

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **Could Biden Unleash Worse Hell Over Ukraine Than He Did in Afghanistan?**

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—The Biden Administration, with a very bad misjudgment of the real condition of Afghanistan after 20 years of NATO’s war there, made a rushed pull-out and then moved to seize all the country’s cash and punish its people with no food, medical care or shelter in the dead of winter. It never even told America’s NATO “allies” what it was doing. It’s leaving a country destroyed.

Can the Biden White House now be allowed to make an even worse disaster in Europe—even a nuclear disaster—in a crisis, the “Ukraine crisis,” which could set off a war to destroy humanity itself? The more and more angry and aggressive bluffing of Russia by the Biden Administration over Ukraine has brought us closer to nuclear war than we have ever been since October 1962, when the whole world was terrified by the Cuban Missiles Crisis.

One possibility is that Biden and his dubious national security team is looking for a victory to sell at home, by telling us Russia will invade Ukraine next week, tomorrow, any minute ... and then when Russia does not invade, telling us Biden’s threat of crushing economic punishment stopped Putin. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said this was the “elaborate charade” yesterday on Twitter. Former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Jack Matlock put out the idea in a column today, writing for the American Committee for U.S.-Russia Accord. House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#), in her own way, hinted at it yesterday on ABC News “This Week”: “If we were not threatening the sanctions and the rest, it would guarantee that Putin would invade.... So, if Russia doesn’t invade, it’s not that he never intended to. It’s just that the sanctions worked.”

But we cannot rest on hope that this is political fakery. The Biden White House is punishing Afghanistan incompetently, but with a vengeance. It wants to punish Russia and destroy its economy. [Senior White House officials](#) said it in a background press briefing Jan. 25: The goal is “hit Putin’s strategic ambitions to industrialize his economy quite hard.... Undercut Putin’s aspirations to exert influence on the world stage.” The officials vowed, “we’re talking about denying to Russia downstream products that are critical to its own ambitions to develop high-tech capabilities in aerospace and defense, lasers and sensors, maritime, AI, robotics, quantum, etc. ... And so, as we build this effort with our allies and partners, we’re willing to work with any country in order to deny Russia an input that it needs to diversify its economy.”

With that goal, Biden’s team—which had “everything under control” in Afghanistan—is daring Russian President Putin to go to war. It is squeezing Ukraine’s President Zelenskyy so hard that he feels compelled to contradict every Russian invasion forecast that London and Washington make.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in her widely read analysis Feb. 6, said “[We Are 100 Seconds to Midnight on the Doomsday Clock: We Need a New Security Architecture](#).” Two European bankers put out a call for France to block Ukraine’s entry to NATO and leave the NATO strategic command, now, anything to stop the march toward war. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz went to Ukraine today to say, “The issue of [Ukraine’s] membership in the alliance [NATO] is not on the agenda,” so Russia should stop worrying about it. But the NATO weaponry America is pouring into Ukraine and around it is unprecedented: Ukraine’s Defense Minister admits it now has far more anti-tank missiles than Russian tank targets.

We all need to mobilize ourselves, not to “watch and wait,” as most were scared into doing in October 1962. There is no John F. Kennedy here to solve this. The solution is to compel more breaks toward negotiation, and to attack the cause, the threat of hyperinflationary collapse which the Biden Administration and Federal Reserve have done so much to bring on themselves and us. Our next D-Day is Saturday, Feb. 19, the Schiller Institute’s all-day conference with the message of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s Feb. 6 article: We need a new security architecture, one based on economic recovery and development. [Register](#) for the conference and organize others to register and watch beginning at 10 a.m. (EST).

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday February 14, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Boris Johnson Thinks Russia Will Invade Ukraine ‘Any Minute’**

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, through a spokesman, called on Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday to “step back from the brink” as he insisted there was still a “window of opportunity” to avoid war in Ukraine. On Sunday, Downing Street said the U.K. believes Moscow could invade Ukraine “at any moment,” as commercial airlines began cancelling flights, and Poland warned of an impending refugee crisis, reported the *Telegraph*. “Whitehall sources said the U.K. was determined to play a leading role in shaping the West’s reaction to Mr. Putin’s aggression, amid concern that Britain was ‘too absent’ after Moscow’s illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.”

“There is still a window of opportunity for de-escalation and diplomacy, and the Prime Minister will continue to work tirelessly alongside our allies to get Russia to step back from the brink,” the No. 10 spokesman said. Johnson “will now focus on engagement” with the Nordic and Baltic countries and is getting daily briefings from security chiefs on the Russian military deployment.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is meanwhile launching daily “war councils,” with input from intelligence chiefs and senior diplomats from Britain’s embassies in Kyiv and Moscow, the *Telegraph* goes on. (Geographers reportedly will be added.) She will also travel to Europe this week and plans to give a keynote speech at the Munich Security Conference on Feb. 19, addressing the Ukraine security crisis’s broader implications for global security.

### **Unusual Weekend U.S. Military Activity over Europe**

Feb. 14—The density of U.S. military aviation activity spiked to unusual levels over the weekend far beyond the levels that had been seen on weekends until a week or two ago. From about 2:20 PM EST (19:20 GMT) on Sunday (Feb. 13), the following could be seen on flight tracking websites:

- A U.S. Air Force RC-135V that flew an intelligence mission over Ukraine
- At least 15 flights of C-17s flying between Fort Bragg and southeastern Poland in support of the deployment of 82nd Airborne troops.
- Two of the four B-52s that deployed to Fairford, England last week, took off in the evening and could be spotted off the coast of Portugal. One of them later landed in Spain but 19 hours later, the second bomber could be seen northbound in the same spot after having flown all the way across the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and back.
- At the same time that the B-52s were off the coast of Portugal, three KC-135 air refueling tankers were flying south over France, having departed from Mildenhall, England, possibly in support of the B-52 flights. They later recovered at Ramstein, Germany.

All of this extremely unusual activity, especially for a Sunday afternoon/overnight into Monday, and there was probably more than is reported here. According to one Twitter posting, there were a total of 10 intelligence/surveillance missions yesterday, including four by U.S. Navy P-8 patrol aircraft, the aforementioned RC-135V, a contractor-operated U.S. Army Artemis aircraft and Ukrainian drones. The surveillance activity is continuing today, with another RC-135V mission, this one around Kaliningrad and a Global Hawk drone over Ukraine.

Until the last couple of weeks, military flights over Europe on Sundays were limited to a few routine transport flights.

### **U.S. Cybersecurity Institutions Go on Alert**

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—Joining in the hysterical narrative of “a Russian invasion could happen at any time,” the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has issued an alert, called “**Shields Up**,” to all institutions considered part of the nation’s critical infrastructure, warning that “since Russian actors were responsible for the recent attacks on Ukrainian state websites, there is a heightened danger of cyber-attacks

(such as ransomware) against U.S. interests as tensions increase between Ukraine and Russia.”

An emergency national telephone conference call (rated “Unclassified”) was made today, jointly sponsored by the CISA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to brief interested parties and critical infrastructure partners regarding the urgency to begin assessing IT and other essential systems, and their incident response capabilities. They urged participants to implement mitigation actions now, not when cyber attacks begin. Their website emphasizes, “While there are not currently any specific credible threats to the U.S. homeland, we are mindful of the potential for the Russian government to consider escalating its destabilizing actions in ways that may impact others outside of Ukraine.

“Based on this situation, CISA has been working closely with our critical infrastructure partners over the past several months to ensure awareness of potential threats—part of a paradigm shift from being reactive to being proactive. CISA recommends all organizations—regardless of size—adopt a heightened posture when it comes to cybersecurity and protecting their most critical assets.”

More details are included under their bulletin, Alert (AA22-011A) “Understanding and Mitigating Russian State-Sponsored Cyber Threats to U.S. Critical Infrastructure.” CISA works closely with the White House, the FBI and Homeland Security.

### **No Health Care for Those Who Might Survive a Nuclear Strike**

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—With a look at the total lack of protection of human lives in a potential nuclear war, a new report by the International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, warns of a catastrophe to be expected by those who may have survived a nuclear strike. The immediate health response capacity to treat victims of a 100 kiloton airburst nuclear weapon detonation is minuscule, reported the EU Political Report last week. The report’s purpose is to demonstrate that the nuclear weapons’ powers are not prepared to care for civilian survivors of their nuclear war policies, and the obvious solution is to get rid of the nuclear weapons.

The report, “No Place To Hide: Nuclear Weapons and the Collapse of Health Care Systems,” looks at the consequences if just an average-sized nuclear weapon should be detonated over a major city such as Paris, Washington or New Delhi. Reacting to the report, Executive Director of ICAN Beatrice Fihn said: “The world was not ready to respond to a global pandemic. Our report shows that the nine countries that host nuclear weapons are even less ready to respond to a one small nuclear detonation. It would be a humanitarian disaster within seconds and the long-term health impact would be disastrous beyond the ability of any nation to effectively respond.”

The findings of the ICAN report for 10 major cities of nuclear weapons countries, or those that host nuclear weapons (e.g., Berlin) are terrifying:

- People within 4km in every direction from the 100 kiloton airburst nuclear weapon detonation point would suffer third-degree burns;
- ICU beds and burn care centers that survive the blast would be left to treat hundreds of thousands to over 1 million injured people, depending on the city;
- Medical infrastructure would be overwhelmed by many times more new patients in one city in just a second, than there were new COVID-19 patients in a day at the peak of COVID-19;
- As an example, in New Delhi, 50,000 beds would have to accommodate more than two and a half million injured people.

Of course, in any one city struck by just one 100 kt nuclear weapon, electricity, running water, sewerage would not be running, all functions on which medical intensively relies. Transportation would be greatly hampered in rubble-filled streets, and fuel would be unavailable, without power to pump gasoline—what gas is in the tank is what you have to run on.

## U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### Zelenskyy Invites Biden to Ukraine

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine put some pressure on the U.S./NATO “invasion tomorrow” propaganda campaign on Feb. 13 in his telephone discussion with U.S. President Joe Biden.

Zelenskyy invited Biden to come to Kiev for a visit, right away. That’s the Kyiv which Biden’s four stooges Sullivan, Blinken, Price and Kirby are all insisting will be invaded by Russian armed forces this week. The White House readout buried it, saying only “The two leaders agreed on the importance of continuing to pursue diplomacy and deterrence in response to Russia’s military buildup on Ukraine’s borders.” U.S. media buried it as well.

“We will stop any escalation towards Ukraine. The capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, and other cities of our state—Kharkiv and Lviv, Dnipro and Odesa—are safe and under reliable protection.” The [President of Ukraine](#) noted the steps taken by the United States and other partners who continue to provide Ukraine with effective support. “We feel it. And we hope that, among other things, it will help prevent the spread of panic,” said President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Zelenskyy’s website closed the readout with the President thanking Joseph Biden for his support and inviting Biden to visit, saying: “I am convinced that your arrival in Kyiv in the coming days, which are crucial for stabilizing the situation, will be a powerful signal and contribute to de-escalation.”

One might imagine Biden asking Zelenskyy, “what, are you some kind of comedian?” to which the Ukrainian President would have replied, “Yes, but not of the absurd.”

### World’s Biggest Meatpacker To Pay \$52.5 Million Settlement for Price-Fixing; Drive a Stake Through the Heart of Monopoly

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—On Feb. 3 the largest meatpacker in the world, JBS SA, a Brazilian-based company operating in 15 nations, said it has offered to

pay a settlement of \$52.5 million in a lawsuit brought against it and three other mega-meatpackers (Tyson Foods, Cargill and National Beef) by wholesale food distributor, Pacific Agri-Products. The lawsuit demands a much bigger claim, and the offer from JBS, or any defendant, must be approved by the U.S. District Court in Minnesota. The JBS offer admits no guilt, and conspicuously, it comes on top of prior settlements by JBS from July 2021, of \$12.7 million and \$24.5 million, in a lawsuit brought by an “indirect purchaser,” and direct purchasers, which are restaurants and restaurant suppliers.

Altogether, the Big Four packers control 80-90% of U.S. beef processing. The class-action complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, was almost word-for-word modeled on a similar case filed in 2015 by R-CALF USA, headed by CEO Bill Bullard, who has addressed two Schiller Institute conferences on the cattlemen’s fight. Since about 2015, the Big Four have been accused of price rigging and are fighting multiple court claims.

According to a Dec. 10, 2021, White House press release on “Dominant Meat Processing Companies” new data released on four of the biggest meat-processing companies operating in the U.S.—JBS, Tyson, Marfrig (National Beef), and Seaboard—show their combined gross profits have increased by more than 120% since before the pandemic, and their net income has surged by 500%. They have announced over \$1 billion in new dividends and stock buybacks, on top of the more than \$3 billion they paid out to shareholders since the pandemic began.

About 30 million head of beef are slaughtered in the U.S. each year, about 95,000 head per day. To put the \$52.5 million JBS settlement into perspective, that is roughly the profit the Big Four make on beef in one day. A drop in the bucket.

Starting about 2015, the Big Four packers began using a number of tricks, as stated in the Class Action Complaint, to manipulate the price paid to the beef producer by manipulating the “meat margin”—the difference in the price paid by the packer to the farm/rancher producer, compared to the

price charged by the packer when they sell the butchered meat to the wholesaler/retailer/consumer.

The first manipulation: Alternative Marketing Agreements (AMAs). An AMA is a private sales contract in which the Big Four Packers negotiate with individual beef producers. About 70% of all U.S. beef is sold using AMAs, which means only 25-30% of U.S. cattle are sold in a “Cash Pricing” competitive public market, thus very few buyers are involved, and, without the extra buyers, the “Cash Pricing” open market prices go down. The buyer-packers just pay less to the cattlemen producers. This helps pull the AMA contract prices down, and, thus, the Big Four monopolies can buy beef for lower prices across the board. Who else can the cattleman sell to?

The second manipulation is reduced slaughter volumes at the packers. The Big Four collude to manipulate a phony level of “Fake Demand.” When live beef prices paid to the farmer/rancher go up, the Big Four packers slow down the number of cattle they slaughter each day, sometimes even shut down one or more packing plants, thereby creating a back-up of live cattle in the farm/rancher feedlots. Thus, the deliberately increased number of cattle on the farms triggers the “Cash Prices” to go lower. When prices on the “Cash Market” go lower, then the Big Four packers start to buy cattle cheaper and negotiate AMA price contracts.

Packers buy cheap from producers and sell high to consumers. Thus, record profits.

### **John Durham’s Filings: Campaign Spying to Hacking White House Computers, Jake Sullivan Involved Neck-Deep**

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—The new element of U.S. Special Counsel John Durham’s latest court filing on Feb. 11 is that the team that spied on candidate Donald Trump on behalf of the DNC and Hillary Clinton, did not stop after they lost the election. They proceeded to spy on the White House, specifically hacking the servers for the Executive Office!

From Durham’s September 2021 court filing, it was known that Rodney Joffe, a tech executive, had spied on Trump’s home and office in 2016,

abusing a contract that he had regarding high-level government computers and “dedicated services.” Of note, Joffe had been reporting primarily to Jake Sullivan, then handler for Hillary Clinton’s campaign, on a project to manufacture a Trump-Russia link. (The actual “narrative” they created was pathetic, as the closest they came was to connect a travel agency the Trump campaign had used to a Russian bank, Alfa—but even that “link” was phony.) Sullivan reported to Clinton in October 2016: “This could be the most direct link yet between Donald Trump and Moscow” and this is what went out on her Oct. 31, 2016 tweet that went viral: “Donald Trump has a secret server. It was set up to communicate privately with a Putin-tied Russian bank called Alfa Bank.” Clinton added, “It’s time for Trump to answer serious questions about his ties to Russia.” Perhaps, today, Sullivan should answer some serious questions about the new “Russia-about-to-invade-Ukraine” narrative.

But the team did not disband. About three weeks after Trump moved into the White House, Sullivan met, on Feb. 10, 2017, with Dan Jones, John Podesta and two Fusion GPS operatives to institutionalize the “Resistance,” forming The Democracy Integrity Project (TDIP). Funded with \$7 million, presumably from Silicon Valley executives, they employed Fusion GPS, Christopher Steele and computer researchers, feeding their product to Senators Mark Warner and Ron Wyden of the Senate intelligence panel, and to select Beltway “journalists.” (Curiously, TDIP chooses to keep their donors anonymous, as their doing so evidently helps maintain the integrity of democracy. Regardless, George Soros is known to have put up no less than \$1 million.) Five years later, the word “Russia” provokes the same Pavlovian salivation that “LaRouche” does, amongst consumers of Anglo-American propaganda.

Durham’s Feb. 11, 2022 legal filing (and another on Jan. 25) add to the previous crimes, that of hacking into the White House. Joffe “had come to access and maintain dedicated services for the Executive Office of the president as ‘part of a sensitive arrangement, whereby it provided DNS [domain name system] resolution services.’ ” Durham wrote that Joffe “‘indicated that he was seeking to please certain ‘VIPs,’ referring to

individuals at Law-Firm-1 [Perkins Coie] and the Clinton campaign.” Joffe resigned from his Neustar Security Services company, based in Reston, Va., in September, when Durham’s indictment of Warren Sussman (lawyer for both the DNC and Joffe) was handed down. Joffe had been the 2013 winner of the FBI Director’s “Award for Cybersecurity.”

Finally, Durham’s recent filings reflect a tug-of-war with the DOJ’s Inspector General Michael Horowitz, with Durham belatedly receiving documents and records previously denied, or even whose existence was not disclosed. Durham reports he now has over 130,000 pages of FBI internal affairs case files (with 492,000 more yet to come) on the infamous “Crossfire Hurricane” operation. Perhaps, Jake Sullivan should resign his job and engage legal counsel—though he may be relying upon the fact that his wife, Maggie, had worked under the current Attorney General Merrick Garland.

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### Carbon Offset Speculation Adding 15-16% to U.K. Electric Bills

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—The speculative prices of a metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> on the carbon-offset markets in Europe is responsible, at least in the U.K., for directly adding more than 15% to all electric bills, over and above hyperinflationary fluctuations in the prices of carbon fuels, which are constant. The U.K. late January price of wholesale electricity produced with natural gas was a terrible 28 cents/kwh equivalent—and gas-fired electricity tends to set the price for all electricity because it is used to provide the required margin of power capacity for the entire generation/distribution system.

But given the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by a typical gas turbine plant—about 375 kg or 800 pounds per kwh—and the wild speculative price of \$113/ton equivalent on Britain’s own U.K. Emissions Trading System carbon market, the speculation is adding the equivalent of roughly 4.3 cents for every kilowatt-hour of electricity sold in the U.K.

## NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

### China Leads Africa Development Finance, U.S. Counters with Evidence Free Accusations

Feb. 14 (EIRNS)—The Center for Global Development has released a 30-page report examining investment of multilateral development banks (MDBs), e.g. World Bank, Africa Development Bank, in Africa during the last seven years. Using the 2015 launching of the World Bank’s “Billions to Trillions” program as a base, the CGD report concludes that Chinese development finance institutions (DFIs) “dominate” African infrastructure investments. “Chinese DFIs provided 2.5 times more finance from 2007-2020 than all other bilateral DFIs combined,” the report says. Even after the launch of the “billions to trillions” vision (the West’s answer to the Belt and Road Initiative) in 2015, “total MDB finance for such transactions averaged only \$1.4 billion per year from 2016-2020—a small increase from a very low base in earlier years of the period.” The leading MDB making investments during that period was not the World Bank, or America’s International Development Finance Corporation, but the stressed African Development Bank.

Clearly unable to bring itself to collaborate with the BRI, the Western response has increasingly turned to confrontationist fairytales. A growing “narrative”—with as much evidence as a fairytale—is the line that China is scheming to “build a naval base on the Atlantic,” somewhere on Africa’s west coast. According to a widely circulated report by think tanker Daniel Volman with African Security Research Project, the first surfacing of this line was by U.S. African Command (AFRICOM) Gen. Stephen Townsend at a Congressional hearing April 22, 2021, a copy of which is posted on the AFRICOM website. That charge was then included in the Nov. 3 report to Congress on “Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China,” which mentioned Angola, again with no evidence. A month later, the *Wall Street Journal* was told by “U.S. officials” that China had settled on New Guinea, and the word was out.

Two weeks ago, AFRICOM held its African Chiefs of Defense Summit (CHOD), the first of its kind since 2017, with 36 friendly CHODs fêted for a four-day holiday in Rome Jan. 31-Feb. 3. In a briefing to press afterwards, the normally tight-lipped General Townsend volunteered: “Another topic that we discussed is China’s role in the world ... where they’re exploiting our African partners.... And one area that concerns me is the Gulf of Guinea. The Chinese, I think, aspire to have a naval base in that area. And I think they aspire to have a maritime task force in that area, all for the purpose of preventing piracy and illegal fishing. But all the studies that I have seen say that the number one purveyor of illegal fishing in the Gulf of Guinea are Chinese fishing fleets.” All of his allegations were devoid of evidence.

Not wanting to be left out, George Shultz’s Hoover Institution seems to be attempting to inflate its own “China corruption” meme, holding two seminars under the inflammatory China Sharp Power in Africa banner last month. Featured papers/presentations described alleged offenses such as: Corruption of Chinese contractors in Mauritius and the construction industry in Zambia; environmental infractions in South Sudan’s oil industry; and over-fishing in the Gulf of Guinea.

Meanwhile China has already committed \$5 billion for an oil pipeline in Tanzania this year, and committed \$1 billion for the transformative Chivhu steel plant in Zimbabwe just before the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in October 2021.