

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

**Celebrating Independence from the British Empire—Hong Kong's 25th Anniversary, United States' 246th Anniversary**

June 30 (EIRNS)—On July 1, 1997 Hong Kong became free of being a colony of Britain, after over a hundred years, and became an independent part (Special Administrative Region) of the People's Republic of China. President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan are visiting Hong Kong for a two-day gala celebration of this 25th anniversary and what independence means.

In the United States, this Fourth of July weekend is the 246th anniversary of its enactment of the Declaration of Independence. However, the Biden Administration continues the U.S. subservience of recent years to the British empire, in the form of Global NATO and the dying financial system of the City of London/Wall Street.

The meaning of the original American Declaration of Independence, and what it signifies universally today, will be celebrated this weekend at a special international Schiller Institute webcast, held Sunday, July 3, at 1 p.m. EDT, 17:00 UTC, 7 p.m. CET. Speakers will be the founder of the Schiller Institute Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and Diane Sare, the LaRouche Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York. This event is a call to action for independence from the war threat, and from economic breakdown, through a replacement—a “New Bretton Woods”—for the destructive financial/economic system propelling the conflict and destruction. The event is titled, “[This July 4, Declare for a New Bretton Woods!](#)”

A call for an “[Ad-Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods System](#)” was issued as an international Schiller Institute petition this week by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, with a hundred international signers, and is now circulating for thousands more.

Zepp-LaRouche explained the purpose of this today in her weekly webcast dialogue: “There are many people who are extremely concerned about the danger of a Third World War, and given the fact that the danger is increasing, really, by the day, as we could see by the recent NATO meeting in Madrid, but most people just are against the war, but they’re not really looking at what is the cause for this increased war danger. And it is the fact that the neoliberal system is collapsing: As a matter of fact, it has been collapsing for a very long time. But now it has entered its final, hyperinflationary phase, and the entire trans-Atlantic sector is comparable in this situation with Weimar Germany in the summer of 1923. That’s why we need to take action before you have either a hyperinflationary blowout of the system, or, if the central banks are increasing the interest rates, you could have a chain-reaction collapse, and that would increase the war danger dramatically.

“So, therefore, we are calling for a New Bretton Woods, a committee to organize such a system which must take immediate emergency measures to completely reorganize this bankrupt, trans-Atlantic, neoliberal system. And given the fact that there is a historic precedent which could be used, we are calling it a New Bretton Woods system, because if you go to the initial intention of Franklin D. Roosevelt, what he wanted the Bretton Woods system to become, which it never, unfortunately did, because he died, and then Churchill and Truman designed the Bretton Woods, which is why many people think it was not such a great thing. But if you look at the intent of Roosevelt, he wanted to create a credit system which would overcome colonialism, and end the poverty in the third world by increasing the living standard, especially of the developing countries.

“This is urgently needed, because we have 1.7 billion people who are in danger of starvation. We have, still, 2 billion people who are without clean water, and I could add that there is no modern health system in most countries, and so forth.”

In Hong Kong today, President Xi spoke of the great benefits ahead for Hong Kong and all concerned, under the “One Country, Two Systems”

relationship. His itinerary was marked by great festivities, from the police brass band at arrival by high-speed train, to fireworks, and a visit to the Hong Kong science park. He will attend the inauguration of the new chief executive of Hong Kong, John Lee, on July 1.

The spirit of independence was echoed today by Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a pre-recorded video address to the [10th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum](#). Denouncing the “rule of law” jargon of nations imposing their arbitrary will, Putin said that the new multipolar world coming into being “speaks for the practical realization of the pivotal international legal principle of the sovereign equality of states and the right of each state to pursue its own development model.” All problems can be solved under this principle.

The concept involved was included yesterday in the final communiqué of the Sixth Annual Caspian Sea Summit, which stated adherence to “the principles and norms of the United Nations Charter and international law,” by the five Caspian Sea nations—Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Iran. Meeting in Ashgabat, they discussed concrete mutual-interest projects including oil and gas, and the planned International North-South Transport Corridor, a 7,200-km transport artery from St. Petersburg to ports in Iran and India.

In contrast to the momentum these events of independence embody, today’s conclusion of the NATO Summit in Madrid featured still more pledges of military aid to Ukraine, military buildup in the Pacific, and opposition to Russia and China in Africa and Southwest Asia, for their alleged “coercive economic leverage.” In reality, the economic resources and means don’t exist in the Trans-Atlantic, to fulfill their crazed weaponry pledges. Every sector in Europe and the United States and Canada, from transportation, to power and fuel, to agriculture and health care, are sinking into dysfunction and chaos.

This is the time for the mobilization to succeed for a long-overdue new system. Sign the [petition](#), spread the word.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday July 1, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### New Appeal for Ceasefire Negotiation in Ukraine Published in German Daily *Die Zeit*

June 30 (EIRNS)—A list of 21 prominent Germans and two international signers, Richard Falk and Jeffrey Sachs, published in today's issue of the German daily *Die Zeit* a new appeal to Western governments for an all-out and immediate effort to achieve a quick, negotiated solution to the Ukraine conflict. Among the German signers is Gen. Erich Vad (ret.), former military advisor to Angela Merkel. An immediate reaction from Ukrainian Ambassador to Berlin Andriy Melnyk followed.

The signers call for a “diplomatic full-scale offensive” as the only way to get out of “the present dead-end,” referring to military experts, who consider victory for Ukraine—with a return of all allegedly occupied territories including Donetsk, Lugansk, and Crimea—unrealistic. They question continuing weapons deliveries, and demand, “An Immediate Ceasefire,” in the title of their call. “Continuing the war to achieve full victory of Ukraine over Russia leads to thousands of further victims of war, who die for a goal that does not seem realistic.”

In an immediate reaction to this, Ukrainian Ambassador and attack-dog in Berlin, Andriy Melnyk, had a fit on Twitter, referring to some of the signers: “Not again, what a bunch of pseudo-intellectual losers you all Varwicks, Vads, Kluges, Prechts, Yogeshwars, Zehs & Co. should finally go to Hell with your defeatist ‘advice’. Bye. Andriy Melnyk to Augstein, Precht and Co.: *Schert Euch zum Teufel!*”

The letter was signed by Jakob Augstein (publicist), Richard A. Falk (professor of international law), Svenja Flaßpöhler (philosopher), Thomas Glauben (professor of agricultural economics), Josef Haslinger (writer), Elisa Hoven (professor of criminal law), Alexander Kluge (filmmaker and

author), Christoph Menke (professor of philosophy), Wolfgang Merkel (professor of political science), Julian Nida-Rümelin (philosopher), Robert Pfaller (philosopher), Richard D. Precht (philosopher), Jeffrey Sachs (professor of economics), Michael von der Schulenburg (former UN diplomat), Edgar Selge (actor), Ilija Trojanow (writer), General (ret.) Erich Vad (former military advisor to Angela Merkel), Johannes Varwick (professor of international politics), Harald Welzer (social psychologist), Ranga Yogeshwar (science journalist), and Juli Zeh (writer).

### **Stoltenberg and Biden Pledge ‘Unprecedented Support’ To Kiev, as NATO Summit Wraps Up**

June 30 (EIRNS)—The Madrid Summit of NATO ended today with a final session of the North Atlantic Council. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters in the press conference afterwards that the leaders of the alliance concerned themselves with threats from Africa and Southwest Asia. “Insecurity in these regions has a direct impact on the security of all Allies,” he said.

“We also addressed the global food crisis, which is a direct result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine,” Stoltenberg went on, clearly ruling out any other possibilities. “So Allies discussed their efforts to mitigate the crisis, and get grain out of Ukraine, by land and on sea. We also addressed how Russia and China continue to seek political, economic, and military gain across our southern neighborhood. Both Moscow and Beijing are using economic leverage, coercion, and hybrid approaches to advance their interests in the region.”

Responding to a question whether “the world [has] entered into an era that is even more dangerous than the Cold War?” Stoltenberg claimed that the measures NATO is taking are actually to prevent a bigger war. “Because if this becomes a full-scale war between Russia and NATO, then we’ll see suffering, damage, death, destruction at a scale which is much, much worse than what we see in Ukraine today. Therefore, NATO fundamentally has two tasks. One is to provide support to Ukraine. NATO and NATO Allies provide unprecedented support to Ukraine. ... But we

also have a core responsibility, of course, to prevent escalation beyond Ukraine. That's the reason why NATO is not part of the conflict on the ground."

President Joe Biden held a press conference, in which he said the U.S. would take steps to send another \$800 million worth of security aid to Ukraine. With many glaring word mistakes, he answered questions, asserting, for example, that last year's Build Back Better has now evolved into the International Global Infrastructure Partnership, and other airy fairy stories.

### **U.S. Intelligence Director Haines Doesn't See Chance for Peaceful Ukraine Agreement**

June 30 (EIRNS)—Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, during the "[Leadership and Service Forum](#)" co-hosted yesterday by Google and Silverado Policy Accelerator in Washington, reported that U.S. intelligence had considered three possible scenarios for the conflict in Ukraine. The most likely one is a grinding war in which Russia makes "incremental gains, with no breakthrough," reported RT. Another scenario involves Russia succeeding in crushing one of Ukraine's "most capable and well-equipped forces" in the east, leading to "a slump in the Ukrainian resistance." The third possibility involves Ukraine managing to stabilize the front line, and possibly achieving minor gains in Kherson Region, which is currently dominated by Russian forces. "We also, to be clear, don't see right now an opportunity for both sides to come to a peaceful agreement," said Haines.

Haines said her agency continues to believe that Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to capture "most of Ukraine," but that Moscow's forces have been degraded by four months of fighting in Ukraine. "We perceive a disconnect between Putin's near-term military objectives in this area and his military's capacity, a kind of mismatch between his ambitions and what the military is able to accomplish," she said. Competent strategists will perceive a disconnect between Haines's assessment and reality.

## **Russian Forces Withdraw from Snake Island, Russians Start Grain Exports from Berdyansk, Ukraine**

June 30 (EIRNS)—The Russian Defense Ministry announced today that Russian forces have been withdrawn from Snake Island in the Black Sea, explaining: “The Russian Federation has demonstrated to the international society the absence of any obstacles to the UN efforts to establish a humanitarian corridor for transporting agricultural products from Ukraine,” said Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov in his update today. “This decision will not let Kiev indulge in insinuations over an impending food crisis or argue it is impossible to export grain due to Russia's total control of the northwestern part of the Black Sea, The ball is now in Kiev’s court. To this day Ukraine has done nothing to clear the Black Sea near its shores, including seaports’ areas, of naval mines,” TASS quoted him as saying.

Moscow also announced today that a Russian vessel departed the Ukraine port of Berdyansk, west of Mariupol, today, loaded with grain for a friendly country. On June 9, Russia had announced that the ports of Berdyansk and Mariupol were ready for action.

Within minutes of the Russian announcement about departing Snake Island, media in Kiev, BBC, etc., claimed a great Ukrainian victory over Russia. “KABOOM!” tweeted Zelenskyy adviser Andriy Yermak.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg gave a very mixed, almost contradictory response to the Russian announcement, first saying “to convey the message that contrary to what President Putin and actually also China now are telling the world through different disinformation campaigns, that this food crisis is not caused by NATO sanctions. It is caused by President Putin's war. The best way to end the food crisis is to end the war. President Putin can end the war tomorrow by withdrawing his forces.” Then that “other countries, also updated us on their efforts to expand their on land capacity by railway to transport more food on land. It’s very hard to compensate fully what we can transport by ships, but on land is also a way and several NATO Allies are engaged in that. And of

course, the most—NATO’s role is to protect and defend Allies, to ensure and to create the space for them to operate and that’s what we do.”

## COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

### Fed Chairman Powell Vows To Keep Raising Interest Rates, Recession Be Damned

June 30 (EIRNS)—Speaking yesterday at the European Central Bank’s annual economic policy conference in Portugal, Federal Reserve System Chairman Jerome Powell vowed to keep raising interest rates even if it means risking an economic recession, the *Wall Street Journal* quoted him as saying. Ignoring the actual causes of inflation and the solution—Glass-Steagall, bankruptcy reorganization—Powell insisted that “the bigger mistake to make ... would be to fail to restore price stability.” The Fed doesn’t have the luxury of raising rates slowly, he warned. “There’s a clock running here,” and “there’s no guarantee of a more benign outcome.... The process is highly likely to involve some pain, but the worse pain would be in failing to address this high inflation and allowing it to become persistent.”

Bill Dudley, former president of the all-powerful Federal Reserve Bank of New York, wrote in his June 22 Bloomberg column that recession is “inevitable” within 12 to 18 months. “If you’re still holding out hope that the Federal Reserve will be able to engineer a soft landing in the U.S. economy, abandon it,” he warned. Dudley told Bloomberg Surveillance on May 11 that the Fed should stop “sugarcoating” how high interest rates could go, saying: “I think it’s 4 to 5 (percent) or higher,” Dudley said on how high the Fed should raise interest rates to cool price pressures. “I was [thinking] 3 to 4 (percent) maybe six months ago. Now I’m 4 to 5 and it wouldn’t shock me if I’m 5 to 6 a few months from now.”

Dudley asserts that the Fed has entirely shifted its focus from supporting economic activity to pushing inflation back down to its 2% goal, so everything is now subservient to that inflation mandate. The new focus on price stability “will be relentless,” he warns. Fed officials recognize that

failing to bring inflation back down would be “disastrous,” Dudley insists. It’s better to act now, therefore, regardless of the cost in jobs and growth. “Much like Wile E. Coyote heading off a cliff, the U.S. economy has plenty of momentum but rapidly disappearing support. Falling back to Earth will not be a pleasant experience.”

## GREEN GREAT RESET

### **Dutch ‘Nitrogen Bomb Explodes,’ as Farmers Hit the Streets Against Green Deal**

June 30 (EIRNS)—“The Nitrogen Bomb Explodes in The Netherlands” is the headline of the *Gazet van Antwerpen*, Belgium, referring to the social explosion underway against the Dutch government’s policy of drastically cutting agriculture, especially livestock, under the green excuse of cutting nitrogen emissions and run-off, to save the planet. This week, Dutch farmers have protested by putting hay bales on the highways, hosing manure on roadways, and letting cattle loose at Parliament. Belgian farmers, like the Dutch, are persecuted for heresy by the Mother Earth Inquisition that has captured EU climate policy. Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte issued with a complaint against the farmers’ protests from the NATO Summit in Madrid.

Nevertheless, the lawmakers and the Rutte government are going ahead with orders that all districts in Holland must say by year end, how they will meet the goal of a 50% reduction in agriculture nitrogenous emissions by 2030, which is part of the EU Green Deal Farm-to-Fork policy issued in May 2020, that will cut food for millions of people.

Farmers have essentially received a death sentence, as have people who eat, but the farmers, at least, are in an uproar. On June 22, some 40,000-60,000 farmers gathered in the center of the Netherlands to protest against Amsterdam’s nitrogen plan, targeted to comply with EU rules on reducing so-called nitrogen pollution, which would require cuts of as much as 95% in emissions in some provinces, and force huge farm closures. Farmers from Belgium also came, since they, too, have their backs against the wall.

The Dutch ruling coalition wants to cut so-called emissions “pollutants,” predominantly nitrogen oxide and ammonia, by 50% by 2030. Since fertilizer releases nitrogen oxide, and livestock urine and feces release ammonia—taking out of the equation various sophisticated non-solutions—half the nation’s farms will have to shut down, and food production halved.

No wonder that one week later, the farmers are back, slowing down traffic, and demonstrating near the home of the “nitrogen minister”—the Nature Conservation and Nitrogen Policy Minister—dismantling a police car blocking the tractors.

The Netherlands is one of the world’s largest agricultural producers for export, exporting €65 billion worth of vegetables, fruit, flowers, meat, and dairy products each year. Since climate experts have demonstrated the climate hoax cooked up by the Malthusian Davos billionaires, who need huge increases in energy prices and decreases in population to keep their financial bubbles from popping, these catastrophic restrictions on agriculture must be stopped now.

### **German Government Reopens Old Coal Plants**

June 30 (EIRNS)—A government bill to reopen old German coal plants will be voted on at the Bundesrat upper house on July 8, three days before the planned shutoff of Nord Stream 1 for maintenance work. The work is scheduled to continue for 10 days, but apparently Berlin fears that Gazprom will repay a co-belligerent nation with the same coin.

Reopening old coal power plants should make it possible to continue storing gas for the winter during the summer, said Green Economics Minister Robert Habeck on June 30 at a *Süddeutsche Zeitung* conference. He stated, “Hence the law to start coal-fired power plants at the moment when maintenance work on Nord Stream 1 begins.”

### **Angry Protesters in Germany: ‘Greens to the Eastern Front!’**

June 30 (EIRNS)—German Economics Minister Robert Habeck (Greens) has publicly promised state aid for seamless continued operation of the PCK oil refinery in Schwedt after the embargo on oil from Russia. And this

until “the thing is running economically. Then the state can withdraw again,” assured Habeck, who spoke to around 4,000 people at a rally in Schwedt on June 29, amid jeers. Protesters brandished a sign reading “Greens to the Eastern Front” and marking the Greens as the pro-war party. A local alliance organized the rally, one of the largest in the Uckermark region since 1990. The mining and energy trade union, local politicians, the Social Democrats, and the Left sought participation, as did the AfD

The wind is blowing in Habeck’s face. The mood in the region, one of the poorest in Germany with very high, chronic unemployment, is justifiably heated. The PCK refinery is one of the last industrial sites remaining in this formerly East German region before 1989.

## NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

### **Xi Jinping in Hong Kong To Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Its Return to China from British Empire**

June 30 (EIRNS)—Chinese President Xi Jinping spent the first of a two-day visit to Hong Kong today to help its citizens celebrate the momentous 25th anniversary of July 1, 1997, the date on which the Britain Empire returned Hong Kong to China. Imperial Britain occupied Hong Kong on July 25, 1841, during the Opium War and following China’s defeat, it was forced to cede the territory to Britain in the Treaty of Nanking on Aug. 29, 1842. The anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to China carries great political and emotional significance for the Chinese people.

Xi and First Lady Peng Liyuan arrived by high-speed rail at West Kowloon station in the afternoon today, where they were greeted with much fanfare by the police brass band, flag-waving citizens, and a lion dance. In a short speech on his arrival, Xi stated that he and the central government have always felt concern for Hong Kong and held its compatriots in their hearts, understanding that it has had to overcome many difficult challenges. He emphasized that as long as the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” is upheld, Hong Kong will have a bright future and will make great contributions to China’s rejuvenation.

Prior to a banquet at the official residence of Carrie Lam, the outgoing chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)—Hong Kong’s government—Xi met with 160 officials, including senior government officials, heads of law enforcement agencies, and members of the chief executive’s cabinet. He also visited the city’s science park, which is home to 1,000 high-tech companies. Also attending the banquet was John Lee, Carrie Lam’s successor. Lee will be inaugurated July 1, with Xi attending. The President spoke very highly of Carrie Lam, praising her for firmly implementing “One Country, Two Systems” and China’s Basic Law in Hong Kong. He further praised her guiding Hong Kong through the chaos in 2019-2020 when violent “pro-democracy” protesters sought regime change in the HKSAR, and overseeing its transition to the current peace and order.

### **Sixth Caspian Summit Focuses on Regional Development, Cooperation Across Diverse Areas**

June 30 (EIRNS)—The five heads of state of the nations that make up the “Caspian Summit”—Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkmenistan—met in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, June 29, to discuss regional cooperation across a wide range of areas, including military, transportation, energy, law enforcement, infrastructure, and economics. Stressing the world importance of the Caspian Sea, the attending heads of state identified the Caspian Sea as a “sea of peace, agreement, good-neighborliness, and fruitful international cooperation.” In their final communiqué, they stressed their adherence to “the principles and norms of the United Nations Charter and international law.”

In his address to the group, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) offered an expansive picture of the many opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in the region, in industrial production and advanced technology as well as expanding trade and investment. He also highlighted the importance of the Caspian Economic Forum, founded by Turkmenistan’s President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, which held its first forum in 2019 and will next meet in Moscow this fall.

Putin emphasized the great potential for energy cooperation—developing offshore oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea—and plans to improve the region’s transport and logistics architecture so that it can become a major international logistics hub. That could facilitate the building of the International North-South Transport Corridor, a 7,200-km. transport artery from St. Petersburg to ports in Iran and India.

On the sidelines of the summit, Putin held productive [bilateral meetings](#) with [Iranian President](#) Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi, [Azerbaijani President](#) Ilham Aliyev, and host, Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and the former Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. He held a press conference at the close of his working visit. Prior to arriving in Ashgabat, he had met in Dushanbe with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon on June 28, discussing important aspects of their strategic partnership. Afghanistan was a topic of particular interest to both leaders.

## U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### Rep. Schakowsky Claims ‘Abortion Rights’ Worldwide Will Relieve Hunger with Fewer Mouths To Feed

June 30 (EIRNS)—In the wake of the recent Supreme Court’s overturning *Roe v. Wade* affecting legality of abortions, comments are flying fast and loose, stoked by the media for maximum diversion, pessimism, and fixation, but one stands out from Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), who is Senior Chief Deputy Whip in the House Democratic leadership.

She said in a June 27 radio interview, in effect, that fewer mouths to feed around the world will help relieve the hunger and food crisis! The interviewer asked her, “Why should U.S. funding for reproductive rights in other countries, including abortions, be a priority for the United States?” Schakowsky answered, “Because we are now seeing so many displaced people around the world. We are seeing an increase of hunger around the world. We are seeing people suffering....”

Schakowsky was interviewed June 27 by WJCT radio in Jacksonville, Florida (also broadcast on WAMU in Washington, D.C.), to get her

response to a memo and public statements by Secretary of State Antony Blinken concerning the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Blinken had assured nations that the U.S. will continue its promotion of "reproductive rights" around the world, and ("consistent with the law") make sure that all State Department employees will have access to abortion, "wherever they live." Schakowsky discussed various efforts different administrations have made to get around the 50-year-old "Helms Amendment," which restricts U.S. funding for abortion providers globally.

Shades of Lord Bertrand Russell! Famine? War? Poverty? Obviously: Time for population control! Schakowsky did proceed to say that provision of abortion is health care, and we don't spend enough on health care, etc. But her emphatic revelation of the axiom that overpopulation is the problem was breathtaking, especially of the unborn.

## BRITISH EMPIRE

### **Making the Rounds in Ibero-America, Putin One-Ups BoJo on Malvinas; Zakharova on G7**

June 30 (EIRNS)—In an interview with German broadcaster ZDF on June 28, the mentally unhinged [Boris Johnson](#) felt compelled to say: "If Putin was a woman, which he obviously isn't, but if he were, I really don't think he would've embarked on a crazy, macho war of invasion and violence in the way that he has.... If you want a perfect example of toxic masculinity, it's what he's doing in Ukraine."

Blogs, tweets, media comments, and others in throughout Ibero-America, and especially in Argentina, are now circulating responses everywhere, with immense enjoyment in Putin's retort to poor BoJo. [President Putin](#) (who may not have as good a coiffure, but a far better sense of humor) responded to a reporter's question in Ashgabat: "Did you say Johnson? I do not want to elaborate on what could have been, I simply want to remind you about the events in recent history [1982], when Margaret Thatcher made a decision to start a military operation against Argentina for the Falklands [Malvinas]. There was a woman who decided to start

a military operation. Where are the Falkland Islands and where is Great Britain? The decision was dictated by nothing but imperial ambitions and the goal was to reaffirm the country's imperial status." The Malvinas Islands, in the South Atlantic off Argentina, are nearly 13,000 km from Britain. Ukraine, by contrast, is an immediate threat to Russia and the Russian-speaking republics in Donbass.

The reporter also referred to the off-color jokes at the G7 regarding photos of a shirtless Putin. Asked in her weekly briefing yesterday, Maria Zakharova replied: "I saw how this G7 summit began, and, to be honest, this amounted to monkeying around. We can only speculate as to what they were doing behind closed doors."

On her [Telegram app](#), she was less polite: "That's Boris Johnson's sweaty fantasies. What were the seven of them doing there?"