

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Creating the ‘Impractical’ but Necessary Future

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Politics as “the art of the possible” has hit a dead end. The “rules-based order,” if obeyed, would lead, necessarily, to civilization-ending global conflict. A window of opportunity currently exists, to transform the paradigm from one of hegemonism and conflict to one that acknowledges and fosters the common interests of humanity. The [International Peace Coalition](#) being built by the LaRouche movement provides the needed direction.

Consider the contrast between the London *Economist* asking, in horror, “What if China and India Became Friends?” and the reception that China, eager to establish beneficial relations with the U.S., provided to the 100-year-old Henry Kissinger. (Ask also, why there are not more younger U.S. diplomats who have built networks and relations with China.)

Microchip producer TSMC has had to push back the opening of its fabrication plant in Arizona to 2025, because sufficiently skilled workers cannot be recruited in the United States (population 330 million); they are therefore being sent from Taiwan (population 24 million).

One important component of bringing about the needed change is to open up the possibility of meaningful discussion.

Testimony before the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and former *New York Post* writer Emma-Jo Morris provided devastating accounts of the outrageous (and unconstitutional) censorship they have experienced as a result of government pressure. Morris had delivered shocking revelations from Hunter Biden’s laptop, detailing a frightening level of bribery and corruption within candidate Joe Biden’s family. That story was blocked by social media, denounced as a Russian disinformation campaign, and censored even from private messages. But it was entirely true, and the collusion of intelligence officials to pressure social media companies to

prevent its dissemination in the lead-up to a presidential election is *actual* election interference, far beyond anything Russia could allegedly have possibly done in the 2016 election.

Kennedy, a presidential precandidate, saw himself blocked for sharing views that are legal to express, but which government actors pressured social media companies to limit or ban. Kennedy now appears to be the subject of a Jeremy Corbyn-treatment attack on the basis of supposed anti-Semitism, predicated presently on one of his typically speculative comments on infectious disease, and also misrepresented.

As British agents Richard Moore (MI6) and James Cleverly (Foreign Secretary) promote stories of Russian barbarism and domestic instability, President Lula da Silva of Brazil has spoken up for peace. His call for an end to the conflict was promptly attacked by the Kiev Presidency's Center for Countering Disinformation, which denounces President Lula's message as being, essentially, Russian propaganda.

Former President Donald Trump, under a deluge of indictments, issued a video statement saying, "Under these circumstances, the notion that we would even consider admitting Ukraine to NATO, at this time, is completely unhinged.... The last thing that this incompetent administration should be doing is risking war with a nuclear-armed Russia, or China, or other countries."

It is time to change course! Bold changes, seemingly impossible in scope, are needed, now.

Fifty-four years ago today, the Apollo 11 lunar lander touched down on the surface of the Moon, bringing with it two human beings to walk upon our closest heavenly neighbor. That lunar objective, obtained within the timeframe identified by President Kennedy sixty years ago, was not "possible" at the time he launched the effort.

But the commitment to a crash program created its *possibility*.

The [Humanity for Peace rally](#) at the United Nations on August 6 seeks to make peace possible. Attend it, publicize it, build satellite events. A powerful American voice for an end to U.S.-U.K. NATO is needed!

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday July 21, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Trump Says Ukraine Joining NATO Would Be 'Unhinged'

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—“Under these circumstances, the notion that we would even consider admitting Ukraine to NATO, at this time, is completely unhinged,” says former President Trump in a video statement. “Joe Biden can’t even walk up a flight of stairs on Air Force One, and he can’t put two sentences together.”

“The last thing that this incompetent administration should be doing is risking war with a nuclear-armed Russia, or China, or other countries.”

MI6 Chief Charges Putin in Ukraine Is Reenacting Soviet Crushing of 'Prague Spring'

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Sir [Richard Moore](#), Chief of Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), was the featured speaker in Prague, yesterday, at an event sponsored by *Politico* at the British Embassy, prefaced by an [interview](#). There was nothing subtle about Moore’s message: Just as Soviet tanks invaded Czechoslovakia and crushed the 1968 “Prague Spring,” he said, today once again Russians have invaded another European country, Ukraine, “ravaging a kindred country,” committing unspeakable atrocities, “expelling innocent families from their homes, kidnapping thousands of children,” leaving devastation in their wake, just as in Prague 1968.

Politico plays it up prominently on its website, with Moore’s speech, the interview, and short clips from his speech on key points of emphasis.

Moore's deployment to Prague should be seen in the context of London's efforts to escalate the drive to nuclear war.

Militarily, Moore paints a fantasy-ridden picture of the battlefield. He claims that Russia is "about to run out of steam" in its special military operation, claiming Russia has had "appalling casualties" and that the military will find it increasingly difficult to supply manpower and matériel over the next few weeks. The Ukrainians, on the other hand, are now "on the offensive, although it's a hard slog," but they are "demonstrating their astonishing ability to innovate and mobilize new technology." There are few signs "that Russian forces are gaining momentum," he adds.

Moore insists that Putin and his government are starting to crumble, with "cracks" in his power structure, following Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin's attempted mutiny. "I think he probably feels under some pressure. Prigozhin was his creature, utterly created by Putin and yet he turned on him. He really didn't fight back against Prigozhin. He cut a deal to save his skin using the good offices of the leader of Belarus." Moore described Prigozhin's mutiny as "extraordinary" but not a surprise.

Moore is also confident that what Putin has done in Ukraine can blow back into Russia, potentially destabilizing the government. Putin can't contain the impact of what he's done in Ukraine within its borders. Russia's "appalling casualties" are "bleeding back into the Russian body politic in a potentially destabilizing way." Putin is "clearly under pressure." Moore charges that only "Putin and his henchmen" are talking about "escalation," which is "irresponsible and reckless and designed to weaken our resolve in supporting Ukraine." It will not work, he vows.

He also reports that MI6 will always welcome Russian defectors who wish to aid Ukraine. "MI6's door is always open. I invite them to do what others have done these past 18 months and join hands with us." Asked if MI6 can definitely protect whatever secrets such collaborators might offer, he assures the interviewer that "their secrets will always be safe with us." Naturally, he also denounces China for its "hypocrisy," supporting Russia even though Putin is violating core principles—territorial integrity,

sovereignty—that China claims to honor. Not surprisingly, he announces that MI6 now devotes more resources to China “than anywhere else.”

U.K. Foreign Secretary Cleverly Pushes the ‘Putin Is Collapsing’ Line

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Speaking at the Aspen Security Forum yesterday, British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly echoed statements in Prague by MI6 Chief Sir Richard Moore, who told an audience also on July 19 that “cracks” are appearing in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s government structure and that he is a target for potential destabilization. The two men obviously coordinated their remarks.

Referencing Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin’s June mutiny, Cleverly proclaimed that “an attempted coup is never a good look because there’s no way that Putin can spin this as business as usual or good news. What we’re seeing is that the first, very visible cracks that are appearing on either side were not in Ukraine, were not in NATO, were not in the EU, were not in the U.K.-U.S. relationship or any of that. The first cracks that we saw were in the Russian system.” On the sidelines of the Forum, the *Daily Mail* reported, Cleverly insisted that it is in Washington’s “best interests” to keep backing Ukraine against Russia, as the U.S. is always “at its strongest when it was engaged in the rest of the world.”

According to *Politico*, Moore and Cleverly’s remarks were efforts to project “optimism” into the Ukraine situation, given that the much-vaunted counteroffensive is moving very slowly. At Aspen, both publicly and privately, speakers have repeatedly raised concerns about the counteroffensive, “leading to questions about whether the U.S., the U.K. and their allies have backed a side that can’t win any time soon.”

Not to worry, said Cleverly. Ukraine is clearly winning the war, because they are taking territory it took Russians months to seize, exactly the point that Moore made in Prague, almost word for word. “The Ukrainians are making progress steadily,” Cleverly went on. Why? Well, “this is the ‘slowly phase’ because they’re going through heavily fortified, mined real estate and there is no quick and safe way of doing that and they choose to

do it safely rather than quickly. I think it's the right judgment call. And it doesn't alter the fact that we've got to stick with them until this is done."

Kiev's CCD Hit List Targets Lula Da Silva for Promoting 'Russian Narrative of the Day'

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a Telegram posting yesterday, entitled "[CCD Informs, Russian narrative of the Day](#)," the Ukraine Presidency's Center for Countering Disinformation (CCD) targets Brazilian President Lula da Silva, for committing the alleged crime of declaring that "the world is getting tired of the Ukrainian conflict." CCD's "Russian Narrative of the Day" is posted almost daily, but is usually reserved for Russian government officials. It is unusual to name a foreign personality such as Lula. The Brazilian President has launched an effort of bringing together multiple nations to push for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

Lula told reporters in Brussels yesterday that "the world is starting to get tired of the war. Countries are starting to get tired, and the moment will come when there will have to be peace, and then there will have to be a group of countries that are able to talk to Russia and to talk to Ukraine." At the July 17-18 EU summit with Caribbean and Latin American (CELAC) countries in Brussels, the Brazilian President insisted that too much time hadn't been spent discussing the Ukraine war, but just "the necessary amount of time."

The CCD charges that Lula's remarks are "the main narrative promoted by the Russian media today. Known for his controversial statements about the Russia-Ukraine war, Silva [sic] blamed Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Joe Biden for failing to continue negotiations with the russian [sic] dictator president.

"Such statements are manipulation, because the Brazilian president calls the war a 'conflict' and silences the fact that it was russia that started it.

"Also, similar statements play into russian propaganda, which manipulates news and headlines in an effort to create a picture of 'world weariness from war.'

“Allies have repeatedly expressed their support for Ukraine, in particular by providing military aid to protect our state.”

Interestingly, also yesterday, Schiller Institute founder [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#), CCD’s enemy number-one on its hit list, appeared on China’s CGTN “World Today” podcast on July 19, in which host Ge Anna asked her views on the July 17-18 EU-CELAC meeting. She is in the third segment of the program, at 21:15 minutes

Russian Missile Forces Hit Ukrainian Black Sea Port Military Targets

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—For the third night in a row, Russian forces launched a massive series, perhaps the largest so far, of missile strikes on Ukrainian Black Sea port facilities that were supporting military activities. There were strikes on Odessa and Mykolaiv (Nikolayev), but also strikes far outside the Black Sea region, including in the Sumy region, which borders Russia’s Kursk region. The strikes came following a Russian Defense Ministry warning that any ships heading to Ukrainian ports after midnight on July 20 would be treated as potential carriers of weapons to the Kiev regime. Slavyangard.org noted last night that the Russian campaign would make impossible any plans by the Kiev regime to resume grain exports unilaterally.

Reuters reported early this morning statements by the Kiev regime regarding trying to ship grain via the territorial waters of Bulgaria and Romania. The regime is also calling on the international community to provide escorts for ships going to Ukrainian ports, but Kiev’s schemes for grain shipping in the aftermath of Moscow’s ending the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 17 are likely to go nowhere. Number one, no one is going to provide insurance to commercial vessels heading towards a war zone, and secondly, no country has shown any interest in providing naval vessels to escort them, least of all Turkiye, which is still engaged in diplomatic efforts to resurrect the grain deal.

Antonov Says, U.S. Unable To Admit Its Failure To Defeat Russia

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Commenting on yet another military aid package to Ukraine, Russian Ambassador to Washington [Anatoly Antonov](#) said on July 19, the U.S. lacks the courage to admit that its effort to defeat Russia has failed. “The American authorities do not have the bravery to admit that the plans to defeat Russia on the battlefield are coming to nothing. Russian army defense lines kicked Ukrainian neo-Nazis in their teeth. In a fit of powerless rage, Washington sends new missiles and ammunition to its puppets. Thus the U.S. expects to harm us,” he replied.

“Every day we see new evidence that the ‘invulnerability’ of Western-made equipment is a big myth. No multi-million dollar ‘package’ will fix the desperate situation of the Kiev junta.

“U.S. assistance will only ... lead to new victims, including among civilians. Their blood is entirely on the conscience of those who rave about the idea of inflicting a ‘strategic defeat’ on Russia.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

RFK, Jr., Hit with ‘Anti-Semitism’ Lies in All-Out Media Assault

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Democratic presidential precandidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has been slammed with an across-the-board media assault, inside and outside the U.S., charging him with anti-Semitism, based on remarks he made at a July 11 press event, subsequently reported in the July 15 [New York Post](#) by journalist Jon Levine. The attacks have gone viral. The supposed proof of his anti-Semitism was his assertion that Covid-19 attacks certain races disproportionately, citing papers “that show the racial or ethnic differential and impact.” Studies he referenced found that Caucasians and Blacks have proven more susceptible to infections than Chinese and European Jews. He later cited a Cleveland Clinic study indicating that certain ethnic and racial groups, including Ashkenazi Jews, were less susceptible to the COVID-19 virus, than other groups, among them Blacks.

Levine misrepresented what RFK, Jr., said, leading to a firestorm of media lies beginning a day after the *Post* report—from the print media, TV networks, the Anti-Defamation League, and the American Jewish Committee, among others. Levine claimed that RFK, Jr. said that Covid was “a genetically engineered bioweapon that may have been ‘ethnically targeted’ to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people.”

In a July 19 article for SheerPost, journalist [Patrick Lawrence](#) charged that Kennedy is obviously getting the Jeremy Corbyn treatment, referring to former leader of the British Labour Party who was removed “on fabricated charges of anti-Semitism.” As soon as RFK announced his candidacy in April, “corporate newspapers and broadcasters went into attack mode,” Lawrence explains. But media hacks calling him a conspiracy theorist, or a “deranged fanatic, or a liar or a kook or a crank,” didn’t seem to catch on. “RFK is still standing and so are his polling numbers, which in my view, are the true cause of the panic on the Democratic side of the political ledger.” Patrick might have referenced RFK’s attacks on the Ukraine war and its threats of World War III, and how that has resonated among American voters.

In an editorial yesterday, Britain’s *Guardian* went on at length on the anti-Semitic issue, but then complained that, unfortunately, not even Kennedy’s conspiracy theories have prevented him from gaining 20% among Democrats in the polls. Some might be due to Kennedy nostalgia, the *Guardian* notes, but adds, “the lack of enthusiasm for the sitting President is also potent: most Democrats don’t want him to run again.” Voters, especially independents, aren’t giving Biden credit for improving the economy “or other achievements,” the British daily laments, concluding, that however “it may be farcical to hear a multimillionaire from the country’s most famous political dynasty railing against ‘elites,’ there is nothing funny about this campaign.”

Senate Begins Debate on Defense Authorization Bill

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Senate began debate, yesterday, on its version of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The Senate debate

is not expected to be as partisan as what occurred in the House last week, but Republicans are still expected to slip in some of the same conservative measures during floor debate, *The Hill* reported this morning.

The Senate did act on three nonpartisan amendments of note, yesterday. The Senate voted 65-28 in favor of an amendment sponsored by Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) to prohibit the President from pulling the U.S. out of NATO without two-thirds Senate consent. It rejected, however, an amendment by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) that would have expressed the sense that the invocation of Article 5 of the NATO treaty did not supersede the Constitutional requirement that only the U.S. Congress can declare war. That was 16-83. Also going down was an amendment by Sen. Josh Hawley (R-KS) that would have prohibited the Pentagon from using “book value,” as opposed to actual replacement costs in determining the value of defense articles transferred to foreign countries out of Pentagon stocks. The Hawley amendment failed on a vote of 39-60.

Military Nominations Jammed Up Over Abortion Issue

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Alabama Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville has been holding up military nominations since March, not over principled opposition to Biden war policies but over abortion in the wake of the Supreme Court’s overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Tuberville is trying to stop the Pentagon policy of offering leave and benefits to any woman who wants an abortion, but in a military base in a state that has outlawed it. As a result, some 275 general officer nominations are blocked, including for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Also caught in the logjam is a replacement for Colin Kahl, who stepped down as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy on July 14. Three other civilian nominations, at the assistant secretary level, are also blocked.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

The Other Taiwan Acts To Advance Mainland China-Taiwan Ties

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Not everyone in China supports the anti-mainland policy of Taiwan’s separatist DPP government. For the first time in three years, on July 15 university students and teachers from mainland China visited Taiwan as part of an effort to promote cross-Strait relations. The nine-day visit was the initiative of the Kuomintang’s former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou.

“This is the first visit by a major university student delegation from the mainland since cross-strait exchanges were suspended and [relations worsened] to the point of the brink of war under the rule of the government of [Taiwanese President] Tsai Ing-wen,” said Hsiao Hsu-tsen, director of the Ma Ying-jeou Foundation, *South China Morning Post* quoted him greeting the delegation. President Tsai Ing-wen is from the Democratic Progressive Party that seeks to separate Taiwan from China. Hsiao stressed that students’ trip serves to alleviate the escalating tensions and is conducive to promoting cross-Strait peace. Hsiao explained that the delegation’s visit was the result of former Taiwan President Ma’s first visit to the mainland at the end of March, on which he hoped to reduce the chances of a cross-Strait conflict by increasing exchanges and understanding between young people, considering that they hold the future to cross-Strait ties.

The delegation is led by Hao Ping, a former mainland vice-minister of education and former president of Peking University. The group started its first day with a tour of the TSMC Museum of Innovation run by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.—the world’s largest contract chip maker—in Hsinchu, south of Taipei.

Henry Kissinger Warmly Received in China, Meets Xi Jinping

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former U.S. official Henry Kissinger, now 100 years of age, met today with President Xi Jinping during his current trip to China. Kissinger’s visit intersected the July 16-19 visit of John Kerry and

comes after those of Blinken and Yellen. Although Kissinger's ongoing visit should not necessarily be interpreted as representing a true openness to change by the Biden Administration, his reception by President Xi shows the importance that China attaches to improving U.S.-China relations. As President Xi pointed out, 52 years ago, then U.S. National Security Advisor Kissinger visited the People's Republic in what became President Nixon's official visit the following year, and official relations with the United States and China in 1979. Kissinger expressed appreciation to President Xi for meeting him at Villa 5 of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, the venue where he had met Chinese leaders during his first visit to China. Kissinger had also met with Defense Minister Li Shangfu on July 18, and top diplomat Wang Yi on July 19.

China faces increasing tariffs, and difficulties with people-to-people exchanges, from FBI investigations of Chinese scientists and American scientists of Chinese descent, the chip wars, and tensions around Taiwan. It is up to the U.S. to change its policy, so the world's largest two economies can collaborate on eliminating poverty through expanding infrastructure, increasing energy use, and improving productive powers of labor.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

London *Economist* Asks with Horror, 'What If China and India Became Friends?'

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The “tectonics of the trans-Himalayan relationship are shifting,” acknowledges the British publication *The Economist*. “Recent border bloodshed suggests mounting hostility,” they are relieved to say. But not all is well in this trigger-point for conflict: “But blossoming economic ties tell a different story that could trouble America and its allies.” Oh, no—what if peace breaks out?

The Economist doesn't hide its imperial desire for conflict: “The hope among American and allied officials is that India's continuing frontier friction with China is pushing it irreversibly into a democratic coalition

determined to constrain Chinese power.” But, they worry, “what if they find a way to shelve the border dispute?”

The rag fondly recalls the 2020 skirmish that took the lives of two dozen border troops and ushered in a wave of anti-China regulations in India. But even so, Chinese investment and trade with India continues to grow. The prospect of the two Asian giants finding a path of collaboration may upset the British Empire-run powers that “see India as a counterweight to China.”

Inflation Up in Europe

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—EU “Core” CPI, which does not include food and energy, was rising at a 5.5% year-on-year rate in June, up from 5.3% in May. While energy prices coming down slightly has reduced the overall consumer price index increase, CPI for services, which had been growing by 1-2% over the six years preceding Covid, has now reached nearly 5.5%. Core CPI had grown at 1% annually before Covid, and is now over 5%.

The European Central Bank has to some degree reduced the level of money it has been creating (driving inflation). Interest rates have increased 4% over the past year, and its balance sheet has been decreasing since November 2022.

HISTORY & CULTURE

Stanford President Quits; Could Math-Destroyer Jo Boaler Go Next?

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The President of Stanford University has been forced to resign following an investigation by the Board of Trustees that found that he had overseen publication of studies that included manipulated data, to which he had not properly responded.

Who will be the next to depart The Farm? Prof. Jo “Harrison Bergeron” Boaler would be a good pick. Her “doctored data removed Algebra from SF public middle schools and will soon do so all over CA,” tweeted Y Combinator President and CEO [Garry Tan](#). In the name of equity and diversity, schools have removed algebra from middle school, which makes it nearly impossible to take calculus during high school. Rather than rising

to the challenge of improving math education, Boaler’s proposals have harmed public school students by limiting their educational opportunities. *EIR* exposed this in February 2023 in “[How California’s Math Education Reform Will Make Your Kid Stupid.](#)”

Casualty in Chip Wars? TSMC Expects 2023 Revenue To Drop 10%

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Microchip producer TSMC has updated its expected 2023 sales, which it now anticipates will decline 10% from 2022’s, rather than only 5% predicted a few months ago. While there is an extremely high demand for chips engineered specifically for machine-learning applications, overall demand is declining, in part due to reduced orders from China.

The United States has attempted to bolster its domestic microchip production, through the CHIPS and Science Act, but TSMC’s production site at Arizona is facing delays that will push back commercial production to 2025, because they can’t find skilled workers. TSMC Chairman Mark Liu remarked, “We are encountering certain challenges, as there is an insufficient amount of skilled workers with the specialized expertise required for equipment installation in a semiconductor-grade facility.” The firm had to send skilled workers from Taiwan (pop. 24 million), since a sufficient number could not be recruited in the U.S. (pop. 331 million).

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

COSCO Brings the Ships to Piraeus Port

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Since the Chinese shipping company COSCO bought majority ownership of the Greek Piraeus Port Authority (PPA), there has not only been a dramatic increase in container ship traffic, but also the repair facilities have had a dramatic increase in ships coming to Greece for repair and service. According to the Greek financial daily *Naftemporiki*, the number of ships being repaired annually has doubled. In the first half of 2023, some 85 ships have been serviced in the PPA’s dry docks. For 2022, more than 130 ships were repaired, compared to only 69

in the year prior to COSCO taking over PPA in 2016. Working days at the shipyards increased from 435 in 2016 to 1,306 in 2022.

Moreover the port has been restored as a shipbuilding center. COSCO has initiated investment to further enhance the productivity of the shipbuilding zone, in addition to continuing to upgrade the container port, now among the most active in the Mediterranean. Greece had been a major shipbuilding center, but had declined when it joined the European Union.

Some Thoughts on a Railroad Through Afghanistan in *China Daily*

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—An interesting op-ed in *China Daily* by Richard Cullen, an adjunct professor of law at Hong Kong University, moots the possibilities of building a railroad through Afghanistan, perhaps reflecting a broader discussion in Chinese scholarly circles.

“Significant planning within the Five Nations Railway Corridor project has already mapped out a route from China to Iran for a standard gauge rail link,” Cullen notes. “Under this plan (on which little work has progressed), the line would extend from Khaf, Iran (close to Mashhad), into Afghanistan and then through Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan into China.”

Around half of this new railway would pass through northern Afghanistan. The project would provide landlocked Afghanistan rail access to Iran’s southern ports on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It also “opens up the extraordinary possibility of one day offering travel on a new standard-gauge ‘Orient Express’ from London to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.” While there would be much difficulty in reaching an agreement on such a project, he says, it nevertheless offers great hope for relieving “Afghanistan’s decades-long misery and violent instability.”

Cullen also notes that the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan eliminated a major obstacle: Were the U.S. still there, any China-supported project in the country would have been quickly sabotaged.

Beijing Hosts Inaugural ‘International Conference on Basic Science’

July 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—China has assembled 800 world-renowned scientists from all over the world this week, for the inaugural conference of

the International Congress on Basic Science, to advance human understanding and establish links. The Congress features more than 500 lectures, satellite meetings, and exchange events. “I hope that the conference will become an important bridge between China and the world in the field of scientific and technological exchanges, so that internationally renowned scholars can enhance their understanding of China,” said Shing-Tung Yau, who chairs the newly created institution. “I also hope that young scholars and students will actively communicate with world-class scholars so as to set clear goals.”

U.S. Prof. David Gross, a Nobel laureate in Physics, said, “Basic science, or more precisely ‘curiosity-driven’ science, is essential; not just to satisfy our curiosity about the nature of matter and the structure and history of the universe, but also to make truly great discoveries and advances in knowledge that inevitably lead to new technologies. ... I am very happy to be back in China and pleased to see the increased commitment of the Chinese government to the support of the basic sciences,” he stressed.