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

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EDITORIAL

‘Never Nuclear War’ Declaration of Five Nuclear Weapons States Begins 2022, the Year of LaRouche

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—As the year 2022 opened marking economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche’s hundredth birthday, the heads of state and government of the five nuclear weapons states, which are also the permanent members of the UN Security Council, consulted as Helga Zepp-LaRouche has insisted they must do, and issued a declaration, for the first time, that “nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” The

words were used by Presidents Biden and Putin following their Dec. 7, 2021 video conference; and this declaration will now sit over the U.S.-Russia, NATO-Russia Council, and Russian-OSCE negotiations on the Ukraine crisis Jan. 10-13.

But the fundamental reason for optimism here is not so much the words of this declaration as that the five powers' leaders acted together against global war. Helga Zepp-LaRouche had publicly called on them to do exactly two years ago—Jan. 3, 2020, in the dangerous period after the assassination of the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani—and has urged it on them many times since. On [Jan. 15, 2020](#), two weeks after Helga LaRouche's first call, Russian President Putin called for a P5 heads-of-state summit to deal with problems of peace, security, and terrorism—and he, too, [repeated that proposal in Israel](#) at an event to commemorate 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on Jan. 23, 2020—and has raised it several times since; and his spokesman emphasized today that it is still necessary after this “nuclear war never” declaration.

Already by early March 2020, Helga LaRouche had identified the COVID pandemic—demanding a modern healthcare system be built in every country—as the new requirement for such a major-power summit. This must be done on an emergency basis in Afghanistan, along with food aid and power supply guarantees to save millions of lives. It is the start of, through physical-economic development, the real name for peace; and it points to a new international credit system like FDR's Bretton Woods, in place of the crash-prone casino we have now. These are the missions uniquely reachable through what Lyndon LaRouche called “the four-power agreement” of America, Russia, China and India. That makes today's “P5” declaration significant beyond its words.

The declaration was posted simultaneously at roughly 11:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time on all five Presidents'/Prime Ministers' websites. “We affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,” the statement says. “As nuclear use would have far-reaching consequences, we also affirm that nuclear weapons—for as long as they continue to exist—should

serve defensive purposes, deter aggression, and prevent war. We believe strongly that the further spread of such weapons must be prevented.” This rebukes those mad war-hawks like Sen. Roger Wicker who have been raising the “option” of a nuclear first strike on Russia over Ukraine.

The five signers also reaffirm the importance of addressing nuclear threats, as well as their commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its obligation “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date.” They “reaffirm that none of our nuclear weapons are targeted at each other or at any other State.”

They also declared: “We intend to continue seeking bilateral and multilateral diplomatic approaches to avoid military confrontations, strengthen stability and predictability, increase mutual understanding and confidence, and prevent an arms race that would benefit none and endanger all. We are resolved to pursue constructive dialogue with mutual respect and acknowledgment of each other’s security interests and concerns.”

Russia’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, “We hope that, in the current difficult conditions of international security, the approval of such a political statement will help reduce the level of international tensions.” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasized that Moscow still considered a summit between the world’s major nuclear powers to be “necessary.” China’s Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu was quoted by the official Xinhua that the pledge “will help increase mutual trust and replace competition among major powers with coordination and cooperation.”

But it is only a step that these nations’ leaders must be kept to. The trans-Atlantic banking and financial system is headed for hyperinflation and crash. What the world absolutely needs is a major-power negotiation process which involves at least India as well, to launch a new international credit system capable of funding real economic development, “TVA-like” thorough development of poorer regions, advanced nuclear power development, technological progress led by space science and fusion power

crash programs. The guide and planner of this process, and the world's leading fighter for it, was Lyndon LaRouche. This begins LaRouche's year.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday January 4, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

China-Russia Relationship Frightens the Trans-Atlantic War Party

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—The *Wall Street Journal* posted an article yesterday ringing the alarm bells over the threat of a China-Russia military alignment supposedly poses to the United States, under a headline that reads “[China and Russia Military Cooperation Raises Prospect of New Challenge to American Power](#)” with a kicker, “Joint military exercises and technology sharing are seen as tools in to limit U.S. might abroad.” Western officials and defense experts, all unnamed with one exception, are growing more convinced of the closer relationship based on recent economic alliances, military exercises and joint defense development, as well as the few public statements from government leaders, the *Journal* reports. “They are distinct threats. But they are now interrelated because of the collaboration,” said Michael Kofman, a frequently quoted Russia expert residing at the Virginia-based CNA think tank. According to the *Journal*, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ONI) “reported that Beijing and Moscow are now more closely aligned than at any point in the past 60 years.”

The *Journal* cites a number of reasons why Russia and China are unlikely to develop a NATO-like military alliance—including a caution from an unnamed White House official that one shouldn't read too much in to it—but then complains that U.S. steps to contain the two countries have driven them into a marriage of convenience, giving the previously contentious rivals an incentive to marshal resources and intelligence against a common adversary, according to analysts and U.S. officials. China and

Russia are eager to restrain U.S. influence as well as its military and financial potency, which they believe more likely if they work in tandem, according to analysts.

The *Journal* also dangles the hope of splitting Russia from China. Areas of disharmony between China and Russia tantalize U.S. officials with the possibility of driving a wedge between the two countries, analysts said. One idea to divide the two countries is for the U.S. to soften its approach to Russia and draw Moscow away from Beijing. But such a strategy remains embryonic, according to analysts, especially when the U.S. appears disinclined to offer the kind of political and economic incentives that would persuade Mr. Putin to loosen ties with Mr. Xi. But it won't work. "You're never going to convince Russia they should make an enemy of a powerful country like China," Kofman said.

Tony Blair's Knighthood Draws Widespread Backlash in U.K.

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—A petition on Change.org, demanding that Queen Elizabeth rescind the knighthood she conferred on Tony Blair on Jan. 1 has already gathered 350,000 signatures in the two days since. There is a strong resistance in the U.K. to allowing this outrage, in which a man—former Prime Minister or not—whom millions of Britons regard as a murderer and liar, who should be tried at The Hague International Criminal Court, is instead rewarded by the royal family and Privy Council whose agent he is. It has been called "a kick in the teeth" to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, given Blair's central role in the development and spread of lies of state used to start the regime change-wars there.

Blair was made Sir Anthony of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the "highest" knighthood available to the Malthusian and anti-human British royals and therefore the recognition of the greatest "service" to them. Ironically Elizabeth conferred the same "honour" on her daughter-in-law Camilla, Duchess of Cambridge (Prince Charles's second wife, and his mistress when he was married to Princess Diana) at the same time.

According to the *Daily Mail* Jan. 3, the petition leaders were aiming for 500,000 signatures. It quotes Lindsey German, convenor of the Stop the

War Coalition, linking the outrage against this to the humanitarian disasters in Afghanistan and Iraq. German told LBC radio, “I think it’s pretty incredible given that this year, we’ve seen the collapse of Afghanistan, which [was] Tony Blair’s first major war in the war on terror. We have 8 million people on the edge of starvation in Afghanistan now. We have Iraq in a terrible state now, nearly 20 years after the invasion. And I think it’s a kick in the teeth for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, and a kick in the teeth for all the people who protested against the war in Iraq and who have been proved right.”

There are many other attacks on this atrocity quoted in the *Daily Mail* and in a *Guardian* story today. The only defense being offered is that all former prime ministers are “customarily” made Knights of the Garter “for their service.” To the monarchy and Privy Council, no one else.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Biden Promises Zelenskyy a ‘Decisive U.S. Response’ if Russia Invades Ukraine

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—President Joe Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Jan. 2 that the U.S. and its allies “will respond decisively” if Russia invades the Donbas region in southeastern Ukraine.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in her statement that both leaders “expressed support for diplomatic efforts,” but that “the U.S. and its allies and partners will respond decisively if Russia further invades Ukraine.” Psaki referred to ongoing diplomatic efforts, including the bilateral Strategic Stability Dialogue between the U.S. and Russia, and discussions through the NATO-Russia Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She reiterated Biden’s commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and Biden’s committing America and its partners and allies to the principle of “nothing about you without you.” One wonders if this news-speak rhyming can be made to work in Ukrainian, but Zelenskyy as an actor must have spoken inanities like it.

Psaki reported that President Biden in his discussion with President Zelenskyy “expressed support for confidence-building measures to de-escalate tensions in Donbas,” as well as the Normandy Format talks among Russia, Ukraine, Germany, and France, which took place in 2014 in an effort to organize a ceasefire in the war that broke out between the putschist government in Kiev and the breakaway areas in the Donbas bordering Russia. Significantly, the Normandy four could negotiate without interference from Washington or London.

Biden has had two in-depth conversations—a videoconference on Dec. 7 and a 50-minute phone call on Dec. 31—with Russian President Vladimir Putin, aimed at preventing the tensions heated up against Russia and China by the U.S. and NATO war-hawks from degenerating into a full-scale nuclear holocaust. The White House readout, reports that Biden warned Putin of severe sanctions if Russia invaded Ukraine, while Putin warned that such sanctions would be a “colossal mistake.” On Dec. 31, Biden told reporters about his latest phone call with Putin: “I made it clear to President Putin that if he makes any more moves; if he goes into Ukraine, we will have severe sanctions. We will increase our presence in Europe with our NATO allies. There will be a heavy price to pay for it.”

Did Biden Bring Up This American Citizen Jailed in Ukraine in Call with Zelenskyy?

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—While U.S. President Joe Biden was assuring Ukrainian President Zelenskyy of total U.S. support against Russia in their Jan. 2 call, an American citizen, Kurt Groszhans, has been jailed in Ukraine reportedly at the behest of Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Roman Leshchenko. Yet Biden, whose strong concerns about official corruption in Ukraine have been registered many times in the past, does not appear to have brought up Groszhans’ case.

While the case certainly cannot be settled in this report, it seems clear that Groszhans, a North Dakota farmer who came to Ukraine in 2018 to grow crops and hired Leshchenko to direct his business, brought suit against Leshchenko in a dispute of partners, hoping for a case in American

courts. And according to the *Kyiv Post* of Jan. 28, 2021, Leshchenko, having just then become Agriculture Minister, “said that the American ... has committed a much worse crime and he will see him jailed for it.” Subsequently, that is exactly what happened: Groszhans was jailed in Ukraine in mid-November 2021. His sisters in North Dakota have had no communication from him since then, and have gone to the state’s U.S. Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven. He has no lawyer and the U.S. Embassy is apparently getting to see him only every 60 days. Yet the White House readout of Biden’s call to Zelenskyy said nothing about any inquiry about Groszhans, by name or implication.

The Ukrainian government has been repeatedly reproached for corruption by the European Union, the U.S. State Department, and even NATO; and been the subject of protests from the Israeli government for allowing neo-Nazi marches and demonstrations, and praising Nazi collaborators as “heroes.”

Can the United States send large volumes of lethal arms and battlefield systems to Ukraine and pledge undying support to it, while an American citizen has disappeared into its jails after public threats from a member of Zelenskyy’s cabinet? Will Groszhans’ case even be raised by the State Department, having apparently been ignored by Presidents Biden and Zelenskyy? How low can double standards go?

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

WHO’s Dr. Tedros States, 185 Days to Global 70% Vaccination Starts Today

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—At his year-end press conference, Dec. 29, World Health Organization Director General [Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#) sought to unite forces to push to the target of 70% vaccination level—still a reachable goal. Speaking from the new WHO hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, based in Berlin, he said, “This is the moment for leaders to banish the politics of populism and self-interest, which are derailing the

COVID-19 response and threatening to undermine the response to the inevitable next disease.”

While most of the “developed” countries have already reached an approximation of that 70% level, a majority of the “undeveloped” world has not. The entirety of the continent of Africa is not even 10% vaccinated, with a few small tourist-attraction island-nations being the rare exception. Nigeria, Africa’s most-populated nation, is running about 3%, and like many others, is being submerged by the fourth wave of pandemic.

In September, the WHO started a drive to vaccinate 40% of Africa by year’s end, a target which BBC was quick to notice on Dec. 31 that only seven of the countries were able to reach. As of Jan. 3, 2022, confirmed cases of COVID-19 from 55 African countries reached almost 10 million, at 9,775,425, according to WHO figures, with deaths just over 228,000, with 40% being from South Africa, alone.

While access to vaccines—vaccine apartheid—is a problem, the challenges to meeting Tedros’s stated goal go beyond that, to the level addressed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in her Global Health initiative of the Schiller Institute. To provide for the health of the millions in Nigeria, Haiti and Afghanistan (to name but a few), the strategy must start with basic infrastructure: potable water, decent sanitation, hospitals, and the dependable power supply to run them all, including the refrigeration necessary for storing vaccines, blood products and medications.

“While 2021 has been hard,” Tedros said, according to coverage in Nigeria’s *Premium Times*. “I ask everyone to make a New Year’s resolution to get behind the campaign to vaccinate 70% by the middle of 2022. We have 185 days to finish the line of achieving 70% by the start of July 2022, and the clock starts now. If we drive this campaign together, we will all be in a much better place by this time next year.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Turkish Inflation Hits 36.08%, as Lira Suffers Worst Losses in 20 Years

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—Annual consumer price inflation in Turkey reached an annual rate of 36.08% in December, up from 21% in November, according to *Hurriyet Daily News*, citing the Turkish Statistical Office, surpassing the former projection of 27% annually for January. The Turkish lira has also suffered the greatest losses in 20 years, covering all the time President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) have ruled Turkey. According to the Greek daily *Kathimerini* the lira lost 44% of its value against the dollar over 2021 and 19% in the last week alone.

The loss occurred despite Erdogan's "new economic program" which is theoretically aimed at bringing inflation down to 5% and is focused on exports and credit expansion through cutting interest rates. In an obvious effort to preserve hard currency holdings, Erdogan unveiled a scheme two weeks ago in which the state protects converted local deposits from losses versus hard currencies. It initially sparked a sharp 50% rally in the lira, with support from the central bank. Furthermore on Dec. 31, Erdogan called on Turks to keep all their savings in liras and shift gold into banks, claiming that the market volatility was largely under control.

His remarks apparently did not impress the business circles or the "market" and the lira has weakened further to 13.4 to the dollar. In January 2021 the rate was around 7.5 to the dollar. Furthermore, while Finance Minister Nureddin Nebati said earlier in the week that Turks' dollar holdings have fallen, the official data showed local holdings of hard currencies, which includes companies, soared to a record \$238.97 billion last week. At the same time the central bank's net foreign currency holdings plunged to a low of nearly two decades of \$8.63 billion, which follows the central bank spending \$2 billion to support the lira through five interventions in December alone.

It seems Erdogan wants it both ways, cutting interest rates to keep the economy from total collapse, but not introducing real capital controls.

Turkish companies are very dependent on foreign currency loans, while many households' mortgages are pegged to the dollar or the euro. High inflation and collapse of the lira skyrockets the cost of servicing mortgages. More generally, the high inflation affects prices for food and basic essentials. In addition, as of Jan. 1, 2022, the natural gas price increased by 25% for households, 15% for power plants, and 50% for businesses; and electricity prices increased by between 52% and 130% for households if they use more than 150 KWh/month, which is very little.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NASA Extends Planned International Space Station's Life, Including Russia Partnership

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—The Biden Administration is extending the planned occupation and use of the International Space Station (ISS) to 2030, instead of the previous retirement date of 2024, and the extension includes the key partnership of the ISS's history, that with Russia. This is despite the fact that Roscosmos Director General Dmitry Rogozin had said Russia would withdraw from the station in 2025 when NASA did under its previous plan.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson announced today a commitment to extend ISS operations through 2030, “and to work with our international partners in Europe (ESA, European Space Agency), Japan (JAXA, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), Canada (CSA, Canadian Space Agency), and Russia (State Space Corporation Roscosmos) to enable continuation of the groundbreaking research being conducted in this unique orbiting laboratory through the rest of this decade.

“The International Space Station is a beacon of peaceful international scientific collaboration,” Nelson said, “and for more than 20 years has returned enormous scientific, educational, and technological developments to benefit humanity. I’m pleased that the Biden-Harris Administration has committed to continuing station operations through 2030. The United States’ continued participation on the ISS will enhance innovation and competitiveness, as well as advance the research and technology necessary

to send the first woman and first person of color to the Moon under NASA's Artemis program, and pave the way for sending the first humans to Mars. As more and more nations are active in space, it's more important than ever that the United States continues to lead the world in growing international alliances and modeling rules and norms for the peaceful and responsible use of space."

GREEN 'GREAT RESET'

Green Cut-Off of Investment To Make Oil, Coal, Even Gas Scarce

Jan. 3 (EIRNS)—Worldwide investment in developing the “liquid” fossil fuels, as already reported in *EIR*, has been driven down by more than half since 2016, from approximately \$800 billion/year to \$500 billion in 2019 and to just \$350 billion projected as the total for 2021; while coal investment is a battle between Green New Deal finance and national resistance, strongest now in China and the United States. Now a report just issued by the English-language business website Quartz reports the next shoe has fallen: Discoveries of oil and gas have dropped to their lowest level in 75 years. Those totaled 20 billion barrels of oil equivalent in 2016, but have not been above 15 billion since, and in 2021 look like just 4.7 billion barrels equivalent. That is the lowest worldwide amount since 1946.

The report, partly sourced to Rystad Energy, says that capital expenditure commitments in the oil and gas industries are now “scarce” both for new exploration and for new investment in existing fields, which tend to lose about 7% of production annually without such new investment. Total worldwide production of these “liquid” petrochemicals has already fallen by about 8%.

Coal production for electric power, however, has risen in 2021 by about 9%, as unhappily reported by the British/Davos-dominated International Energy Agency. This increase is accounted for by China, the United States, and to a smaller extent Russia, all in defiance of the Green New Dealers and FLOP26. Coal power has jumped from 15% to 27% of all U.S.

electricity production. But it is in China where economic progress was really prioritized not only to provide more coal power but to lower its price.

In October, facing an early cold weather snap and serious power shortages caused by coal shortages, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NRDC), according to a detailed account in *Global Times* Dec. 27, "rolled out 16 policies papers in just eight days to ensure coal supplies, ramp up coal production and crack down on coal prices. The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council ... held three meetings in two days addressing the same matter. Starting from October 19, the NDRC issued guidelines to guide coal prices to return to a reasonable level. Multiple inspection teams were dispatched to cities and ports across China to oversee the campaign on the ground. By October 21, major coal producers had openly pledged to strictly observe a price ceiling for thermal coal and ensure coal supplies." The account repeatedly emphasizes that China was caught in the process of downsizing coal production, just before Glasgow FLOP26, and immediately reversed that. "Five mines under [the firm] SCCG that were originally downsizing also rapidly intensified trial operations, while relevant mining licenses were still in the process of being applied and some infrastructure work still underway, to ensure the enough coal could be dug out from the mines, and that the output could timely fill up gaps in the inventories as they are shipped away and the chain of supply and demand could be sustained and stabilized." The government succeeded by regulatory action in putting price curbs on coal while production was ramped up. There is no longer a shortage, or power shortages, in the economy.

The article was headlined "[Amid Global Energy Crunch, China's Economic System Prevails Again.](#)"