

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

A Final War, Or A Durable Peace

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—From the moment last Friday that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken announced that they had met and agreed that the U.S. would provide a

written response to Russia's urgent security concerns, the British have been working overtime to make sure that nothing of the sort ever happens—or at least that whatever written response Blinken provides will be a further anti-Russian provocation.

First, there are the stepped-up direct military deployments: another American planeload of sophisticated weapons for the pro-Nazi Kiev government; the transfer of Ukrainian rocket launchers and other heavy weapons to the conflict zone with Donbas; and the Pentagon confirming that President Biden had instructed them to put 8,500 U.S.-based troops on heightened alert for potential deployment to Europe, based on a briefing on “military options” presented to him by Defense Secretary Austin and Joint Chiefs of Staff head Gen. Milley. Those options included sending up to 50,000 U.S. troops to Eastern Europe—steps which the Russians will read as a direct military threat.

Then there are the British psy-ops: British intelligence reached a fact-less finding that Russia intended to topple the Kiev government and put in their own puppet (denied by the Russian government); an anonymous diplomat in Beijing reported that Chinese President Xi Jinping had asked Putin to hold off on invading Ukraine until after the Winter Olympics (denied by the Chinese and Russian governments); and yet another round of anti-Russian bravado by Blinken (there will be “massive consequences “ for Russia if a “single additional Russian force” enters Ukraine) and by Karen Pierce, the British ambassador to the United States (“you’ll always find the U.K. at the forward end of the spectrum” in going after Russia).

“What is clear,” Helga Zepp-LaRouche reported today, “is that we are in an extremely dangerous situation and, given the number of lunatics in leading positions and also the absolute certainty of miscalculation based on wrong epistemological approaches, I think the only conclusion we can have out of this present situation is that we have to go into an all-out anti-war mobilization, waking up especially the American public, because that is the main force which is uninformed about what the danger of the situation is.”

Russia expects an answer this week, she continued, and that answer cannot fail to address their existential security concerns by putting in writing guarantees that NATO will cease its eastward expansion up to Russia's borders. But at this point, everything indicates that the U.S. will do nothing of the kind.

If that is the case, Zepp-LaRouche warned, then we are in a showdown for a countdown to Russia's activation of "military technical measures" of their own—which could include the deployment of hypersonic Zircon missiles on submarines within five-minutes flight time of both American coasts.

For an anti-war mobilization to be successful, however, it must not simply issue pronouncements against war, but it must address two key policy points: 1) identify who is behind the war drive, and why (the collapsing trans-Atlantic financial empire); and 2) present a program to build a durable peace—based on the policies of global economic reconstruction encapsulated in LaRouche's Four Laws.

As then-presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche summarized the matter nearly 40 years ago, in the opening sentence of a March 30, 1984 "Draft Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.":

"Article 1: General conditions for peace. The political foundation for durable peace must be: a) The unconditional sovereignty of each and all nation-states, and b) Cooperation among sovereign nation-states to the effect of promoting unlimited opportunities to participate in the benefits of technological progress, to the mutual benefit of each and all."

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday January 25, 2022: Every weekday morning on **The LaRouche Organization**, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

British Anti-Russian Psy-Ops Fly Fast and Furious

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—From the moment on last Friday, Jan. 21, that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken both announced that the U.S. would provide a written response to Russia on their security demands, the British have deployed to sabotage any such possibility. So far the British counter has been limited to psy-ops and disinformation; but wetworks and overt military provocations are also likely to occur over the coming weeks.

Over the weekend British intelligence leaked the factless story that they had “concluded” that Russia was about to organize a coup in Kiev—which was quickly **denied and ridiculed** by the Russian side.

Then yesterday an anonymous diplomat in Beijing said it is “possible” that Chinese President Xi Jinping had asked Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin “**not to invade Ukraine during the (Olympic) Games,**” according to a widely circulated story put out by Sir Michael’s Bloomberg. China’s Ambassador to Russia quickly called this a “hoax and a provocation”; the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesman also denounced the lie; and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called it “a special information operation by U.S. respective agencies,” reported TASS.

To further create a climate of imminent war, the U.S. State Department announced over the weekend that “There are reports Russia is planning significant military action against Ukraine,” and that therefore it has “authorized the voluntary departure of U.S. direct hire employees (USDH) and ordered the departure of eligible family members (EFM)” from the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. State added that American citizens were once again strongly advised not to travel to Ukraine, while those already in the country were told to “consider departing now using commercial or other privately available transportation options,” since, a State spokesman explained, they do not “anticipate that there will be U.S. government-sponsored evacuations,” should a war take place.

Britain Leading the War Drive Against Russia

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—In a Jan. 23 article otherwise devoted to a “wag the dog” scenario in which U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson might be seeking to use the Ukraine confrontation to distract attention from his own political problems, the *New York Times* highlights the British role in driving the war danger forward. “Britain is moving on multiple fronts,” the *Times* reports. “It is preparing legislation that would enable it to impose sanctions if Mr. Putin carries out an invasion. It dispatched senior ministers to other NATO countries menaced by Russia. And it has begun engaging directly with Moscow, with reports that its foreign and defense secretaries plan to meet their Russian counterparts in the coming weeks.”

“Whether Britain is in the EU or out of the EU, it is always going to push back on Russian bad behavior,” Karen Pierce, the British ambassador to the United States (and before that, Ambassador to the UN), said in an interview. “Where the Russians are concerned, you’ll always find the U.K. at the forward end of the spectrum.”

But for all the screaming and hollering coming out of London, the U.K. is unlikely to send its military to Ukraine (better to get the U.S. to do their fighting for them). **British Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab** made this claim in an interview with Sky News yesterday. “I think it is extremely unlikely that we will send military personnel. But I can say that we willingly participate in training programs to support the Ukrainians,” he said, reported Ukraine’s 112.International. “It is noted that Britain will support Ukraine together with the international community and NATO allies,” 112.International reported further, and that, “Raab also warned Russia of serious consequences in case of aggression.”

Biden Briefed on Military Options, Pentagon Announces Plans on Deploying Troops to Eastern Europe

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—In a story posted on Jan. 23, the *New York Times*, citing unnamed officials, reported that President Joe Biden had been briefed on military options for deploying troops into Eastern Europe by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark

Milley the day before by video-teleconference. The number of troops deployed could number 1,000 to 5,000, with the potential for up to 50,000, along with air and naval assets.

Later in the day, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby confirmed that, at President Joe Biden's direction, the Pentagon is putting about 8,500 U.S.-based troops on heightened alert for potential deployment to Europe. Kirby added that Austin was anticipating the potential for NATO to activate what it calls the NATO Response Force, a multinational force totaling about 40,000 troops. Most of the 8,500 U.S. troops being put on higher alert would be sent as part of that response force, if it's activated, Kirby said, according to an account on PBS. This is supposedly in response to Russia escalating its "menacing posture" against Ukraine.

So far, none of the military options being considered include deploying additional American troops to Ukraine itself, and Biden has made clear that he is loath to enter another conflict following America's painful exit from Afghanistan last summer after 20 years, the *Times* adds. The officials added that if Biden approves the deployment, some of the troops would come from the United States, while others would move from other parts of Europe to the more vulnerable countries on NATO's eastern flank.

Blinken Promises 'Massive Consequences' if a 'Single Additional Russian Force' Enters Ukraine

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—Secretary of State [Antony Blinken](#) dodged the question of whether the U.S. will send combat forces to Ukraine during an appearance on CNN yesterday, but still promised consequences for Russia if it invades. "Do you see any scenario in which more U.S. service members become involved here?" CNN's Dana Bash asked Blinken on "State of the Union." Blinken responded that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is preparing "massive consequences" for Russia if a "single additional Russian force" enters Ukraine. The phrase "single additional Russian force" is clearly intended to "correct"—i.e., override—President Joe Biden's formulation of last week that the U.S. response will depend on the size of a Russian incursion into Ukraine.

Blinken continued: “One of the things that we’ve been very clear about besides the massive economic financial consequences that would befall Russia if it further commits aggression against Ukraine is the ongoing, continued buildup of defense capacity in Ukraine and, equally, continuing to build up NATO’s defensive capacities, including on the so-called Eastern flank, the countries near Russia. And the Alliance is looking at very practical and important measures that it would take in the event of further Russian aggression.”

The U.S. Delivers Another Planeload of Weapons to Kiev Regime

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—U.S. arms are continuing to flow into Kiev. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov gleefully tweeted about another planeload arriving on Jan. 23, the second of the weekend. “The second bird in Kyiv! More than 80 tons of weapons to strengthen Ukraine’s defense capabilities from our friends in the USA! And this is not the end,” Reznikov said, reported Reuters.

In the unrecognized Donetsk People’s Republic, deputy chief-of-staff of the Republican People’s Militia Eduard Basurin, warned that the Ukrainian army has deployed Uragan and Smerch rocket launchers to Donbas and embarked on refilling ammo stockpiles. “Six Smerch MLRS and two Uragan MLRS have been unloaded at the Krasnoarmeisk (Pokrovsk in Ukrainian) railway station” about 50 km northwest of Donetsk city, Basurin said, reported the [Donetsk News Agency](#). Basurin also said that nationalist armed units of the Right Sector have been deployed to the Ukrainian army’s operational zone.

Basurin further claimed that there was a threat of the Ukrainian army using chemical weapons, including the deadly agent botulinum toxin. Basurin said that the toxin was part of a shipment delivered to Ukraine by the U.S. in the autumn of 2021 and that the toxin came in metal containers that can be used in grenade launcher attacks, as well as dropped by drones.

Witch Hunt Against German Admiral: Why, Actually?

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—The media storm against Chief of the German Navy Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach, over remarks he made on Russia at a confidential meeting last week with Indian diplomats at the think tank Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, is puzzling. What he actually said there is nothing that one could not have read in numerous Western defense and foreign policy publications before already. Confronted with this media hype, Schönbach decided to step down from his post on Jan. 23.

In essence, Schönbach had said the following: any sovereign country was entitled to join NATO if it met the democratic standards of the EU, there would never be “a right of Russia to a veto.” If Sweden and Finland wanted to join NATO, there would be no reason to refuse. Georgia also fulfills the conditions, but it would not be “smart” to admit Georgia at this point in time. Ukraine, on the other hand, does not meet the conditions “because part of the country has been occupied by another country,” namely the Donbas, “by the Russian army, or as Russia claims, by militias.” He does not believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin will “invade” Ukraine “because of a small strip of land,” saying that to believe that is “nonsense,” Schönbach said.

Putin, who must be countered, is using the situation to divide the EU, he said. Schönbach continued, “The Crimean peninsula is gone, it will not come back, that’s a fact.” Schönbach said what Putin “really wants is respect at eye level. And—my God—showing respect to somebody costs almost nothing, costs nothing. So you would ask me—but you don’t ask me—it’s easy to give him the respect he demands—and probably deserves.” Schönbach said he sees the bigger threat in China: “Even we, India, Germany, need Russia because we need Russia against China.”

The former Bundeswehr Chief of Staff and Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Gen. Harald Kujat (ret.), has criticized the handling of Schönbach, who was barraged with criticism, including the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry summoning the German ambassador to Kiev in protest,

and has now resigned. In a TV interview with the “Tagesschau24” program, Kujat said on Jan. 23, “If I were still in office, I would have stood in front of Admiral Schönbach, and I would have tried to prevent his dismissal—by any means necessary.”

Kujat cast doubt on whether Schönbach’s remarks constituted official misconduct. “He would have committed a service offense if he had violated the Soldiers’ Act and seriously impaired the reputation of the Bundeswehr or the respect and trust that his official position requires.” He does not see that, Kujat said. Criticism of Schönbach’s formulations is understandable, especially in a “heated situation,” he said. In essence, however, the latter had reflected the American position and thus that of Germany’s “closest ally.”

With regard to the current tense situation, Kujat said, “It must be in our interest to reach a reasonable result, to de-escalate and also to reach a détente with Russia and, of course, always taking into account Ukraine’s security interests. That is absolutely clear.” He further said that it was not acceptable “that we always only talk about war and not about how a war can be prevented.”

So, why this hype and scandal-mongering? The reason is likely to be sought with a look at other NATO countries: the fact that for some time, there has been emerging disunity among Alliance members about strategies with respect to Russia becomes more exposed to the public than ever before. For instance in France, also fuelled by the dispute with the United States over the its encouraging Australia to scrap an envisaged submarine agreement with the French, there is a debate going on about quitting the military integration of NATO; the Norwegian defense minister recently declared that his government does not want non-Norwegian Western troops along the country’s border with Russia; the British are pursuing a confrontation strategy against Russia without consulting with the other NATO partners; the fact that Germany is not backing an escalation against Russia and unlike other NATO members is not supplying weapons to Ukraine is well-known. And, most important, the Biden administration has

entered a strategic dialogue with Russia which, if it leads to a new security architecture, would definitely make NATO in its present form obsolete.

Hawkish NATO geopoliticians most of all, but also many of those in the Western Alliance that are less bellicose, feel challenged by this move into unknown strategic territory, rushing into a show of unity where there isn't any in NATO. Schönbach is a sacrificial lamb to the worship of this aura of Western unity. The whole affair is not going to interrupt the strategic process that has begun between the U.S.A. and Russia.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Webb Telescope Has Arrived at L2!

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—The James Webb Space Telescope has completed the initial positioning of its individual mirrors, and has successfully inserted itself into its orbit around L2. [Space.com](#) reported that over the next several months, the spacecraft will cool down even further, and fine-tuning of the optics and other scientific instruments will proceed.

The Ariane rocket which initially lifted it aloft was calibrated such that its thrust wouldn't propel the telescope too fast, in fear that it would overshoot the mark. This would have forced the spacecraft to use its precious propellant to push back towards the Sun, jeopardizing the exposure of the spacecraft to unnecessary heat.

Instead, it was placed into a trajectory in which it could use its small thruster rockets to make course corrections, including the final maneuver into the L2 orbit.

Scientists at Mission Control were understandably ecstatic, with some speculating that with the remaining fuel, the mission could extend well beyond its initial mission lifetime of five years, into perhaps 20 years. And, given expected progress in space travel, there was the potential of future space travelers perhaps being able to further extend the telescope's expected lifetime.

Once all scientific instruments are calibrated, the real work begins, and the 330 scientific investigations it is tasked to perform in its first year of operation will commence. Its overall mission will focus on the birth of stars, the nature of black holes, discovering exoplanets, and the origins of the Universe.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Germans Worried About Backfire Potential of Sanctions on Russia

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—While the British are pushing for sanctions that they think will destroy the Russian economy, many in Germany are still concerned about the backfire potential of such sanctions. Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned in an interview with *Süddeutsche Zeitung* yesterday that if it comes to anti-Russian sanctions, the West should beware of possible impacts of these sanctions on itself. “In this case, which I hope will never happen, we will have to act in a wise way,” he said in response to a question whether Germany would put up with losses in case of possible sanctions against Nord Stream 2, reported TASS.

“At the same time, it is necessary to understand what consequences it will entail for us. No one should have any illusions that there are any measures that would have no consequences for us,” Scholz continued. “We are agreeing on possible measures with the allies. We must be ready to act if necessary.”

Ukraine May Be About To Default on Its Debt

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—Sergey Salivon, one of Kiev’s top economists and the country’s Director of the Department of Economic Policy of the Federation of Employers, told the business magazine *Capital* last week that Kiev had done a large amount of foreign borrowing over recent months, at extremely high rates. Government short- and long-term securities have been marketed at very high interest rates. Worse, “the cost of default insurance for Ukraine has multiplied and has overtaken Turkish swaps,” the official said, referring to the infamous CDS speculative instrument. RT added that “the economist

warned that this crisis could mean the country will soon no longer be given credit on commercial terms.”

Guardian Warns U.S. Interest Rate Increase Will Trigger Debt Crisis

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—The *Guardian*'s chief economic editor Larry Elliott published another warning of the financial crash about to come, in “**Fears Grow that U.S. Action on Inflation Will Trigger Debt Crisis.**” Elliott reports on the Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC) study on the effects that an interest rate increase will have on the already debt-ridden developing sector. According to the JDC, these countries already spent 14.3% of their revenues on debt payments in 2021, up from 6.8% in 2010 and the highest level since 2001. An increase in U.S. dollar borrowing costs will weaken their currencies further.

Elliott continues to report that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have called for more comprehensive relief, pointing out that the external debt payments by low- and lower- middle income governments include 47% to private lenders, 27% to multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, 12% to China, and 14% to governments other than China.

The JDC analysis found that 54 countries were in a debt crisis, in which payments undermine the ability of a government to protect its citizens' basic economic and social rights. Among the countries added to this are Kenya and Malawi. Heidi Chow, Executive Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign, stressed, “We urgently need a comprehensive debt cancellation scheme which compels private lenders to take part in debt relief.”

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

Will Omicron Back Off? and Leave What in Its Wake?

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—Over the last week, the massive surge in new, confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States finally abated—possibly. On Jan. 23, the 7-day-average figure was at 693,300 per day, compared to 806,900 on Jan. 16. While still about eight times the level of the Delta days, it has been

hoped that the flood waters would stop rising at the end of January or the beginning of February. However, left out of this picture is the massive drop in testing over the recent period, and the unheard levels of positivity, with over 40% of tests last week reporting infection nationwide. The spread of infection may actually still be unabated.

U.S. hospitals are packed with 151,600 COVID-infected patients. Fortunately, a smaller percentage ends up in the ICUs, but even so, there are 26,100 patients in ICUs—over 90% of the historic high level from a year ago. Deaths last week climbed by 10%, from 2,000 to 2,200 per day.

The big question over the next few weeks is whether the glimmer of hope—that Omicron is the variant that, spreading widely and less virulently, breaks the upward thrust of the pandemic—or the real danger of new variants breeding in this mess prevails.

The main new Variant of Interest (VOI) out there, that is presently known about, is a sublineage of Omicron, tagged BA.2, which is spreading pretty quickly. The top five countries reporting it are Denmark, India, the U.K., Sweden and Singapore. (Denmark may be high on the list, in part, because they do very extensive genomic sequencing.) The fear is that besides spreading quickly, BA.2 may be more lethal than Omicron.

WHO General-Secretary Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus emphasized today that it is “dangerous to assume” that Omicron is the last variant, and stressing that the “conditions are ideal” for new variants, and the potential for more transmissible and more virulent variants is “very real.” Dr. Tedros reports that the goal of vaccination of at least 70% of each country by June 30 is key; but that in Africa, presently, 85% of its population of more than 1.2 billion are without even one shot.

Otherwise, last week, new cases worldwide were up 7-8% to about 3.3 million per day and deaths climbed around 10% worldwide.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Port of Boston and Longshoremen's Association Award China's Ambassador for 30 Years of Shipping Collaboration

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—On Jan. 21, China's Ambassador to the United States Qin Gang hosted representatives of the Port of Boston and the International Longshoremen's Association, who presented him with a plaque on behalf of the port, for the 30 years since the Chinese shipping company COSCO established direct connections with the port, which really helped revive it from doldrums. Ambassador Qin observed that the establishment of their cooperation not only saved 9,000 jobs in the shipping industry, but also created an additional 400,000 jobs.

Ambassador Qin also received a Longshoremen's jacket. In his remarks, he underlined the importance of trade with China for the American economy. "If China and the U.S. enter into conflict and confrontation, if we fight a trade war or a new 'Cold War,' it will be a political tragedy that benefits no one," Qin said. "It will cause unbearable cost to each of us, to people like you and me. Faced with all these global challenges, fighting the pandemic, restoring growth, stabilizing industrial chain and supply chain, and addressing climate change, China and the U.S. have no better choice than solidarity and cooperation."

NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Christian Democratic Party of Peru States Its Adherence to the Schiller Institute

Jan. 24 (EIRNS)—On the occasion of the celebration of the 66th anniversary of the founding and relaunching of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) of Peru, a national assembly of the party was held in Lima on Saturday, Jan. 22, at which the Schiller Institute was the guest of honor. The occasion included the PDC's announcement that it was officially adhering to the international Schiller Institute (see full text below).

The opening speech at the Saturday session was delivered by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche to an audience of some 160 participants, including the PDC's full Executive Committee, 20 delegated representatives of their 40 District Committees, other leading members, and some 30 youth. Many of those present had traveled to Lima from the interior of the country, notwithstanding the pandemic. Zepp-LaRouche's in-depth strategic evaluation was crowned with a very hopeful and optimistic view of the future, if this Year of Lyndon LaRouche becomes the year in which LaRouche's Four Laws are implemented as the pillars of an economic recovery which would bring about the universal common good. Zepp-LaRouche's speech, delivered as a pre-recorded video, received lengthy applause.

On Sunday Jan. 23, an internal party meeting was held with the delegates who had come to Lima from around the country. There, Carlos Gallardo, the President of the PDC, addressed Helga Zepp-LaRouche—who was invited to join the meeting by videoconference hook-up—to officially announce the PDC's adherence to the Schiller Institute, in light of their profound epistemological and programmatic coincidence. Gallardo also announced that the PDC would shortly hold a series of classes, with the aid of Schiller Institute teachers, on the Science of Christian economy of Lyndon LaRouche, using that book as a guide to develop the party's platform for the development of its economic program.

Zepp-LaRouche warmly welcomed the PDC's collaboration with the Schiller Institute, and held a 45-minute Q&A session with those present.