help to reduce tensions” between the two major powers. But the editorial, [“Biden-Putin Summit Will not Devalue China-Russia Ties,”](#) also states that the Biden administration seems to believe that China is a greater “threat” than Russia, and it may think it can use the summit to drive a wedge between Russia and China. That will not happen, *China Daily* states with certainty, headlining its editorial “Biden-Putin summit will not devalue China-Russia ties.”

The editorial continues: “Although the Biden-Putin meeting is scheduled on the heels of a G7 and then a NATO gathering, at which the participants will no doubt seek to coordinate their stances toward Russia, the fact that it has been placed on both sides’ agenda is significant.... There is no doubt the White House sees a greater ‘threat’ in China, and wishes to focus U.S. resources on containing China. But it would be wishful thinking to conclude the meeting will prove to be a dream come true for the U.S. administration in that respect, since no analysis of the proposed summit should ignore Beijing’s and Moscow’s latest evaluations of their relationship.”

*China Daily* concludes: “Any anticipation that the proposed Biden-Putin summit will damage China-Russia relations is misplaced as it proceeds from the zero-sum mentality, which, as [Russian Foreign Minister Sergey] Lavrov indicated, belongs to a bygone era.... And the strength of the China-Russia relationship that doesn’t target any third parties will not be tested by either side’s efforts to improve ties with the U.S. Nor should the U.S. view the Sino-Russian relationship as targeting it.”

## **Tough Russian Response to British Threats To Impose More Sanctions on Nord Stream 2**

May 27 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#) ripped into the British Empire’s leading role in trying to provoke global conflict with Russia, in response to a media question at yesterday’s weekly briefing. “We have to state once again that Britain’s foreign policy has stopped being rational during the past 10 years and has become a hostage of Russophobic puppets of the British political establishment,” she said. Stated just weeks before the Putin-Biden summit, which the British Establishment is determined to sabotage, Zakharova’s remarks carry special weight.

The spokeswoman was responding to a question about Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab’s May 24 threat, who had gone so far as to insist that Belarus would not have carried out “this kind of action” in forcing the Ryanair flight to land in Minsk, “without at least the acquiescence of the authorities in Moscow.” Zakharova countered that Russia will respond forcefully to any attempts by Great Britain to impose sanctions on Nord Stream 2 over the Belarus incident, as suggested by Raab. “I would like to remind everyone that any unfriendly actions taken against Russia will inevitably receive a harsh and commensurate response. And responsibility for the negative consequences of this for bilateral relations will rest squarely with the initiators of confrontation,” Zakharova concluded.

## **G7 Ministers Want Belarus To Free Pratasevic, Who Fought in Ukraine with Nazi Azov Battalion**

May 27 (EIRNS)—The foreign ministers of the G7 nations today issued a joint communiqué demanding “the immediate and unconditional release of Raman Pratasevic, as well as all other journalists and political prisoners held in Belarus.” So concerned are they over this matter, that they announced additional sanctions against Belarus if the authorities don’t promptly comply.

As we documented yesterday, Pratasevic has the profile of a long-term Western intelligence asset, deployed to different countries in the region as

strategic needs require. Within that deployment, it is worth emphasizing his deep ties to the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion in Ukraine. Ivan Tertel, the head of the Belarus security agency, KGB, stated: “Now he [Pratasevic] is giving testimony on the sponsors of subversive activity against Belarus, its mechanisms, the special services, politicians and organizations behind it. I promise that we will shortly reveal the details.” Tertel said that Pratasevic’s foreign patrons are really worried “about active cooperation with the investigation.”

Tertel went on: “It is an indisputable fact that this individual fully fits into the definition of a terrorist, a militant-mercenary and a participant in bloody events in the ranks of the notorious Azov Battalion linked with outrages and the deaths of civilians in southeastern Ukraine. These are not only our and investigators’ data, these are also the facts reported in the media with Pratasevic’s personal confessions that are widely accessible,” the KGB chief said. Pratasevic “actively used the experience” gained in Ukraine “against Belarus,” Tertel said. “He was an organizer and coordinator of mass riots that endangered the lives and health of ordinary citizens and law enforcers.”

RT reports that Pratasevic and his international support network are scrambling to cover for his Ukraine neo-Nazi activities, by claiming he was only there as a “journalist,” not a fighter. But it’s a fact, and Pratasevic proudly reports that he was wounded, and his father stated in an interview that “he fought.” Also, the first head of the Azov Battalion, writing on his Telegram channel on May 26, said Pratasevic “fought against the occupation of Ukraine together with Azov and other military units,” according to RT. In a Twitter exchange, British war journalist Jake Hanrahan affirmed that Pratasevic was directly involved in the conflict. However, he claimed it was not with the Azov Battalion but “with a Belarus unit that fought alongside Azov.... He joined a volunteer unit that chose to fight alongside Azov,” Hanrahan clarified. “He also shared many of their views as seen by the far-right iconography on the T-shirts he’s been pictured wearing.”

## **Deputy Secretary of State Sherman in Brussels To Bring Europe Aboard Anti-China Campaign**

May 27 (EIRNS)—Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman is in Brussels speaking with EU representatives to bring them more on board Biden’s “maximum pressure” campaign to isolate China. U.S. pressure on the EU has already led to a stalemate in the implementation of the EU-China Comprehensive Investment Agreement, allegedly caused by the mutual sanctions stemming from the claims of human rights violations in Xinjiang. Sherman is discussing matters with Stefano Sannino, the head of the EU diplomatic agency, European External Action Service.

According to a joint statement released by the parties, the talks dealt with “human rights violations in Xinjiang and Tibet, the erosion of autonomy and democratic processes in Hong Kong, economic coercion, disinformation campaigns, and regional security issues, in particular the situation in the South China Sea.” They are also discussing the possibility of granting Taiwan “meaningful participation” in multilateral forums, including the World Health Organization and its World Health Assembly, which generally only involve independent nations. China views this rightly as a step in the direction of Taiwan moving for independence, which is also the goal of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party. That is a well-known red line for the Chinese government.

Sannino described his talks with Sherman as “fruitful,” posting on Twitter that they had “converging views and shared commitment to democracy and rules-based multilateralism.” Sherman also characterized the talks as “a great meeting.”

## **China Views Defense Secretary Austin’s Meeting Requests as ‘Unprofessional and Unfriendly’**

May 27 (EIRNS)—There has been a ruckus in reestablishing military-to-military relations between China and the U.S., with the U.S. putting out the story that China refused a meeting, according to coverage in Britain’s *Financial Times* on May 21. Source reports, however, state China had, in fact, offered a meeting between the defense minister and defense secretary

as a “goodwill gesture,” when the Biden administration took office. The defense minister and defense secretary have always served as the chief counterparts in their military-to-military relations. But, wrote the *Financial Times*, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin wants a meeting with Gen. Xu Qiliang, the vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, of which President Xi Jinping is the chairman. The Pentagon is claiming that Defense Minister Wei Fenghe is not the most powerful person in the Chinese military, and that Xu is more important. That may be the case, but China does not accept this change of protocol, probably suspecting some devious motives. It also carries the aura of the Biden administration’s “we set the rules” attitude. *Global Times* wrote on May 24 that Beijing considered Austin’s request an unprofessional and unfriendly act of disregarding diplomatic protocol and international common practice.

During a press briefing on May 25, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby would not confirm Austin’s meeting requests, saying only that “We desire to have a dialogue with our counterparts in Beijing, and we’re still working our way through what that’s going to look like and how that’s going to transpire.”

### **Scott Ritter on the Technological Significance of China’s New Stealth Bomber**

May 27 (EIRNS)—Imagery published by a Chinese popular science magazine called *Modern Weaponry* has set off speculation in Western news media that China may have, for the first time, revealed details of its H-20 stealth bomber, an aircraft that has been under development for some years but about which very little is known. *Global Times* yesterday called the Western media speculation about the bomber’s capabilities “fake news,” and asserted that the Chinese military would never reveal new capabilities through such a publication.

Former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, in a commentary published in RT, argues that the significance of the H-20 is not the new capabilities that it might represent. Indeed, Ritter argues that China can already threaten U.S. bases in the Second Island Chain, at which the pundits speculate that

the new bomber is aimed, with its array of ballistic missiles, and with greater assurance of destruction. The importance of the H-20, Ritter states, is what it means in terms of the rate of China's military technological progress. "As China prepares to field its new strategic bomber, the age of the U.S. qualitative edge in military equipment comes to an end," Ritter writes at the outset. "China has closed the technological gap with the U.S. and is preparing to bound ahead."

"The true impact of China's H-20 stealth bomber comes in the rapidity in which China has been able to design, test, produce and most likely field a world-class bomber expected to match the capabilities of the next-generation U.S. strategic bomber, the B-21 'Raider,' " Ritter writes. "In many ways the accelerated progress shown by China regarding the H-20 matches that of its fifth-generation fighter, the J-20, which meets or exceeds the capabilities of its U.S. equivalent, the F-22 and F-35. In the span of two decades, China has taken a large but rudimentary military establishment and transformed it into a modern warfighting institution which, according to the Department of Defense, matches or exceeds U.S. capabilities in many spheres."

After advising the U.S. military to take into account this Chinese development, Ritter concludes: "If the 21st century is indeed the age of a revolution in military affairs, this revolution will be centered in China, not the United States. The H-20 bomber is just the most current manifestation of this new reality."

## **Iran Presidential Election Looms over Talks To Restore 2015 Nuclear Deal**

May 27 (EIRNS)—The U.S. and Iran are offering conflicting accounts as to where the indirect talks on the restoration of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) actually stand. Looming over the whole process, however, is the upcoming presidential election in Iran, set for June 18. It is not inconceivable that the election could result in a government that has little interest in restoring the JCPOA and would rather retain the advances that Iran has made in uranium

enrichment in the three years since Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement. That remains to be seen, however.

A dispute is underway inside Iran over disqualification of certain candidates between the Reformists, on the one side, and the hardline Principalists on the other. Iran's PressTV reported yesterday that the Reformists had intended to line up behind Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, one of the three major candidates and an ally of incumbent President Hassan Rouhani, along with former parliament speaker Ali Larijani and former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was disqualified. Jahangiri's disqualification prompted Rouhani to send a letter to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei protesting the exclusions. Reformist factions have said the disqualification of their main candidate would clear the battlefield for Ebrahim Raeisi, the current judiciary chief and failed candidate against Rouhani in the 2017 election. Raeisi is said in other reports to be Khamenei's favorite to be Iran's next president. Where he stands on the JCPOA, today, is not clear, though he endorsed it in 2017.

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### London *Economist* Lets It Rip Against Mexican President López Obrador

May 27 (EIRNS)—Never known for its subtlety, the City of London's flagship weekly *The Economist* a cover feature of its May 29 edition runs the headline, "Mexico's False Messiah: Voters Should Curb Mexico's Power-Hungry President." The cover graphic displays a stern-looking President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in a montage against a background of a polluting smokestack of the national oil company Pemex, protected by menacing soldiers. And, part of the background looks suspiciously like a deformed swastika.

Get it? López Obrador may have been democratically elected President by a landslide; he may still have a 61% popularity rating (*The Economist* admits); but he's really a dictator who supports pollution, dirty "diesel-burning railroads," and he is refusing to hand over the country's oil wealth

and Pemex to well-meaning international “investors”—such as City of London and Wall Street bankers.

Why now? Because there are congressional and gubernatorial elections coming up nationally on June 6, in which López Obrador is poised to gain a super-majority in Congress which will allow him to ensure that Pemex stays in Mexican hands, that he can pursue the development of infrastructure, and perhaps—worst of all for the British—put an end to the autonomy of the central bank and thus take control of the nation’s credit system out of the hands of predatory international financiers.

*The Economist* has trouble getting started. “Mexico’s President has somehow escaped the limelight.... To his credit, he speaks out loudly and often for Mexico’s have-nots, and he is not personally corrupt. Nonetheless, he is a danger to Mexican democracy. ...61% approve of Mr. López Obrador himself. Many feel that he cares about ordinary people, even if he has not materially improved their lives.... The more levers he controls, the further Mr. López Obrador can pursue his plan to transform Mexico. He has done good things, such as bumping up pensions and subsidizing apprenticeships for the young. Though a leftist, he has kept spending and debt under control, so Mexico’s credit rating remains tolerably firm.”

But, “He has fond memories of the 1970s, when a government-owned oil monopoly spread largesse around his home state. He is trying to recreate something similar, by all but banning private investment in hydrocarbons and forcing the grid to buy power from state sources first, no matter how costly and filthy they are. He likes railways, so he is ploughing \$7 billion into a diesel-burning boondoggle in his home region.” Even worse, “Last week he said he would replace the central bank governor with someone who favors ‘a moral economy.’ ” And that is the last straw. “Investors are wary. They fear the uncertainty of rule by presidential whimsy.”

*The Economist* ends dictating action—from obedient Mexicans and from the Biden administration: “Given the risk, voters on June 6th should support whichever opposition party is best placed to win, wherever they live. The opposition parties should work together to restrain the President.”

Moreover, “The United States needs to pay attention. Donald Trump did not care about Mexican democracy. President Joe Biden should make clear that he does. He must be tactful: Mexicans are understandably allergic to being pushed around by their big neighbor. But America ought not to turn a blind eye to creeping authoritarianism in its backyard. As well as sending vaccines, unconditionally, Mr. Biden should send quiet warnings.”

### **Dutch Court Makes Major Green Ruling against Industry**

May 27 (EIRNS)—A Dutch court on May 26 ordered Royal Dutch Shell (RDS) to drastically deepen its already deep cuts in planned greenhouse gas emission, in a landmark ruling that could trigger legal action against energy companies around the world. The ruling came in a case filed by 17,000 Dutch citizens with the court, in what green propaganda termed “the people versus Shell.” Shell said it was “disappointed” and plans to appeal the ruling.

“The court orders Royal Dutch Shell, by means of its corporate policy, to reduce its CO2 emissions by 45% by 2030 with respect to the level of 2019 for the Shell group and the suppliers and customers of the group.” Judge Larisa Alwin said at a press conference at The Hague yesterday. The ruling hits Shell, although earlier this year, Shell has already announced one of the oil sector’s most ambitious climate strategies, with a target to cut carbon intensity of its products by at least 6% by 2023, by 20% by 2030, by 45% by 2035 and by 100% by 2050 from 2016 levels. Still, the court claimed that Shell’s climate policy was “not concrete and is full of conditions...that’s not enough. The conclusion of the court is therefore that Shell is in danger of violating its obligation to reduce. And the court will therefore issue an order upon RDS,” the judge said. The ruling is a bad omen for potentially more cases against industrial companies.

## COVID-19 AND FAMINE

### **Xinhua Posts Editorial on ‘China Speed’ in the Vaccination Effort**

May 27 (EIRNS)—China has administered over 500 million doses of COVID vaccines as of May 23, according to a May 26 Xinhua editorial headlined “ ‘China Speed’ of Vaccination Highlights Determination To Beat COVID-19.” The first 100 million doses were administered as of March 27.

Xinhua wrote: “Such stepped-up moves have once again demonstrated China’s strong mobilization ability, which has been proven by the country’s response to the virus since the outbreak of the epidemic.... China’s vaccination speed has potential to further accelerate.” The editorial restated official policy: “No one is safe until everyone is safe. Human society must ensure that the speed of COVID-19 vaccination is faster than the pace of mutation. The challenge of realizing herd immunity for the world’s most populous country is obvious, but the ‘China speed’ of vaccination has lit the light at the end of the tunnel. Until a final victory over the virus is secured, China will not stop its efforts to make contributions to the battle against COVID-19.”

### **Brazil Sinking under the Weight of Pandemic and Economic Collapse**

May 27 (EIRNS)—There is a useful review by Associated Press of the current situation in Brazil, matching the picture *EIR* has repeatedly confirmed from numerous sources. The government of Jair Bolsonaro first tried to eliminate all government aid that was going to people affected by the pandemic, but was forced by popular protests to reinstate part of it: at about 50% the original level to about two-thirds of those previously receiving it. Even that paltry help is set to be cancelled in September.

AP says the current real unemployment rate in Brazil is about 29%—surely a low estimate of the reality. The government cutbacks are “leaving vulnerable Brazilians exposed to soaring food prices and a still-worsening job market. And the strain comes at a time when there is no near-term hope of mass vaccination to safeguard the labor force.” The article quotes Sérgio

Vale, chief economist at São Paulo-based consultancy MB Associates: “People are poorer, have more expensive bills and more expensive food. ... It will be difficult to survive.”

According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, poverty is at its highest level in a decade. Food insecurity is rampant, including for many people with informal jobs. “Inflation is climbing at its fastest pace since 2016—6.8%. Over the past 12 months, the cost of staple foods like manioc rose 18%, rice 57%, and beans as much as 51%,” AP wrote. A woman working in the informal sector and living in a favela told AP: “I wish I could stay home. We just can’t. I protect myself as much as I can. I know people who died of COVID. But I can’t die of hunger.”

### ***Asahi Shimbun* Argues To Cancel of Tokyo Summer Olympics Because of COVID**

May 27 (EIRNS)—*Asahi Shimbun*, Japan’s second largest newspaper with a daily readership of some 5 million people, yesterday editorialized for the government of Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide to cancel the summer Olympics, scheduled to begin on July 23. Polls indicate that 60-80% of the population also think the Olympics should be cancelled, and demonstrations in Japan against the Olympics are a daily occurrence.

The reason is the out-of-control COVID pandemic. Only 4.4% of the Japanese population have gotten even one dose of the COVID vaccine. There is a state of emergency in Tokyo and other cities, and foreign travel into Japan is currently strictly limited.

The current plan is for only domestic spectators to attend the Olympics, but even that means that about 90,000 foreigners (including about 15,000 Olympians and their staffs) are expected to travel to Japan. The government has assigned 300 hospitals, 200 doctors, and 500 nurses exclusively to Olympics duty.

“We cannot think it’s rational to host the Olympics in the city this summer,” *Asahi Shimbun* editorialized, under the headline: “We Demand PM Suga Decide Cancellation.”