

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Russian International Affairs Council and Schiller Institute Hold Passionate Dialogue on Humanitarian Disaster in Afghanistan
- Patrick Lawrence Analysis of Xi-Putin Joint Statement, ‘The World Just Turned’
- British Foreign Secretary Doesn’t Know Russian Geography
- Stop the War Conference in U.K. Hears Support for Xi-Putin Joint Statement
- Lavrov Calls Dealing with U.K. Foreign Secretary Truss, ‘Like the Deaf Talking to the Mute’
- Zakharova Considers Germany Is a U.S. Protectorate
- Military and Central Banks’ Revolving Door: Stoltenberg To Become Norway Central Bank Governor
- Michael Bloomberg Picked as Chair of Pentagon’s Innovation Panel
- Macron Confirms To Build Six Nuclear Reactors, Says France Needs ‘Rebirth of Its Nuclear Industry’

EDITORIAL

Russian International Affairs Council and Schiller Institute Hold Passionate Dialogue on Humanitarian Disaster in Afghanistan

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—“Start with the dignity of actual sacredness of each human life, and there is no difference between an Afghan baby and a baby in the United States or in Germany: It’s the love of the parents, and it’s the hope of the future of the country.” These were the words of Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the Schiller Institute, speaking today at a two-hour seminar co-sponsored by the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) and the Schiller Institute under the theme: “The Humanitarian Crisis in

Afghanistan—Toward a Long Term Solution.” The RIAC is the foremost foreign policy think tank in Russia, and the decision by the RIAC to co-sponsor this event with the Schiller Institute will certainly raise the hackles of the war party in London and Washington.

The RIAC was represented by its Director General Andrey Kortunov, who has spoken at several earlier Schiller Institute conferences. He described the situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban as precarious, as the lack of food, medicine and fuel is threatening millions, and it is likely to get worse. Nonetheless he said that the Afghan people are “resilient,” that the Taliban had consolidated power such that the more radical forces connected to al-Qaeda and ISIS are not able to take over. Unfortunately, he also stressed, the international community is terribly divided, and he believes the hope for action by the major powers is slim.

Zepp-LaRouche, describing Afghanistan as “Hell on Earth,” said she had a different view, that the world could not give in to pessimism, that if the situation is not reversed, where 24 million women and children are facing death by starvation and nearly the entire population has not enough to eat, with an almost complete lack of medical care, then the “Nuremberg” questions become relevant: “What did you know? When did you know it?” She described her Operation Ibn Sina, named after the great Islamic philosopher and physician from 1,000 years ago from that region, to inspire the world to come together to stop the genocide, provide a modern health system for the Afghan people. Ibn Sina was the first to deploy the use of quarantine to squash epidemics. By uniting behind this, the worst humanitarian disaster in the past decades, the cooperation can be a bridge to solving the other crises in the world, including especially the extremely dangerous rush for war with Russia and China. “There is no place on this Earth—and that includes the strategically explosive potential of destabilization operations around Ukraine and Taiwan—where the moral fitness to survive of the human species is more tested than in Afghanistan,” she said.

At the opening of his remarks, former CIA official and Islamic scholar Graham Fuller spoke in Russian, making the point that when he was CIA station chief in Kabul in the 1970s he needed his Russian language skills even more than his knowledge of the Afghan languages—his point being that the actual interests of the people in Afghanistan, and in many nations in the world today, are overridden by the geopolitical interests of the major powers. As human beings, he said, we need to consider the human condition of others. To get the world out of its current moral and economic decline, the U.S. must be able to work with Russia, China and Iran, and yet we treat them as adversaries, or even enemies. The U.S., he said, is going through an identity crisis, not willing to come to terms with the fact that it is no longer able to dictate policies to the world, and must move from narrow minded interests to a humanitarian one for a stable multipolar world.

James Jatras, a former U.S. diplomat and political analyst, called his presentation “Stop the Continuing War on Afghanistan.” Withholding \$9 billion of Afghan assets and imposing sanctions on a starving nation are acts of war, he insisted, punishing and killing people out of spite, for the U.S. having lost the war. The same thing is true of U.S. policy in Syria, he explained. We did not start the war in Afghanistan to fight terrorism in the first place, he stated, but to establish a military presence near the Russian and Chinese borders—a continuation of the British Great Game.

Two other Russian speakers, Ivan Safranchuk, Director of the Center for Eurasian Studies at MGIMO University, and Temur Umarov, a Fellow at the Carnegie Moscow Center, concurred that emergency measures were necessary, but were pessimistic that the major powers would act, calling on the regional countries to take the lead. Safranchuk said that some (unnamed) countries want Afghanistan to collapse, to become a problem for Russia, China and Pakistan. Umarov said that the Taliban is not able to be as compliant with Western demands as many are insisting, since they would then risk the more radical groups gaining power.

Zepp-LaRouche concluded the conference by agreeing that the humanitarian disaster must be met immediately, but that is not enough. Real development is needed—extending the China-Pakistan Development Corridor into Afghanistan and from there into its northern neighbors, bringing in modern technology to provide clean water, electricity and transportation networks. The opium poppy production must be replaced with food crops, as was done in 1999-2000 under the earlier Taliban government with aid and negotiations from the UN. She said that anyone who sees the horrible suffering of the people, without suffering heartbreak, is not human. “Let’s just put our efforts together and really get a whole movement for development. ‘Peace through Development’—I think that must be our slogan.”

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Friday February 11, 2022: Every weekday morning on **The LaRouche Organization**, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC

Patrick Lawrence Analysis of Xi-Putin Joint Statement, ‘The World Just Turned’

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—Patrick Lawrence, one of the few honest journalists in the U.S., together with economist Marshall Auerback, published a piece in *Scrum* on Feb. 9 that identifies the extraordinary **Joint Statement** by Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin on Feb. 4, in the same manner that Helga Zepp-LaRouche and *EIR* have stated and the British Empire’s *Daily Telegraph* admitted negatively—a new era, an era without geopolitics, has emerged, based on the respect for all humanity’s right to security and development. As Lawrence and Auerback put it in their title: [“The World Just Turned—Ukraine and the Putin-Xi Statement.”](#)

Some quotes from this important article:

“[W]e are living it and cannot see it historically without great effort. But we are living through a passage of the 21st century whose long-term significance is hard to overstate. The future is arriving, to put the point another way. Who would have guessed it would come to us by way of the ongoing morass in Ukraine?”

“On the ground, the crisis in Ukraine sharpens by the day. This is the point of Washington’s incessant efforts to provoke Russia into an incursion that will justify a proxy war on the part of the U.S. and those few allies hawkish enough to follow its lead into the cesspit of corruption and crypto-Nazism on the Russian Federation’s southwestern border.

“But on the ground is not where to look if we want to understand this long-festering crisis and its likely outcome—not as of last week. When Presidents Putin and Xi issued a declaration of mutual solidarity as the Winter Olympics opened in Beijing last Friday [Feb. 4], all changed, changed utterly. What the Russian and Chinese leaders had to say in 5,300 words puts the mess in Ukraine in a fundamentally new perspective. What happens there will stand as a mile marker and nothing more on the way to a global order most of humanity has awaited throughout the postwar decades—all seven of them.

“This is immensely positive.”

They describe the [joint statement](#) (published in full in the February 11 issue of *EIR*) as a “document of historic magnitude,” comparing it with the joint statement at the 1955 Bandung Conference in Indonesia, of the formerly colonized nations, declaring the principles of freedom, sovereignty, the right to development, and respect for all nations. Xi and Putin fully backed Russia’s call for a new security architecture which, following the OSCE, insists that one nation’s security can not be at the expense of another.

But the Xi-Putin statement is universal, they write: “Now what might have been resolved by way of a new settlement on European and Russian security has become a question of a genuinely new global order. This is what happened in Beijing last week. Secretary of State Blinken, his

spokesman, Ned Price, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, the Pentagon, the intelligence apparatus, the NATO leadership in Brussels: None of these appears capable of addressing this new reality.” The authors point to an emerging “Eastward diplomatic *démarche* French President Emmanuel Macron is currently leading,” compared to an “American campaign of propaganda and disinformation that is almost certainly the match of anything marshaled during the Cold War,” pointing to the absurd, unsubstantiated accusations flowing from the White House and the State Department on a daily basis about Russian dirty deeds. The two gleefully reference AP’s Matt Lee’s showdown with State Department spokesman Ned Price, in which Lee referred to wild stories as “unhinged conspiracy theories, in Alex Jones territory.”

The authors point to the color revolution in Ukraine in 2014 as the “first major misstep” of the unipolar world’s hubris. Putin, they note, quickly called the referendum in Crimea, arranged a \$400 billion natural gas deal with China, and launched a “global hands-across-the-water tour of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East to begin expanding relationships with non-Western nations.” Now, Xi and Putin have “submitted nearly 40 times since the Kiev coup. What began on the economic and trade side now has political and military dimensions.”

The Xi-Putin statement, they write, “is a bilateral statement announcing a new world order altogether, with an attendant aspiration to advance sustainable economic strategies worldwide.” They quote from the statement, that “a trend has emerged towards redistribution of power in the world; and the international community is showing a growing demand for leadership aiming at peaceful and gradual development”; they also note the statement’s attack on “certain states” that are, the statement says, “flouting democracy and go against the spirit and true values of democracy. Such attempts at hegemony pose serious threats to global and regional peace and stability and undermine the stability of the world order.”

The two authors conclude by pointing to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which Zhou Enlai signed with India, which were then

incorporated into the 10-point declaration at the 1955 Bandung conference. They print all 10 points verbatim, concluding: “We quote them in full because it is instructive to read them next to the Joint Statement. They are historical ballast. They remind us that there is nothing very strange or outré, and certainly nothing overly ambitious, about the world Putin and Xi envision: It is the world two-thirds of UN member nations and more than half of humanity desired before the Cold War buried their postwar hopes and aspirations. The Russian and Chinese leaders have just demonstrated that these hopes and aspirations were never extinguished. Maybe it is as simple as this.

“Hardly do Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping propose an easily, swiftly completed project. (And hardly will a solution of the Ukraine crisis prove easy or swift.) Great movements in history never work that way. And that is what Putin and Xi have just described.”

British Foreign Secretary Doesn't Know Russian Geography

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has apparently embarrassed herself in Moscow with her lack of knowledge of Russian geography in talks today with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. After Truss made statements demanding that Moscow move its forces, located on Russia's soil, away from the border with Ukraine, Lavrov asked her if she recognized Russia's sovereignty over the Voronezh and Rostov Regions. Truss insisted that the United Kingdom would never recognize Russia's sovereignty over these regions, a source close to the talks revealed to TASS.

According to an account of the meeting published by Russian daily *Kommersant*, British Ambassador Deborah Bronnert swooped in to quietly remind her colleague Truss that the two regions are actually considered Russian territory even by her own government.

U.K. ‘Stop the War’ Conference Hears Support for Xi-Putin Joint Statement

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—Stop the War, a British organization formed after 9/11 to organize against the U.S./NATO war in Afghanistan, is now organizing internationally to stop the war against Russia. A forum today included former Labour Party leaders Jeremy Corbyn and Andrew Murray, Kent University Russia expert Prof. Richard Sakwa, and three foreign speakers: Code Pink’s Medea Benjamin from the U.S., Die Linke’s Christine Buchholz from Germany, and the Ukrainian representative of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.

The speakers attacked Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer for marching in lockstep with Tory Prime Minister Boris Johnson in favor of war on Russia. They emphasized that Stop the War had opposed every war since 9/11, were ridiculed every time, but were proven right in every case—and would be correct even more so if the war party were crazy enough to go to war with Russia.

EIR sent in a question: “Will Stop the War endorse the powerful **joint statement** by Presidents Xi Jinping and Putin calling for a new security architecture and the right for development for all nations?” The question wasn’t read, but when Professor Sakwa came on, he began (in paraphrase): “The first thing I want to address is the Putin-Xi Joint Statement of Feb. 4, one of the most important statements of our time. With the deep conflict between the West and Russia, perhaps a military conflict, the presidents called for global sustainable development. I have been calling on the two nations to issue a positive program for the world, and they have. This is as important as the Bandung conference statement of 1955. [Sakwa had likely read Patrick Lawrence’s Feb. 9 article which also made this point, as covered in a previous entry in the *Alert*.] The principles contained in the UN Charter have been usurped by the so-called ‘rules-based order’ replacing international law in favor of the demands of a few, undermining the sovereignty of all nations. NATO is an archaic institution which should be abolished.” He urged for a Helsinki 2.

Lavrov Calls Dealing with U.K. Foreign Secretary Truss, 'Like the Deaf Talking to the Mute'

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—It appears that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov does not want to suffer fools. After meeting with U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss today, he was rather forthcoming at a press conference. He described it as “a conversation between a mute and a deaf.” There was a struggle to find common ground. “We seem to be listening but we don’t hear each other.” Lavrov did not find it very enlightening to hear Truss repeat the “no war in Ukraine” thing, along with “Russia must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.” He responded: “Russia has been cheated and wronged for many years, many times, when it comes to agreements and obligations from other states.... It is like when they say Russia is waiting for the ground to freeze like a stone so its tanks can easily cross into Ukrainian territory. The ground was like that today with our British colleagues. The many facts we cited fell on it and then just bounced off. ... I felt that our colleagues either have not heard them or are completely ignoring them..... We explained in the tiniest detail today that Russia’s armed forces are on their own territory as distinct from the hundreds of thousands of British military troops deployed in the Baltics. ... The response was that if Russia is on its own territory then NATO is also on its own territory because all of them are NATO members.”

He wasn’t quite as kind with Ukraine’s toying with the Minsk Accords. He cited the positions of Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on not complying with Minsk. In particular, he took exception to Kuleba claiming that Ukraine did not have to directly engage with Donetsk and Luhansk representatives, since dialogue with them is not covered by Minsk. (It’s a no-brainer. It is covered.) Lavrov: “Well, you see, this is definitely the school of Goebbels, and maybe even surpasses the art of the chief propagandist of the Third Reich ... to tell a lie with a straight face,” RT quoted him as saying. And to do so, rejecting the face of the agreement without any worry that the West would call him on it, “is a quite comfortable position for the demagogues who are now defending their case, trying to rewrite the Minsk agreements.”

Zakharova Considers Germany Is a U.S. Protectorate

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—Commenting on the tensions over the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#) said in an Feb. 8 interview for RT that Germany remains under American occupation even after the end of the Cold War. Other NATO allies also have surrendered their sovereignty to Washington and therefore have no say in issues such as the Nord Stream 2 project, Zakharova said. “Germany, according to a number of relevant features—this is neither my opinion nor the Russian position, this is so according to political science terms and definitions—remains an occupied state in one way or another. Thirty thousand American troops are stationed there.”

Moreover, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said U.S. ambassadors in Berlin were giving orders to German government officials. As an example, Zakharova mentioned the behavior of the U.S. ambassador to Germany during Donald Trump’s Presidency. Richard Grenell had ordered the German government what to do regarding the Nord Stream 2 project.

According to Zakharova, Germany is being treated by the U.S. “simply as a protectorate,” its instructions to the Germans based not only on the leverage of financial threats, but also “on 30,000 American boots on the ground.” Why Berlin allowed itself to be treated in such a manner remains an open question for Germany, but, “The fact is that it is not a relationship between equals.”

The diplomat stressed that Germany was buying gas from Russia, not because Berlin was particularly fond of Moscow or because it wanted to please Russia, but solely because it needed this gas. German industrial development is vitally linked to this resource, Zakharova stressed. The fact that Washington is trying to get Berlin to buy liquefied natural gas from the United States instead, does not make it possible to speak of a free-market economy here. In this context, Zakharova pointed out that the government will eventually be forced to raise taxes for citizens in Germany, because the

price of liquefied gas is much higher. “This is exactly what the U.S. has done to its closest allies, not to its rivals or enemies, but to its own NATO partners. No one has granted them any kind of independence or sovereignty.”

COLLAPSING MONETARIST SYSTEM

Military and Central Banks’ Revolving Door: Stoltenberg To Become Norway Central Bank Governor

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—As further confirmation of *EIR*’s documentation that it is the economic-financial crisis which is driving the rush to war against Russia and China, the Norway’s central bank, Norges Bank, announced on Feb. 4 that its new governor will be the current NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, one of the most belligerent of the Western leaders preparing for war with Russia and China.

Stoltenberg finishes his term as NATO chief on Oct. 1, and will switch over to his new job as central bank governor, where he will undoubtedly continue his mobilization for war. He will also be in charge of the world’s largest sovereign wealth fund—\$1.4 trillion.

Stoltenberg was the leader of Norway’s Labour Party, was Norwegian prime minister from 2000-01 and 2005-13 before becoming NATO chief the following year. He has also been finance minister and energy minister.

Reuters reports that former finance minister Siv Jensen, in office from 2013 to 2020, last month urged Stoltenberg to withdraw from the process, arguing that his appointment would damage Norges Bank’s credibility and reputation. The deputy head of Norway’s main opposition Conservative Party, Tina Bru, had also argued against Stoltenberg’s candidacy, calling it unwise to appoint him.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Michael Bloomberg Will Chair Pentagon's Innovation Panel

Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—Pentagon spokesman John Kirby announced yesterday that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has picked billionaire environmentalist “Mussolini Mike” Bloomberg to chair the Defense Innovation Board. Kirby said that Austin had nominated Bloomberg to “leverage his experience and strategic insights on innovation, business and public service.” Kirby added that Bloomberg will bring “a wealth of experience in technology innovation, business and government to the Defense Innovation Board.”

“His leadership will be critical to ensuring the department has access to the best and brightest minds in science, technology and innovation through the team of diverse experts that he will lead as chair of that board,” Kirby said. “And obviously the secretary is very grateful that Mr. Bloomberg was willing to take on this additional responsibility and very grateful that he’s willing to serve in that capacity,” he continued.

The Hill reports that the Defense Innovation Board is an advisory board that was established in 2016 to provide the department with recommendations on emerging technologies and innovative approaches to development. In other words, it was created as part of then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work’s Third Offset Strategy to “leverage” Silicon Valley into making the U.S. military technologically superior to Russia and China. “Innovation and adaptability are absolutely critical at any large organization, and there is no organization bigger or more complex than the Department of Defense,” Bloomberg said in a statement. “I’m honored to work with Secretary Austin, Deputy Secretary [Kathleen] Hicks, other senior Defense Department leaders and innovators from government and business to help bring new ideas and outside perspective that can help protect Americans and our values, interests, and allies around the world.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Macron Confirms Plans To Build Six Nuclear Reactors

PARIS, Feb. 10 (EIRNS)—Speaking in Belfort, one of the last strongholds of France’s industrial might, President Emmanuel Macron confirmed that France will build six new reactors in the coming decades. The first new reactor, an upgraded version of the 1650 MW (generation 3+) European Pressurized Reactor, will be online by 2035. There will be studies for another eight reactors as well, Macron stated. According to the announcement, the new reactors will be built and operated by state-controlled Électricité de France. The government will mobilize public financing for the six plants, estimated to cost about €50 billion.

EDF also confirmed today that, as the President requested, it would buy back the France-based nuclear turbine unit from General Electric, which Macron, as Economy and Industry Minister, had sold it. The earlier sale of the French site producing the “Arabelle” turbines for the French nuclear industry was considered a dramatic blow to sovereignty.

Now, with two months to the April elections, and the French favoring nuclear energy, Macron declared, “What our country needs—and the conditions are there—is the rebirth of France’s nuclear industry.” He continued, “Certain countries have made the extreme choice of turning their back on nuclear energy. France has not made that choice.” Macron also said he wanted to extend the lifespan of older nuclear plants to more than 50 years from the current 40-plus years for certain reactors, provided it was safe. The decision to extend the lifespan of existing plants is an aboutface from an earlier pledge he had made to shut down more than a dozen of EDF’s 56 reactors by 2035.

While placing nuclear power at the heart of France’s drive for “carbon neutrality,” Macron also promised to throw away funds on “renewables.” He said France will also increase its solar power tenfold by 2050, to more than 100 GW and target building 50 offshore wind farms with a combined capacity of 40 GW. Macron’s thinking conforms with the EU’s demand for carbon neutrality within three decades.