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EDITORIAL

The Time for a Summit Is Now, Before The Trigger Is Pulled to Set Off a World War

July 16 (EIRNS)—Former NSA technical director and renowned whistleblower William Binney came out swinging in comments to an enthusiastic internet meeting of the LaRouche PAC-endorsed Daniel Burke for Senate campaign last night. Binney reasserted for the gathering his proof that the entire premise of the British intelligence Russiagate operation to topple the Trump Presidency—that the Russians had supposedly hacked the DNC computer—did not happen, and technically *could not* have happened. He told his audience about the “sworn affidavits that I submitted in the Roger Stone and Flynn cases” which proved that point; but “the judges would not let my testimony in. Obviously they did not care about truth in their courts.”

The Binney testimony in this matter has become the political equivalent of flashing bright neon lights on the strategic landscape—for two reasons. First, because Roger Stone just had his preposterous sentence commuted by President Donald Trump, and the newly-ungagged Stone told the nearly 5 million viewers of Sean Hannity’s TV show in a July 13 interview with him, that Bill Binney had proof that the Russian hacking never occurred, but that the judge wouldn’t let him testify. This is not a story that the culpable Christopher Steele and other British intelligence operatives, including Mike Pompeo, are going to be able to keep sweeping under the rug, so long as Stone, Binney and others keep at it.

Secondly, because the stakes of President Donald Trump possibly breaking free of the Russiagate (and Chinagate) manacles, which are premised on this Big Lie, are greater now than they have ever been. A meeting of the Permanent Five members of the UN Security Council is looking more and more likely for September. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who initiated the call for the P5 meeting last January, has put on the agenda a discussion of the series of existential crises facing humanity: The

coronavirus pandemic; the global economic collapse; and the urgent need for a new international security architecture to forestall the danger of a new world war.

President Trump has everything to gain by taking the high road and participating in such a summit as an international statesman in the tradition of FDR—and then turn to address the pandemic and economic crises, and his other domestic woes, from that moral high ground. The British Empire is well aware that this is a very real possibility—driven both by the depth of the crisis facing humanity, and by Trump’s own proclivity to unpredictable behavior when his back is up against the wall. It is a prospect that has the British Empire more nervous than they would like to let on.

And yet the sobering reality is that the current trajectory of the planet is not that, at all. As Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche warned in her weekly international webcast, both the economic and the pandemic crises are escalating, and are out of control. On top of that, Zepp-LaRouche added, Chinese “Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the relationship between the United States and China is horrible. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the relationship between the United States and Russia is almost at rock bottom.... The chessboard is set. And that’s why people who really know the strategic situation and see how all the disarmament treaties and other treaties were dismantled in the recent period, recognize that we are in a period of utmost strategic instability, which can be compared to the situation before World War I. The only thing that is lacking is the shot at Sarajevo, which could happen at any time, in the form of an accident or some other provocation of some sort. So the need to go into a new paradigm is super-urgent.”

She continued: “We’re sitting on a strategic powder keg, and only if you elevate the discussion to the level of Presidents and the leaders of state, can you actually have the undisturbed atmosphere which normally is being poisoned by the permanent bureaucracies, which have all kinds of moles, which always try to work to prevent such progress from happening.”

For all of these reasons, Zepp-LaRouche concluded, “This may be the very last chance of humanity to avoid a catastrophe.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Russia Accused of Hacking COVID Vaccine Research Computers

July 16 (EIRNS)—The Russians have just been accused by British, American and Canadian intelligence agencies of hacking companies and organizations working on a COVID-19 vaccine. The U.K.’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) named the hacking group called APT29, also known as The Dukes or Cozy Bear. The NCSC says they are “more than 95% certain that the group is part of the Russian intelligence services,” BBC reports.

Cozy Bear is the same group blamed by CrowdStrike for hacking the DNC computer, which Bill Binney and others proved—and CrowdStrike’s Shawn Henry admitted—could not and did not happen. The latest report/warning was issued by the U.K.’s NCSC, the Canadian Communication Security Establishment (CSE), the United States Department for Homeland Security (DHS), the Cyber-security Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA).

Undocumented charges by discredited intelligence agencies with their own agenda, was good enough for British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who said: “It is completely unacceptable that the Russian intelligence services are targeting those working to combat the coronavirus pandemic. While others pursue their selfish interests with reckless behavior, the U.K. and its allies are getting on with the hard work of finding a vaccine and protecting global health.”

BBC’s coverage did admit that “Understanding vaccine research and other details about the pandemic has become a top target for intelligence agencies around the world and many others, including Western spies, are likely to be active in this space.” They quote Professor Ross Anderson from

the University of Cambridge's Computer Laboratory: "They have lots of people, we have lots of people, the Americans have even more people, as do the Chinese.... They are all trying to steal this kind of stuff all the time."

Chinese Foreign Ministry Calls U.S. Ambassador on the Carpet To Protest Hong Kong Legislation

July 16 (EIRNS)—Terry Branstad, the U.S. Ambassador to China, was called in to the Foreign Ministry to protest President Donald Trump's signing of the Hong Kong Autonomy Act. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang urged Branstad to "correct the mistake" and suspend the provisions of the law and the changes to Hong Kong's status, describing it as "vehement interference" in China's internal affairs. He said that U.S. steps to sanction Chinese entities and individuals "grossly violated international laws and the basic principles of international relations," and he threatened Chinese retaliation.

"The Hong Kong [law] and the executive order were concocted by the U.S. not because it cares about democracy and freedom of Hong Kong people, but as a means to hinder the development of China," Zheng said. "Such a scheme will never succeed."

Zheng said that the U.S. also "revealed its hegemonic nature" in its recent interference in Xinjiang, Tibet and South China Sea. "China has and will continue to take countermeasures to resolutely safeguard the core interests," said Zheng. "I want to tell the United States that any bullying and injustice imposed on China by the U.S. will be resolutely countered by China. The United States' attempt to block China's development is doomed to failure.... We urge the U.S. to change its course immediately, stop defamation and provocation against China, and do not go further and further on the wrong path," he said

Pompeo Lashes Out at China-Iran Deal in Context of Expiring UN Arms Embargo on Iran

July 16 (EIRNS)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed yesterday that if the U.S. fails to get the UN arms embargo on Iran extended, it will find other ways. The embargo is supposed to expire on Oct. 18, 2020. In

particular, he lashed out at the 25-year strategic arrangement between Iran and China as a reason to maintain the embargo. “China will sell weapons systems to Iran,” if the embargo is not renewed and the pact goes through, he said, reported the U.A.E.’s *The National*. Pompeo is traveling to Europe next week, where he is expected to discuss the extension of the embargo with his European counterparts. He also said that Washington is soon to present another draft UN Security Council resolution to extend it for another five years, which he claimed that the Europeans favor. But if the Security Council fails to act, the U.S. is not closing the door on other options.

Some in India View China-Iran Trade Deal with Trepidation

July 16 (EIRNS)—The proposed 25-year China-Iran trade deal is causing concern in some circles in India, which has reportedly been mooting the possibility of getting on board the U.S. anti-China Indo-Pacific strategy. An op-ed in the *Hindustan Times* on July 15 by Navtej Sarna, India’s former ambassador to both Washington and London, expressed dismay that Iran’s traditional “neither East nor West” policy seems to be out the window with the close relationship to China. He also evinced concern that India’s part in a new Chabahar port in Iran and a straight rail connection to Central Asia may now be in danger.

He further observes that the new relationship also brings Iran closer to Pakistan, with envisioned rail links between the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and a new rail grid in Iran with the potential of connecting the CPEC terminus of the port of Gwadar in Pakistan with Iran’s port of Chabahar on the Arabian Sea.

“All of this may not happen,” Sarna concludes, “but we cannot afford to wait for the Majlis [Iranian Parliament] to kill this deal, or for Joe Biden to become U.S. President and wean Iran away from China. Our interests are immediate: A strong outreach to Iran with expedited work on Chabahar and its integration into the North-South Transport Corridor as well as a vigorous follow-up on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s successful 2015 Central Asian visit would be timely initiatives to consider.”

Another option would be, of course, for India to opt out of the Indo-Pacific strategy and to work together with India's two closest neighbors as part of the Belt and Road approach.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Fauci Responds to Navarro's Attacks, 'Ultimately, It Hurts the President To Do That'

July 16 (EIRNS)—Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), as well as a major figure on the White House Coronavirus Task Force, gave a series of interviews to *The Atlantic* this week. In the interviews he responded forcefully to the list of alleged mistakes he has made that was given to the press by his opponents in the White House staff, and especially in trade adviser Peter Navarro's July 14 op-ed in *USA Today*, with its wholesale denunciation of Fauci's record. Fauci observed, accurately, that such statements only hurt President Donald Trump himself.

"I stand by everything I said. Contextually, at the time I said it, it was absolutely true," Fauci stated. "I think if you talk to reasonable people in the White House, they realize that was a major mistake on their part, because it doesn't do anything but reflect poorly on them.... Ultimately, it hurts the President to do that. When the staff lets out something like that and the entire scientific and press community push back on it, it ultimately hurts the President. And I don't really want to hurt the President. But that's what's happening. I told him [Chief of Staff Mark Meadows] I thought it was a big mistake. That doesn't serve any good purpose for what we're trying to do."

Asked about Navarro's op-ed in particular, Fauci replied: "I can't explain Peter Navarro. He's in a world by himself. So I don't even want to go there." The White House Director of Strategic Communications Alyssa Farah specified in a tweet July 15 that "The Peter Navarro op-ed didn't go through normal White House clearance processes and is the opinion of Peter alone. @realDonaldTrump values the expertise of the medical

professionals advising his Administration.” The President responded to media quest about Navarro’s op-ed: “He made a statement representing himself. He shouldn’t be doing that. I have a very good relationship with Anthony. We’re all on the same team, including Dr. Fauci.”

The Atlantic also asked Fauci what should be done at this point on the pandemic: “When you look at the numbers, obviously, we’ve got to do better. We’ve got to almost reset this and say, ‘Okay, let’s stop this nonsense’ ... By pushing a reset button, I don’t mean everybody locking down again. We’ve got to call a time-out and say ... ‘Okay, we’re going to do it right, everyone wear a mask, bars closed, no congregating in crowds, keep your distance, protect the vulnerable’—if we do that for a few weeks in a row, I’ll guarantee you those numbers will come down.”

Huge Disconnect Between American Public’s Perception and the Reality of the COVID-19 Crisis

July 16 (EIRNS)—“The United States is being ravaged by a deadly pandemic that is growing exponentially, overwhelming health care systems and costing thousands of lives, to say nothing of an economic recession that threatens to plague the nation for years to come,” Reid Wilson wrote in the July 15 *The Hill*. “But the American public seems to be over the pandemic, eager to get kids back in schools, ready to hit the bar scene and hungry for Major League Baseball to play its abbreviated season. The startling divergence between the brutal reality of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the fantasy land of a forthcoming return to normalcy has public health experts depressed and anxious about what is to come. The worst is not behind us, they say, by any stretch of the imagination.”

The article then goes on to quote some of those experts:

“It’s an absolute disconnect between our perceived reality and our actual reality,” said Craig Spencer, a New York City emergency room doctor who directs global health in emergency medicine at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. “To look at the COVID case count and the surge in cases and to think that we can have these discussions as we have uncontrolled spread...”

Not surprisingly, the liberal *The Hill* takes the very real problems to spin their coverage to go after President Donald Trump: “A failure of national leadership has led us to a place where we are back where we were before, no national testing strategy, no national strategy for supply,” said Kelli Drenner, who teaches public health at the University of Houston. “States are still on their own to scramble for reagents and swabs and PPE and all of that, still competing against each other and against nations for those resources.”

Trump Promotes Infrastructure, Slams ‘Biden, Bernie and AOC’ Green Lunacy

July 16 (EIRNS)—In an appearance yesterday at the UPS Hapeville Airport Hub in Georgia, President Donald Trump announced a major highway infrastructure project for that state, which will facilitate inter-city truck traffic, and indicated he had many more such projects both for Georgia and the country, although he offered no details or indication of financing.

A particular focus of the President’s appearance before an audience of UPS workers, their families and executives, was his administration’s overhaul of the National Environmental Policy Act, whose regulations, he said, had been a major obstacle to building any infrastructure projects in the country, delaying approval for years, and sometimes decades. After thorough study, he said, administration officials have succeeded in removing “mountains and mountains of bureaucratic red tape,” to allow for the efficient building of “incredible” projects.

Trump said that “we are returning to our proud heritage as a nation of builders” to make infrastructure in the U.S. “the envy of the world.” Referencing Dwight Eisenhower’s building of the interstate highway system, whose 50th anniversary will be celebrated next year, he said: “We’re the nation that built the Golden Gate Bridge in four years, the Hoover Dam in five years, and a lot of people don’t understand this, but it’s so true: We built the Empire State Building in less than a year. Can you imagine that?” He stressed that he had no intention of abandoning the U.S.

“gold standard environmental protection,” but the plan is to, build, build, build—including major expansion of broadband access to Midwest farmers.

Usefully, Trump took a swipe at Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) for their Green New Deal lunacy. Blaming the Obama Administration for environmentalist regulations that made rapid project approval impossible, he charged that Biden agrees with this, and that “this is his Bernie Sanders deal.” Biden, he said, wants to re-regulate the energy sector and rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. “They still haven’t explained what they’re going to do to power our great plants and factories, but at some point, I’m sure they will. We’ll learn that from AOC, who’s in charge of energy.... She’s in charge, along with Bernie. It’s AOC and Bernie in charge of energy.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

U.K. Financiers Prepares To Jump Ship, Leaving Government To Collect ‘the COVID Debt Pile’

July 16 (EIRNS)—The British financial sector is expecting a wave of bankruptcies among individuals and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) beginning as early as this fall, as the government help during the COVID-19 pandemic runs out, along with the end of government support for furloughs and rent deferrals. This will put up to 3 million jobs at risk and 780,000 SMEs in danger of bankruptcy, according to a report issued today by the City of London financial lobby, TheCityUK Recapitalisation Group. A similar scenario is facing the United States beginning late July and into the early fall.

According to Reuters, the British initiative comes from a group of more than “200 of Britain’s top financial experts [who] have joined forces to design initiatives to help small businesses restructure and repay as much as £35 billion (\$44.1 billion) in ‘unsustainable’ COVID-19 relief debt.” Their report proposed launching a “U.K. Recovery Corporation (UKRC),” which would have the U.K. government buy up the bad debt and try to collect it. Adrian Montague, chairman of TheCityUK Leadership Council, explained:

“With tough trading conditions forecast to remain, paying back these loans will be challenging for many small and medium-sized businesses.”

Once the government takes over the bad debt, the financial sector could then move in and make a second killing on it. Reuters explained, “Under the proposals, the government would be the principal investor in UKRC initially but debt could later be sold off in portfolios or securitized and bought by private investors.” That way the government takes the heat for collecting the bankers’ debts, while they proceed with their next bubble. “Miles Celic, chief executive of TheCityUK, told reporters banks were mindful of the potential reputational risks involved in pursuing bad debts from struggling firms but said a proposed independent review system should help ensure fair outcomes... EY’s U.K. Financial Services Managing Partner Omar Ali said the recovery corporation could help collect debts over the longer term, adding it was ultimately up to the government to decide the viability criteria for the various schemes.”

U.S. Mass Unemployment Keeps Calling Out for 50 Million Productive Jobs

July 16 (EIRNS)—“The total number of Americans on unemployment benefits in all programs as of the week ended July 4 was 32.003 million”, according to the Labor Department’s release this morning. This was down about 400,000 from the prior week. New claims for the week ended July 11 were 1.3 million if “seasonally adjusted”, and 1.5 million if taken straight (up by about 100,000 from the prior week). Some 500,000 of the 1.5 million new claims were from Florida, Texas, California and Arizona.

The extra absurdity of using “seasonal adjustments” in this situation should be apparent. Two years ago you had a head cold which got much worse in this week. Now you have cancer, which progressed only slightly in this week. So your cancer, “seasonally adjusted”, regressed this week. Unadjusted, then, 32 million plus 1.5 million; plus hundreds of thousands of people still unable to get their claims processed in some cases after months; minus new hires in the week ended July 11 (not known, but appears to be running at about 1 million/week), is the mass of

unemployment. At last report (several weeks ago) another 9 million were on forced part-time work. And the big layoffs from airlines, aircraft makers, oil majors, etc. are still just ahead. So 50 million new productive jobs are needed.

American Airlines About To Furlough 25,000 Workers

July 16 (EIRNS)—American Airlines announced that it will shortly be sending out furlough notices to some 25,000 workers, because the government’s payroll assistance program is scheduled to expire in October and the demand for air travel is slowing again as the pandemic resurgence takes its toll. If the government program is not renewed, American expects to be seriously overstaffed and will need to release people. The airline now has over 130,000 employees. Reuters reported that “among different work groups, warnings are being sent to 2,500 pilots or about 18% of the total, nearly 10,000 flight attendants or 37% of the total, and 3,200 mechanics or 22% of the total.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Central Asian Foreign Ministers Confer Online

July 16 (EIRNS)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a virtual meeting today with the five Foreign Ministers of Central Asia’s republics: Mukhtar Tleuberdi of Kazakhstan; Chingiz Aidarbekov of Kyrgyzstan; Sirojiddin Muhridin of Tajikistan; Rashid Meredov of Turkmenistan, who is also Deputy Prime Minister; and Abdulaziz Kamilov of Uzbekistan. On June 30, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale had held a videoconference with the foreign ministers of these same countries, in an attempt to move them away from their cooperation with China. Pompeo didn’t have much to offer in the way of incentives, however, and both the geographical proximity and the friendly relations between the Central Asian republics and China make such a break unlikely. Wang Yi stressed the importance of the Belt and

Road Initiative—which President Xi Jinping had first announced in September 2013 in Kazakhstan—for these landlocked nations.

Wang further that China attaches great importance to the development of strategic partnership with the Central Asian republics, firmly supports all countries to follow the path of development in line with their national conditions, upholds each country to safeguard its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and supports the development of each country by itself.

Wang proposed the establishment of a traditional Chinese medicine center and cooperating in research on vaccines, and ensuring fast access for personnel on both sides, establishing green channels for the transportation of goods to ensure the safety and stability of the supply chain, expanding the scale of cross-border e-commerce, and accelerating the construction of the “Digital Silk Road,” reported CGTN.

The six parties agreed to promote the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with the development strategies of Central Asian countries, build interconnected partnerships, deepen pragmatic cooperation in various fields, carry out effective investment cooperation, and jointly promote the recovery and development of the economy, and the six nations issued a joint statement to that effect. They also agreed to expand high-tech cooperation areas such as e-commerce, smart cities, artificial intelligence, and big data technology applications to jointly build a partnership in the digital economy. One of the key points was to make Central Asia a transportation hub for Eurasia. In their statement the foreign ministers also agreed that in responding to the coronavirus pandemic, there should be no discrimination, stigmatization, racism and xenophobia. They further reiterated their cooperation in fighting the “three forces,” terrorism, separatism and extremism.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE**Ambassador Antonov Recalls Apollo-Soyuz 'Handshake in Space' 45 Years Ago**

July 16 (EIRNS)—Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov wrote a guest column dated July 15 for *Air & Space* magazine, in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of what became known as the most famous “handshake in space”—Apollo-Soyuz. Both spacecraft were successfully launched on July 15, 1975, and the docking took place two days later.

Antonov describes, under the headline, “With the Apollo-Soyuz Handshake in Space, the Cold War Thawed a Little”: “Interesting fact: Hatches between the Soyuz and Apollo spacecraft were opened when the ships were passing over the Elbe River in Germany, which had been the site of a famous meeting between Soviet and American troops in April 1945, when the two countries were fighting together against Nazi Germany. [Soyuz cosmonaut Alexei] Leonov later noted, ‘Our fathers met on the Elbe in 1945, and their sons met over the Elbe in 1975. That was some kind of providence.’ ”

The joint mission between what was then the world’s only two manned space programs—China joined the club in 2003—“paved the way for cooperation on today’s International Space Station, and Russian and U.S. leaders have reaffirmed many times their commitment to continued collaboration in this sphere, emphasizing its mutually beneficial nature.... Hundreds of miles away from the rest of humanity, their mutual assistance and readiness to help one another are of real, as well as symbolic, importance,” writes Antonov. The Soyuz crew were Alexei Leonov and Valeriy Kubasov; and the Apollo crew were Thomas Stafford and Deke Slayton, who flew on the Soyuz, and Vance Brand, command module pilot on the Apollo. Commanders Leonov and Stafford remained lifetime friends afterward.

- Watch the [**Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger**](#) on Friday July 17: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley's briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).