

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **At the Crossroads of History: ‘We Need an Explosion of Optimism’**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—Weather forecasts can be fairly predictable, except when they’re not. It’s those fascinating intervals when great forces gather, seemingly out of nowhere, that epochal changes may occur.

At a momentous Schiller Institute conference in Strasbourg, France, its founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche challenged those attending on her forecast. The variety of processes that are unmistakably afoot—including the blowout of the financial system, the exhaustion of the Ukrainian population, the Global South on the rise—make the immediate period ahead both full of danger and pregnant with the most exciting opportunities for world development. South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa was cited as encapsulating the rise of the Global South. His June 22 Paris challenge to the West was to put up or shut up: Build the long-delayed Inga Dam project for the Congo River (key for addressing the over half a billion Africans without electricity) or we simply can’t trust anything you say. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche emphasized that there is a palpable determination to build a new, workable economic system, but that there are branching points in history when changes may come too late. We are in the middle of that process now, and that is the defining activity for at least the next year or two.

On the eve of the NATO summit in Vilnius, July 11-12, Western media outlets are obsessed that Vladimir Putin and Russia will celebrate the disunity and fracturing of the vaunted Western alliance, on the heels of the vaunted Ukrainian counteroffensive. Ruptures over whether to commit to Ukraine joining NATO, which is understood to mean an escalated path to thermonuclear confrontation with Russia, is dividing Germany from Poland, etc. The media outlets, however, are mainly concerned not to give Putin a victory, so their concerns over Vilnius amount to putting lipstick on a pig. Yet the participants have to figure out how to phrase NATO’s language on the future Western collaboration with Ukraine, and this boils down to, how long can one dance with the devil of a thermonuclear exchange. Further, the decades-long immiseration of Western industry has left Ukraine without munitions, and the price of buying time is the only supply of munitions the U.S. can throw at the problem—cluster bombs. The ugliness of such desperation is fracturing the Western allies even further.

In the U.S., *Politico* covered the outbreak of various Democrats to Biden’s decision, including that of Rep. Betty McCollum (MN), the

ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, who said: “The decision by the Biden administration to transfer cluster munitions to Ukraine is unnecessary and a terrible mistake.” They reported on months of efforts by House Democrats, warning the administration to stay clear of cluster bombs. Whether their perceived insult and outrage drives them toward sanity remains to be seen. But they are not alone.

On July 7, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham’s craziness accomplished some good. He claimed that his resolution for putting Ukraine into NATO was supported by “an overwhelming majority of senators”; and this triggered a very healthy outburst of Republican legislators calling out Graham’s flight-forward as “madness” and “exactly wrong,” even bringing up the systematic extension of the “Cold War relic” NATO as the cause of the present conflict.

Of note, Republican Presidential candidate [Vivek Ramaswamy](#) perhaps said it best: “Joe Biden needs to man up to his bully-friend Zelensky & clearly state that we are dead-set opposed to Ukrainian admission to NATO. This should be a hard red line. It’s shameful that even Republicans like Lindsey Graham are now pushing for it. Stop marching us to the brink of nuclear war.... [T]he neocon-Democrat establishment is shockingly silent on James Baker’s famous 1990 ‘Not-One-Inch’ commitment to Gorbachev that NATO would never extend east of Germany. NATO was created to deter conflict with the USSR, yet NATO has expanded most rapidly **after** the fall of the USSR & is now **worsening** the risk of nuclear war with Russia itself. This is sheer lunacy. As President I’ll refuse to be bullied by an anti-democratic comedian-turned-leader & it’s truly mystifying to me that the rest of the West is eating out of this Pied Piper’s hand every day” (emphasis in original).

Between Democrats betrayed over cluster bombs and Republicans horrified over nuclear gamesmanship, a certain reality, seemingly unexpectedly, made its way into American politics over the last 48 hours. But a great moment in history must not find a little people. The

deliberations of the last 48 hours at the Schiller Institute European conference are the most efficient pathway to overcome littleness.

More will come shortly on the deliberations of that conference. For now, here is a paraphrase of some of Zepp-LaRouche's concluding remarks:

We have to go out of the conference with the commitment to organize this beautiful European continent. We contributed science, but what is of lasting value to the new paradigm, which is possible in the short term, is our culture. Africa, Latin America, Asia are moving forward. We have to prevent that Europe should end in chaos, sidelined, in a museum in Mongolia.

We have had the Italian Renaissance, the French Polytechnique tradition, German Classical music. Not one European politician speaks about the substance of the great thinkers. We have to have the commitment to revive the European culture. The human soul, the power of creativity is stronger than the power of hatred.

We need an explosion of optimism—that with our optimism, we will be hegemonic, and not the enemy.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday July 10, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

### Rebellion by Capitol Hill Republicans Against Ukraine Joining NATO

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham's resolution to get Ukraine into NATO has prompted significant pushback from Republican colleagues. On July 7 Graham had claimed: "Ukrainian NATO membership is vital to the future security of Europe and the world. I believe there is an overwhelming majority of senators supporting this proposition."

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) tweeted the same day: “Absolutely not. That is exactly wrong—as usual—and could very well lead us to war with Russia, something no one should want.” Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) added: “This is madness. Everyone in Washington should be urging peace and stopping the war in Ukraine, not bringing us to the brink of World War III.” Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) stated that bringing Ukraine into NATO “would mean American troops on the ground in Ukraine. The American people would not stand by and allow our troops to go die in someone else’s war.” Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), called NATO a “Cold War relic” in a tweet, saying NATO expansions had led to the rise of Putin and the conflict in Ukraine. “Expanding NATO further is not in the interests of US citizens.”

Republican Presidential candidate [Vivek Ramaswamy](#) tweeted the strongest rebuke of Graham’s proposal yesterday: “Joe Biden needs to man up to his bully-friend Zelensky & clearly state that we are dead-set opposed to Ukrainian admission to NATO. This should be a hard red line. It’s shameful that even Republicans like Lindsey Graham are now pushing for it. Stop marching us to the brink of nuclear war. For all the hand-wringing about the 1994 Budapest Memorandum (on which the U.S. has more than fulfilled its commitments), the neocon-Democrat establishment is shockingly silent on James Baker’s famous 1990 ‘Not-One-Inch’ commitment to Gorbachev that NATO would never extend east of Germany. NATO was created to deter conflict with the USSR, yet NATO has expanded most rapidly **after** the fall of the USSR & is now **worsening** the risk of nuclear war with Russia itself. This is sheer lunacy. As President I’ll refuse to be bullied by an anti-democratic comedian-turned-leader & it’s truly mystifying to me that the rest of the West is eating out of this Pied Piper’s hand every day.” (Emphasis in original.)

### Ritter on Callous Hypocrisy of U.S.’s Cluster Munitions in Ukraine

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Scott Ritter](#) argues in a hard hitting op-ed yesterday in Sputnik that the Biden Administration’s arguments for sending cluster munitions to Ukraine are fraudulent. He starts with the claim, made by both

Jake Sullivan and Colin Kahl at the Pentagon that the M864 DPICM (Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munition) that the U.S. plans to send to Ukraine, will only consist of rounds with a certified dud rate of under 2%. Ritter exposes it as a calculated lie, as the testing was done under laboratory conditions that don't exist in Ukraine. When employed in real-life situations, the "dud" rate of the sub-munitions will be much higher—often up to 20%, Ritter says. "Rough terrain, mud, soft soil, trees, and bushes all conspire to prevent the sub-munitions from detonating, Moreover, given that the lifespan of a 155mm artillery shell is 20 years, and that production of the M864 round, which began in 1987, terminated in 1996, the vast majority of the M864 artillery shells being provided to Ukraine have reached or exceeded their expiration date, which means that there is an increased probability that many of these shells will not perform as designed." And the U.S. government knows it, he asserts: "The fact is that the M864 DPICM round being delivered to Ukraine is neither as reliable or safe as the Biden administration contends."

Ritter also argues that the lethality of the DPICM rounds will also turn out to be much lower than claimed. The U.S. army calculates—again under ideal conditions—that a DPICM round is 5-15 times more lethal than a regular artillery shell, but under real conditions it degrades significantly. "In short, the M864 is not a 'game changer,' " Ritter says. "The Ukrainian forces will achieve limited tactical advantage through its employment, and in many cases, see their probability of kill factors drop."

But the claims made for the DPICM are not the real reasons the administration decided to send it to Ukraine. "The U.S. decision to provide Ukraine with the M864 DPICM round is driven by one thing and one thing only—the fact that Ukraine is running out of 155mm artillery shells, and the U.S. has nothing left to give Ukraine except the M864," Ritter writes. "As things stand, Ukraine will exhaust its supply of 155mm artillery shells prior to any of the objectives set for the counteroffensive having been met. The Biden administration has decided to provide the M864 DPICM round as an emergency stop-gap measure designed to allow Ukraine to sustain its planned rate of fire until which time U.S. and European production of

155mm artillery can be expanded to meet Ukraine’s operational needs, something that isn’t anticipated to occur until mid-2024 at the earliest.”

Further, the M864 won’t change the reality that Ukraine does not have the capability to successfully defeat Russian forces on the battlefield. “The decision by the Biden administration to supply Ukraine with the M864 round is simply a callous continuation of a policy designed to prolong a conflict Ukraine cannot win, and which causes Ukraine to lose hundreds of men killed every day,” Ritter concludes. “It does nothing to alter the current trajectory of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which as things currently stand points to a decisive Russian victory, an outcome the Biden administration is loath to accept.”

### **House Dems Argue, Biden Ignored Our Opposition to Cluster Bombs**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—*Politico* provided an initial round of objections, on July 7, to President Biden’s decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN), the ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, said: “The decision by the Biden administration to transfer cluster munitions to Ukraine is unnecessary and a terrible mistake. The legacy of cluster bombs is misery, death and expensive cleanup generations after their use.” She added that “These weapons should be eliminated from our stockpiles, not dumped in Ukraine.” Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), ranking member of the House Appropriations subcommittee that funds the State Department, tweeted that she was “alarmed” at the move.

Progressives, some of whom called in a letter last year for the administration to ban the U.S. military use of cluster munitions, have been lobbying the administration to refrain from this move for months. A House Democratic aide said he pointed to that letter multiple times with State Department officials over recent months. “There are a number of progressives who are really hacked off. We thought the communication was clear,” said the aide, who spoke anonymously to discuss tensions with the executive branch. “They can’t say we weren’t emoting clear signals that

this was a momentous step. A 6-year-old doesn't step on an F-16 and lose their leg.”

*Politico* also cited an unnamed Defense Department official who said, prior to Biden's decision, that the Pentagon had provided test results, which are classified, to members of Congress upon request. (The higher the “dud” rate, the more civilians are exposed to casualties later.) The official acknowledged that variables in the field can significantly affect the dud rate: “Shoot this in the desert, dry, flat ground, you might get a totally different result than if you shot this in a mountain jungle.” That confirms what Scott Ritter described in his Sputnik op-ed, and suggests that Congressional opposition might have been based on the fact that test results didn't reflect the extent of the problem.

### **Trump Reasserts Call for Release of JFK Assassination Papers**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—Posting on Truth Social on July 7, Trump pledged: “When I return to the White House, I will declassify and unseal all JFK assassination-related documents. It's been 60 years, time for the American people to know the TRUTH!”

Roger Stone, interviewed on July 3 by Jack Posobiec of Human Events, described how, in 2017, then-President Trump had flinched on having the documents released. Stone had asked Trump about the remaining documents. Trump told him: “I can't tell you, it's so horrible you wouldn't believe it. Someday you'll find out.” Stone: “That was the sum total of it and he didn't want to talk further about it. He kicked the can down the road to President Joe Biden.”

Previously, Stone had related that he asked Trump in the early stages of his presidency what he would do with JFK-related records. Weeks before the scheduled release date in 2017, Trump allegedly asked Stone, “Why hasn't anyone brought this to my attention?” Stone related that, later, when Trump told Stone that sources and methods would be exposed, Stone responded that most sources are dead and that the public deserved to know the details. Now, with JFK's nephew Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. pressing the issue, it is hoped that Trump will stay on point.

In an interview with *The Messenger* last week, RFK, Jr. criticized the Biden administration's delay in releasing the final 1% of the documents, claiming the administration was "pouring the concrete on 60-year-old secrets so that they're permanently interred. It's very disturbing." A campaign spokesman told *Newsweek*: "We will never know for sure until these documents are made public in full. After 60 years, there are no national security concerns. The American people deserve to know their own history."

Of note, the cited figure of 1%, given out by the Biden administration, amounts to an estimated 50,000 documents. The administration is relying upon the December 15, 2021 account by [CIA Director William Burns](#) that the exposure of "sources and methods" is the reason for continuing to hold the remaining 50,000 documents unreleased.

### **Yellen in China, No Deliverables but Personal Contacts Established**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen met top economic leaders in China during her four-day visit which ended today, but did not meet with President Xi Jinping. While she maintained her position that she and the Biden Administration want to improve relations, she insisted that the U.S. will take steps to "defend national security." At the same time she underlined the importance of the overall relationship and of maintaining high-level personal contacts between officials of both countries. Yellen met with all the members of the new Chinese economic team, with Premier Li Qiang, Vice Premier He Lifeng, Finance Minister Liu Kun, and People's Bank of China's Deputy Governor Pan Gongsheng, discussing U.S.-China economic relations.

In his meeting with Yellen, Premier Li Qiang, according to *Global Times*, was "urging the U.S. to maintain a 'rational and pragmatic' attitude and work with China to bring bilateral ties back to the right track as soon as possible, while also noting that China-U.S. ties can see 'rainbows' after a round of 'wind and rain'.... China's development is an opportunity rather than a challenge for the U.S., and a gain rather than a risk." He added that politicizing economic cooperation or overstretching the concept of security

on such cooperation does no good for the economic development of the two countries and the whole world.

At a press conference in Beijing yesterday, [Yellen](#) said that her 10 hours of talks with senior Chinese officials were “direct” and “productive” and will help to stabilize the often rocky relationship.

Yellen said: “The U.S. and China have significant disagreements ... but President Biden and I do not see the relationship between the U.S. and China through the frame of great power conflict. We believe that the world is big enough for both of our countries to thrive. ... Indeed I have noted that China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, and have made clear that the United States is not seeking to decouple from China. Indeed, I noted that China’s growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and made clear that the United States is not seeking to decouple from China. There is an important distinction between decoupling, on the one hand, and on the other hand, diversifying critical supply chains or taking targeted national security actions. We know that decoupling of the world’s two largest economies would be disastrous for both countries and destabilizing for the world. And it would be virtually impossible to undertake. We want a dynamic and healthy global economy that is open, free, and fair—not one that is fragmented or forces countries to take sides.”

Speaking today with CBS’s Margaret Brennan on “[Face the Nation](#)” before she left Beijing, Yellen indicated that there were also discussions on dealing with the debt crisis and the international financial situation. This may also have touched upon the fact that China is moving away from Treasury bills, which must be of some concern to the Treasury Secretary. Yellen also indicated that they touched upon a planned U.S. Executive Order, which would restrict U.S. investors in China, with Yellen indicating to Brennan that the extent and the timetable for such an Executive Order were still under discussion by the Administration. Yellen also said that she had discussions with American business leaders in China who, while sharing their concerns about Chinese restrictions, indicated a great interest in expanding their operations in the country.

## **Wall Street Journal's Curious Escalation on Evan Gershkovich Case**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Wall Street Journal* now claims that a secretive Russian FSB unit, the Department for Counterintelligence Operations (DKRO), which they cite as responsible for the legal case against their reporter Evan Gershkovich, is suspected and/or responsible “for a string of strange incidents”: the mysterious death of a diplomat’s dog, the flattening the tires on U.S. embassy vehicles, following the children of an ambassador ... and for feces left in the toilets of their targets! As the *Journal* puts it, the DKRO went as far as to leave “feces in unflushed toilets at diplomats’ homes and in the suitcase of a senior official visiting from Washington.” Their sources are said to be senior Western officials, Russian journalists, and analysts who have fled Russia.

Neither the Kremlin nor the FSB nor U.S. authorities have commented on the report. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has said in the past that Russia maintains contacts with the U.S. on the Gershkovich matter, but said that the matter should be carried out “in complete silence.” U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan has said there have been talks, but they have not produced “a clear pathway.” It appears that at least some in the West are of the persuasion that the *Journal* effort will perhaps clear that pathway.

## **STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN**

### **Kiev’s Guarantee That Civilians Won’t Be Injured by Cluster Bombs Exploded**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—The supposed “guarantees made in writing,” related by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl, made by the Kiev regime, not to use cluster munitions in ways that endanger civilians, is exploded in Sputnik. First, Andrei Koshkin, a veteran Russian academic specializing in military and international affairs issues, told Sputnik yesterday: “It’s ridiculous how many times we’ve now heard such ‘assurances’ and ‘security guarantees.’ One can write about one’s intention not to use these weapons against civilians in any documents. But in practice, the conduct of military

operations in Ukraine shows that the Ukrainian Armed Forces stop at nothing.” He noted that Kiev has already been condemned by the United Nations, for example, for using air-dropped Lepestok anti-personnel mines. [See slug on Kiev’s ongoing use of them to kill civilians in Donetsk.] “They won’t be held back by any civilians. They’ll use everything they’ve got to the fullest, without even thinking about the consequences to their own population.”

Scott Bennett, a former U.S. Army psychological warfare officer and State Department counterterrorism analyst, told Sputnik that the introduction of cluster bombs in Ukraine “will be the equivalent of opening Pandora’s box,” and that its results will be “nothing but violent, indiscriminate civilian deaths, destruction of property, [and] the haunting nightmares of children’s screams. The supreme danger of the cluster bombs the U.S. is intending on sending to Ukraine is that they are 20 years old, which means they will have a very high ‘dud’ rate—probably 10-20% or more. This means these bomblets will be left unexploded all over the landscape waiting for unsuspecting civilians to detonate them—which seems to be the objective: terror.” He added that DPICM rounds (cluster bombs) could also be dismantled and the bomblets used in terrorist attacks in Europe.

### **Zelenskyy Flies Azov Commanders Back to Kiev**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—Türkiye’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan allowed Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to take five Azov commanders home to Ukraine yesterday, in direct violation of the 2022 prisoner swap deal between Russia and Ukraine. The deal had specified that the five were to stay in Türkiye until the end of the conflict. At the time, Zelenskyy explicitly stated that Kiev had agreed to that condition. Zelenskyy posted a video showing the Azov Regiment lead commander Denys Prokopenko receiving a prolonged hug from Zelenskyy.

Prokopenko—whose associates call him “Comrade Redis,” from his days as an “extreme” soccer fan—was an early recruit into the Azov Battalion. He evidently displayed his leadership qualities in the infamous

sniper attacks on Donbass civilians in 2014, and he rose in the ranks. There are multiple photos of him with the Azov version of the Nazi swastika. His wife has led at least two delegations to the United States, including visits to Stanford University and Capitol Hill.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented, “Both the Ukrainian and Turkish sides breached the provisions [of the deal] in this case.” He said that Moscow had not been informed of Ankara’s decision to hand over the Ukrainians. He then suggested that, reported RT, Moscow understood that Türkiye was apparently “forced” to take this step ahead of the July 11-12 NATO summit in Vilnius, explaining that the Turkish leadership had to demonstrate “solidarity” with NATO, which Moscow was “well aware” of. Peskov added: “Yet, a breach of an agreement flatters no one.”

### **Ukraine’s Nazi Admirer Melnyk Tells German MP, ‘Go to Hell’**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukraine’s former ambassador to Germany Andij Melnyk yesterday displayed more of the obnoxious behavior that ended his posting to Germany a year ago today. Yesterday German Bundestag member Ralf Stegner (SPD), had criticizes the U.S. decision to send cluster munitions to Ukraine: “The use of ‘cluster munitions’ is rightly outlawed internationally.” Those who “act in the name of international order and values do not supply such weapons, not even in Ukraine.”

Melnyk, infamous for the photo op of him laying a wreath at the German grave of Hitler’s Ukrainian collaborator Stepan Bandera, tweeted: “Go to hell with your advice, Mr. Ralph Stegner and others. ... Have you ever been to war in Ukraine for 500 days? Did you feel the suffering of the people?” Note that Melnyk was defending Nazis long before the last 500 days. Melnyk, whom Zelenskyy has made Deputy Foreign Minister, became Kiev’s choice last month as new ambassador to Brazil. It is not clear if and when he will take up his new post.

### **Syria Throws Out the BBC**

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—BBC journalists will no longer be able to legally work in Syria after the country’s authorities revoked their accreditation, RT

reports today. In a statement yesterday, Syria’s Ministry of Information alleged that the BBC, despite repeated warnings from Damascus authorities, “has deliberately provided, from time to time, subjective and false information.” Some BBC reports, they assert, are based on “statements and testimonies from terrorist and anti-Syrian parties.” The statement concluded that the BBC had failed to uphold “professional standards,” insisting, instead, on “providing politicized and misleading reports.”

## NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

### Russia Approves Loan To Build Two Nuclear Plants in Hungary

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russian government has approved a state loan to finance the construction of two new nuclear reactors for Hungary’s Paks Nuclear Power Plant, RT reports today, adding that Moscow has pledged to allocate up to \$10.2 billion for the project out of a total cost of \$13.7 billion. The two 1.2 GW plants will be added to the Paks facility, where four previous units built between 1982 and 1987 already provide Hungary with about half of its power today. The deal was originally signed in 2014 with Rosatom. With the new modern nuclear reactors, the authorities expect to double the plant’s power output.

### AIIB Refutes Canadian Employee’s Charges of ‘Dirty Tricks’

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on July 7 released an extensive report of an internal review into allegations by former Director General of Communications Bob Pickard, a Canadian national, calling the allegations “unsubstantiated and incorrect.”

*Global Times* writes: “The report shows once again that some in the West, with the help of their media and even politicians, seek to smear China and everything related to the country with baseless claims, experts said, adding that such slanders will not derail the multilateral bank’s and China’s development.” The article adds that Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland (an overt Ukrainian Nazi sympathizer, whose grandfather

ran a newspaper in Krakow for the Nazis occupation) said that “the Canadian government will immediately halt all government-led activity at the bank, and she has instructed the Department of Finance to lead an immediate review of the allegations raised and of Canada’s involvement in the AIIB, according to an official statement.”

The [AIIB 36-page report](#) concluded that the bank “follows the highest standards of multilateral governance, that its governance is functioning as intended, and that there was no evidence of undue influence on decisions taken by the board of directors or management,” *Global Times* quoted the bank’s press release. Pickard had claimed that the AIIB is “dominated” by the Communist Party of China. The AIIB rebuttal notes that Pickard’s complaint provided “no evidence” to substantiate his claims, and that there were no other such claims against the bank.

“The internal review found no evidence to support or validate the former Director General of Communications’ allegations,” said the bank’s [General Counsel Alberto Ninio](#), who led the review. “The Internal Review confirms that AIIB’s governance structure functions as intended to deliver an apolitical, constructive, balanced and consensus-oriented decision culture.”

*Global Times* also reported: “The AIIB report noted that Pickard resigned on June 12, 2023 and left China later on June 14. He cited safety concerns as reasons for abruptly leaving China despite his having bank immunity during his tenure with the AIIB. The review did not find or receive evidence of a safety risk posed to Pickard nor did it find any evidence that he had requested the AIIB’s assistance to ensure his safety during his employment with the bank.”

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### Geraci Reports on Unique Character of Schiller Conference

July 9, 2023 (EIRNS)—Professor Michele Geraci, former Italian Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Development,

reported on the unique nature of the Schiller Institute conference in Europe over the weekend. Here are two of his tweets in translation:

“[Today in Strasbourg](#) I noticed among the approximately 200 participants a genuine interest in working for peace and seeking solutions to the war in Ukraine.

“We discuss in a calm way, some say it is Russia’s fault, and some say which is the fault of NATO and Ukraine, but everyone is listened to without insults and without being labeled ‘Putinist’ or ‘Bidenist’ or ‘Zelenskyian.’ A breath of fresh air compared to how you are used to hearing debate in Italy, where whoever shouts loudest is right. Everyone, without distinction of political and geopolitical view, is very concerned about the tragedy taking place every day, with families destroyed, young people killed on one side and the other. But to this there also lingers the fear of a serious escalation. Fear fueled by awareness (which I share), of facing a very serious and complex crisis, managed by European governments, without necessary skills and knowledge in all countries.”

“In [Strasbourg](#) we talk about peace, and today [Kennedy’s speech](#) comes on the scene. Great day, here I am with pen and paper jotting down everything I learn from the Kennedy experts: ‘What kind of peace do I mean? Not the peace of the grave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on Earth worth living.’ The text was published by the Russian media with great fanfare, but almost ignored by American media that criticized it as usual ... appeasement, Chamberlain, etc. ... nothing changes.... He, too, couldn’t finish his mandate.”