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EDITORIAL

Acknowledge the Red Lines, Lead the World to a New Paradigm

April 18 (EIRNS)—It is bad enough that the West ignored Russia's red line against NATO expansion to its borders; but next to no one in the ranks of nominal leadership is honest and moral enough to acknowledge this mistake, and start acting responsibly. Now we have more red lines being crossed. In this dangerous and ugly situation, those singular individuals who do have the character to recognize the red lines, see the big picture, and stand up for a new paradigm, count immeasurably in history.

A current red line of Russia is that no NATO, or U.S. forces be deployed in Ukraine. On Dec. 15, 2021, Russia provided this security proviso in writing to Washington, Brussels, and all NATO capitals, but it was completely ignored. Now several sources, including senior *Le Figaro* contributor Georges Malbrunot, have reported that the U.S. Delta Force, and British SAS have forces in Ukraine, despite Washington demurring it has “no boots on the ground” there.

In Washington, Sen. Chris Coons (D) is now calling vociferously for U.S. troops to be deployed to Ukraine. Coons is a crony of Biden’s, and now holds the seat Biden had held in Delaware.

Biden, NATO’s head Jens Stoltenberg and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson are all acting to thwart any negotiations to resolve Ukraine and Russia. The EU Commission Vice President and foreign policy chief Josep Borrell expressly has said there must be a “military solution.” He tweeted April 9, after visiting with President Zelenskyy in Ukraine, “This war will be won on the battlefield.”

Accordingly, the Ukrainians refused the Russian offer made April 17 of “preservation of life” to all those entrenched in the massive Azovstal steelworks at Mariupol, who would lay down their arms. Reports late today indicate Russian forces are now moving strongly there and elsewhere in the Donbas. The White House has announced that President Biden will hold a teleconference on it on April 19 with European leaders.

Reviewing specifics of these factors, Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche today called for more voices of sanity to step up, from all countries and constituencies, to provide leadership against this insanity, and instead, to mobilize for actions in line with a new paradigm of international relations.

Granted, because of the media black-out, millions of people in the West have no idea that there is a history of NATO moving eastward to Russia’s borders, which predates what they are told is an “unprovoked” Russian attack on Ukraine on Feb. 24. But the stench of the lies in Washington, London, and Brussels is so bad, people can wise up fast.

Another red line being crossed is that of Taiwan being part of one China, which Global NATO denies, while Washington pays lip-service to it. Last week, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) led a delegation of other Congressmen on a U.S. Air Force jet, to Japan, Australia and Taiwan. Graham met with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen. Menendez and Graham extolled an AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.) military build-up in the Indo-Pacific, to push back against China. “This is a chance for democracies to stand up to thugs and you’ll see a backlash to the thugs all over the world,” Graham declared madly.

Meantime, China and Russia are acting in their national economic and strategic interests in concert and in depth. Today, President Vladimir Putin met with his top economic leaders, to discuss the Russian economy on a televised videoconference. He said that the “economic blitzkrieg” of sanctions against the country is having the worst effect on its originators in the West. Meanwhile, Russia has continued to ship out wheat to selected countries, including Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Algeria, Sudan and China. On April 17, Russia also announced that it will increase the volume of fertilizer it will ship, by 700,000 metric tons.

In China this morning, the State Council reported on economic progress in the First Quarter, with overall year-on-year performance of 6.5% increase in manufacturing, and similar measures. In fighting COVID-19, China is now innovating measures for what is called “closed loop management” of production in factories. Workers in communities with the SARS-CoV-2 virus active, will work at factories for a 14-day period under very safe and monitored conditions, then have a break, with testing and new work cycles planned. The idea is both to save lives and to provide for the means to life at the same time, with no trade-offs.

Contrast that situation with the obvious breakdown and non-mobilization of production in the trans-Atlantic, in the most basic sectors of power, food and water. One recent example makes the point. The Union Pacific Railroad, based in Omaha, Nebraska, a main rail carrier for the farm states from Iowa to California to Texas, has informed CF Industries, a

major nitrogen fertilizer company, that CF Industries has to cut its fertilizer shipments by 20% on rail, because Union Pacific can't handle it. Union Pacific is trying to work down its existing backlog of shipments of grain, ethanol and other commodities. U.S. rail capacity has been underdeveloped for decades, from deregulation, financialization and mergers. This means a disaster for crops and farmers, which is what CFI's president said in a statement last week.

Combine the disruption with the massive impact of the Western drought in North America, affecting California, through the High Plains, down to Mexico, and the conditions for a food crisis for Americans "at home" are imminent. There have been wildfires in the wheatlands of Kansas and Texas, it's so dry. The cause is not climate change: It is the decades of lack of construction of water infrastructure. This one can't be blamed on Putin.

Thus, the immediate dangers of nuclear war, prolonged geopolitical strife and economic breakdown are all aspects of the disintegration of a Wall Street/London political system whose establishment leaders represent only their own worthless selves, and no one else. The situation calls for leaders for the common good to activate, for negotiations for the earliest resolution in Ukraine, and for concerted action against famine, for meeting world health needs, and to secure the future.

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday April 19, 2022: Every weekday morning on **The LaRouche Organization**, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Konashenkov Reveals, Kyiv Told Azov Members To Shoot Ukrainian Soldiers Who Try To Surrender

April 18 (EIRNS)—As the Ukrainian city of Mariupol emerges from almost eight years of takeover and domination by the Azov militia and related forces, more and more ugly realities are and will be emerging.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov described yesterday how the Russian special forces freed hostages from a Turkish mosque in Mariupol, on April 16, and 29 militants were killed in the operation. Konashenkov pointed out that some of the militants were foreign mercenaries.

A larger drama also played out yesterday. After the surrender last week at the Ilyich Steel and Iron Works of over 1,000 members of Ukraine's 36th Marines Brigade, Konashenkov related that the Kyiv regime did not take the development very well. Then, the Russian military offered the remaining militants at the massive Azovstal facility one last chance on April 17 to surrender. The offer was simple: "all who lay down their weapons are guaranteed the preservation of life." He then related: "However, the Kyiv nationalist regime, according to the radio intercept, prohibited any negotiations on surrender, ordering Azov Nazis to shoot on the spot any Ukrainian serviceman or foreign mercenary willing to lay down arms." If true, it is certainly coherent with the role of the neo-Nazi militia groupings of enforcing 'discipline' over regular military forces, over the last two months. Yesterday, no such surrender took place. During the afternoon, artillery fire commenced. "In case of further resistance, all of them will be destroyed."

Konashenkov was blunt about the fate of the foreign adventurers. "Let me remind you that foreign mercenaries do not have the status of 'combatants' under International Humanitarian Law. They came to Ukraine to earn money by killing Slavs. Therefore, the best that awaits them is criminal liability and long prison terms."

The summary provided from a new Russian Defense Ministry report on the mercenaries suggested that they have taken particular of these individuals. Konashenkov summarized: There are some 6,824 foreign mercenaries from 63 countries fighting for the Kyiv regime; and 1,035 of them have been "destroyed" while 912 have fled. Another 400 or so are holed up at Mariupol. "Most of them [in Mariupol] are citizens of European countries, as well as Canada." From radio communications, six different

languages have been detected there. The remaining 4,500 or so were in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa and Nikolaev. Otherwise, a little over a quarter of the mercenaries came from Poland (1,717), while around 1,500 were from the U.S., Canada and Romania. Britain and Georgia had about 300 apiece, while 193 were from Turkish-controlled areas of Syria.

UKRAINE WAR & SANCTIONS

Ukraine's Psychotic 'Beast-man' Video Depicts Flower-Girl as ISIS Executioner

April 18 (EIRNS)—What is intended to be a pro-Ukrainian video, posted on April 10, Palm Sunday on the Instagram page of Lviv actress [Andrianna Kurylets](#), exposes the self-degradation and sadism of the Nazi “blood and soil” mentality being called forth amongst what can only be described as nihilists, who would destroy Ukraine. In less than two minutes one witnesses a Ukrainian maiden in a lovely costume, transformed into a vicious beast, performing an ISIS-like execution, on camera. The innocent flower-girl manages to invoke a mysterious, vengeful and clearly pre-Christian “Ukrainian God” in the process.

It begins: “For centuries, these swine ... trampled on our flag, mocked our language ... they starved us, killed us, crucified us in red torture chambers and sent us to the permafrost of the Siberian prison camps.” But no more. “They had been killing until something terrible awoke in a peaceful farming nation. Something had been dormant in the depths of the Dnipro cliffs for centuries. Initial and ancient Ukrainian God. [She raises a scythe and smiles] And now we are harvesting our bloody harvest!” [She slices the throat of a Russian paratrooper on his knees.] She repeats, more ominously: “And now we are harvesting our bloody harvest! You will all be killed in memory of victims in Bucha, Irpin, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Mariupol. You will all be killed. Your corpses, like the worst carrions, will rot in the fields, along roads and forest belts. They will be eaten by dogs and wild animals. Your mothers will be waiting for you in Tver, Pskov and

Ryazan; but you, you sons of the bitch, will never return home. [She tosses the dead man to the ground, and smiles broadly] Welcome to Hell!”

The propaganda is clearly designed for the post-Bucha world—or perhaps the post-Goebbels world. Dmitry Polyanskiy, Russia’s First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, addressed the UN Security Council regarding the video: “It is sad that Ukraine has come down to unbridled cruelty, to blind, not lagging behind ISIS radicalism and extremism. Seeing this, you only become convinced of the need and no alternative to the special military operation carried out by Russia.”

On April 11, the chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia, Alexander Bastrykin, gave instructions to open a criminal case against the Ukrainian actress Andrianna Kurylets, based upon her invoking violence against officers of the Russian Armed Forces. The Investigative Committee particularly noted the video’s invocation of ISIS militants. That same day, Russian Sen. Olga Kovitidi, a member of the Federation Council Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building, told *Izvestia* that the video is “demonic.” She claimed that “Ukraine has become a toxic state.” The “video once again confirms the correctness of the special military operation carried out by Russia.”

The video was shown on Russia’s “60 Minutes” program on April 11, and the host, Evgeny Popov, reported that the video had been funded by “Ukrainian organizations from New Jersey.” However that lead pans out, any viewing of the video will leave no doubt that a proper investigation will end up at the lair of a beast-man. Popov told his national audience: “Animalistic cruelty is becoming the norm. Blind hatred is being promoted to incite average people. The methods of ISIS head-cutters organically fit in with Ukrainian politics. Somebody decided that this kind of bigotry will improve morale.... There are now many fewer of those who still didn’t understand what ‘de-nazification’ stands for and why it’s needed.”

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Biden's Sen. Coons Doubles Down on His Push To Send U.S. Military Troops into Ukraine

April 18 (EIRNS)—While it is not clear if it is a trial balloon or just hot air, President Biden's personal Senator, Chris Coons (D-DE), doubled down yesterday on his call for U.S. troops to be deployed to Ukraine. Coons, who was an intern in Senator Biden's office in the 1990s and who, in 2010, replaced Biden in the Senate, is generally viewed as a barometer for Biden-watchers. When CBS's Margaret Brennan asked him about his recent comments for U.S. leaders to discuss troop deployments to Ukraine, Coons plunged: Policymakers who are advising the President “look clearly at the level of brutality.... If Vladimir Putin ... is allowed to just continue to massacre civilians, to commit war crimes throughout Ukraine without NATO, without the west coming more forcefully to his aid [sic], I deeply worry that what's going to happen next is that we will see Ukraine turn into Syria.

“The American people cannot turn away from this tragedy in Ukraine. I think the history of the 21st century turns on how fiercely we defend freedom in Ukraine and that Putin will only stop when we stop him.”

One can only hope that the man *Politico* tags as “the Biden whisperer” can't be heard by the President. However, his comments last week at the University of Michigan, that the U.S. failure to put troops on the ground in Ukraine was “inviting another level of escalation in brutality by Putin,” was not only left unchallenged, but he was put on national television Sunday to say it again, more loudly.

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Putin Addresses Economics Meeting; 'Economic Blitzkrieg' Against Russia Has Failed

April 18 (EIRNS)—Today Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting on “economic issues,” as a video-conference, with seven top

leaders. In his opening remarks, he said that the “pressure from sanctions has been the main negative effect for the economy lately.” But, “this policy has failed in Russia. The strategy of unleashing an economic blitzkrieg has been ineffective. Moreover, the sanctions affected those who initiated them. I am referring to higher inflation and unemployment, and the worsening economic outlook for the United States and European countries, as well as the declining living standards of Europeans and the depreciation of their savings.”

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin; Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office Anton Vaino; First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov; Presidential Aide Maxim Oreshkin; Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov; Minister of Finance Anton Siluanov; and Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina.

Putin spoke of various conditions in Russia, including the high inflation rate, saying, “we must help our citizens deal with this wave of inflation. In this context ... a decision has been taken to adjust all social benefits, pensions and wages in the public sector, in accordance with inflation. The parameters of this adjustment are to be prepared by the government.”

After describing other aspects of the economy, including pledging to accelerate the growth rate, provide for new jobs and develop industry, he said, “Overall, the current situation is stable in this regard, as we can see from the electricity production index. This indicator is very good, which points to the dynamic development of the economy....”

Ibero-American Lawmakers Reject Europeans’ Anti-Russia Communiqué at EuroLat Conference

April 18 (EIRNS)—At last week’s EuroLat conference in Buenos Aires of European and Ibero-American parliamentarians, the European contingent failed to gain majority Ibero-American support for a final communiqué that condemned “the Russian Federation’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression [against] and invasion of Ukraine.” Reflecting the revolt taking place among many developing-sector nations, several of the

Ibero-American lawmakers said that the European formulation was “very biased,” and instead presented their own communiqué.

As reported by Sputnik Mundo (Spanish-language site), Brazilian Deputy Arnildo Chinaglia, said the Ibero-American statement presented “other reflections ... first, this isn’t the first war that is unfortunately taking place on the planet; second, we can’t ignore the fact that the defense of the international legal order can’t just be for this case, because there’s the invasion of Syria, of Iraq, and the attacks systematically made against Palestinian territories. We can’t choose the war,” he said. “We have to discuss all wars. There are large countries that illegally invaded, such as the U.S. invasion of Iraq without United Nations approval.” It would be a mistake to discuss this issue “without considering NATO or the United States,” he declared.

Uruguayan Sen. Daniel Caggiani explained that what prevented a final consensus statement is the fact that Europe “has a very biased view supported by that of NATO and the U.S. It would be good if Europe had a more independent view on these subjects.” Ibero-Americans, he continued, opt for “dialogue and prioritize LAC (Latin America/Caribbean) and Europe as zones of peace.” He also criticized Europe’s defense of sending weapons to Ukraine rather than “food or shelter.”

Argentina’s conservative establishment daily *La Nación* reported April 14 that the Europeans, especially members of Spain’s right-wing Partido Popular and Italy’s Italia Viva party, were “shocked and indignant” over the lack of a final communiqué, for which they blamed Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, also President of the Senate, who addressed EuroLat on April 13. In her polemical keynote address, Fernández de Kirchner didn’t mention Russia or Ukraine specifically, but raised relevant issues regarding the “double standard in international law,” attacked the IMF, “the power of international finance” and those who say the state is unnecessary. It’s time, she said, to “rethink our institutional architecture” to address society’s needs, noting that inequality is the result

of “political decisions,” not, as propagandists for the free market rationalize, because people “don’t try hard enough” to improve themselves.

One group of European lawmakers howled that Fernández’s “populist” speech was offensive and “detrimental to European institutions” and disrupted the “solemnity” of the occasion. As a consolation, EuroLat’s two co-presidents, Javier López of Spain and Osvaldo Perez Pineda of Colombia, issued their own communiqué condemning Russia’s “illegal, unprovoked, unjustified military aggression against Ukraine in violation of the UN Charter.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Union Pacific Tells CFI Fertilizer Firm to Cut Shipments by 20% for Lack of Rail Capacity

April 18 (EIRNS)—On April 8, Union Pacific told CF Industries, the leading nitrogen fertilizer company in the U.S., to cut its intended fertilizer shipments by 20%. The railroad says it wants to work down its backlog, which includes grain and ethanol. It is seeking to hire more workers and add locomotives.

CF’s CEO **Tony Will** told Transport Topics website (April 15 posting): “The timing of this action by Union Pacific could not have come at a worse time for farmers. Not only will fertilizer be delayed by these shipping restrictions, but additional fertilizer needed to complete spring applications may be unable to reach farmers at all.”

California and the heart of the farm belt will be affected, from Iowa south to Texas. CF Industries has its main plants in Louisiana and Iowa. Union Pacific is believed to have informed over 25 other companies, involving various commodities, of similar restrictions.

Thus, critical fertilizer shipments in the U.S., Canada and Mexico are being held up, not only by the chaos from the mad Global NATO sanctions, but also the limitations of rail capacity, after decades of underdevelopment, mergers and cutbacks, to serve financial looting, not transportation. The

privateer rail carriers have been unable for some time to carry basic grain and other commodities, plus ethanol—for which there are no pipelines—in any timely way. A hearing is scheduled later this month in Congress, which has been looking the other way for years.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Nigerian VP Osinbajo Argues How a ‘Just’ Transition for Africa Means More Electricity, Not Less

April 18 (EIRNS)— Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who is also a presidential candidate for the 2023 elections, was the invited speaker on an Atlantic Council panel discussion on “[Inclusive Climate Finance: An African Vision for a Just Transition](#),” on April 13. Given the floor for 15 minutes, Osinbajo began by making three basic points: That energy poverty is “a stark and inexcusable example” of global inequality; that, for Africa, “a Just Transition means a lot more energy, not less”; and that any notion of Climate Justice must include “ending global energy poverty.”

Osinbajo on this point took an added jab at Mark Carney’s Climate Finance mafia, stating that “We are already seeing the investment rules limit technology choices of African countries, the opposite of Climate Justice. Every country must find its own path” to the green nirvana, he said, here citing the EU’s (reluctant) decision to recognize nuclear power as a green energy source, as an example of “diversity” needed in the Just Transition.

On top of Nigeria’s own domestic investments, Osinbajo estimated that it would need a total of over \$400 billion in foreign direct investment, referring to South Africa’s \$8.5 billion deal as a bare minimum—per country, per year—as an approximate starting point. Beyond that, Osinbajo—himself a lawyer from the private sector (and not military)—strongly defended Nigeria and Africa’s right to use their own energy resources, especially natural gas, as a “transition fuel” to lift populations above charcoal and wood energy for cooking.

Then, in a turn of the jingoistic Climate Justice phrase, the vice president emphasized that lack of global commitment to helping all nations lift themselves beyond coal and charcoal would truly be unjust.

Coordinated with Osinbajo's presentation or not, a rare public questioning of the entire "climate change" dictum appeared in an op-ed in the popular Nigerian *Punch* newspaper, the day after Osinbajo spoke. Although cautious in his wording, (education consultant) Kolawole Olaniyi shows veiled contempt for the latest IPCC report, a 3,676-page document, where even the "media summary" is 62 pages, unlikely to be read by anyone, only "interpreted" for us by the media. Olaniyi takes specific aim at Greta Thunberg, and her latest claim that she can "see" CO₂ (a scientific impossibility). She should spend her Fridays in school, he says, she obviously needs to spend more time studying.

Considering that the imperial bodies at the Atlantic Council were likely well aware of what Yemi Osinbajo was likely to say, their invitation was more to alert Mark Carney's friends that the world was not swallowing the green pill as dictated. The decision by *Punch* to run the op-ed, was likely further evidence of that "uncomfortable truth."

Drought, Lack of Infrastructure Slam Western North America, with Food Production Hit Hard

April 18 (EIRNS)—Drought continues over much of western North America, affecting regions from the High Plains to California, and south to Texas. California-style wildfires have raged in Texas and Kansas. Eighteen western states are reporting areas of extreme drought, as of April 12, the latest [NOAA Drought Monitor](#). And of those, there is exceptional drought in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas; and also in Nevada, Oregon and Montana.

This is an automatic hit on U.S. food production, including potential exports. Make no mistake: The crisis comes from the lack of water provision infrastructure—conveyance and desalination—not from so-called climate change, which is a cover story for depopulation.

The Plains wheat belt is affected, as are other highly productive regions. California is the leading U.S. agriculture state in diversity of commodities, and volume of many of them. Its main river basins are all dry: the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and the extension of the Colorado. Heavy pumping has overdrawn underground water tables. Land has been fallowed, nut groves and orchards destroyed. Some farmers have survived with “deficit irrigation,” meaning underwatering their crops, which results in lower yields, but keeps the situation alive.

The Colorado River Basin—involving seven states, and extending into Mexico—had already been declared an official emergency many weeks ago, the first time in the history of the water-sharing treaty among the user entities. Its dry condition directly affects the famous Imperial Valley agriculture district in southern California.

This month, another unprecedented move was made. The Federal Interior Department informed the seven states of the Colorado Basin that federal restrictions may be placed on water supplies. There currently is a comment period, then the cuts will take place.

California ranks first in the nation in cash receipts for its agriculture production, followed by Iowa, Texas, Nebraska and Illinois. Two-thirds of the U.S. fruits and nuts are produced in the California, and one-third of the vegetables. California is the foremost dairy state. In number of dairy cows, California ranks first (with 1.72 million out of the national 9.3 million total). The state leads the nation in production and exports of almonds, wine and grapes. The list goes on.