

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Avoiding Armageddon and a Dark Age

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—Before us looms the threat of the outbreak of a profound escalation of the NATO-Russia conflict, a trajectory that would lead to nuclear warfare and possible complete human extinction. Somewhat more distant on the horizon is what could be called the “Green Death”—the

destruction of productive capabilities, including, prominently, agriculture, in the name of protecting the planet for a future humanity (of less than 1 billion people). These twin challenges demand an affirmation of the beautiful truth of the human identity—of the potential, across cultures and time, to contribute a new discovery, a new act of courage, of enduring value, to the future. A new paradigm based on the true nature of the human individual, is required—nothing less will work!

“Today we are faced with a strategic situation far more dangerous than that at the height of the Cuban missile crisis,” writes Helga Zepp-LaRouche in her [Appeal to the \(Next\) President of the United States](#).

“The world is in danger of splitting into two blocs, a NATO-U.S.-U.K. bloc, and a Russia-China-‘Global South’ bloc. This represents the acute danger of a new world war, which would be nuclear, and would therefore mean the annihilation of the human species.”

That split is seen in the contrast between the world of sanctions, anti-industrial policy, militarism, and financialization of the Anglo-American world, and the flourishing of such new institutions and initiatives as the Belt and Road Initiative and the BRICS process. The BRICS foreign ministers met on June 1, and the BRICS-Plus is meeting on June 2, with 15 other countries invited, including 8 African nations.

As NATO pushes for war, a growing chorus of voices, from Brazil to Senegal, from China to South Africa, from the Vatican to Denmark, just to name a few, demands peace and the opportunity for a future on this planet.

President [John F. Kennedy](#)’s June 10, 1963 speech at American University sounded the call for an end to Cold War confrontation, and for the sort of affirmative peace embodied in the mission launched by that President of sending human beings to the surface of the Moon. That space mission, enormous in its scope, captured the imagination of the world, and brought enormous economic and technical benefits, estimated as being more than an order of magnitude greater than the “cost.”

What is the cost today of forbidding NASA-China cooperation on manned spaceflight? What is the cost of shutting down avenues for scientific, technological, and economic cooperation in advanced fields, through the sanctions and export bans of the Anglo-American imperium? What is the incurred cost of failing to invest in nuclear power—both the fission plants possible today and research into the fusion of the future? What is the cost of holding back development for “green” reasons?

And what would be the cost of an end to human civilization?

Are we living in a tragedy, hurtling towards an ineluctable future? Or will we take charge of the next chapter of human history?

“Our problems are man-made,” President Kennedy told his audience on June 10, 1963. “Therefore, they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man’s reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable—and we believe they can do it again.”

- Watch Harley’s Updates with Harley Schlanger on Friday June 2, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

BRICS Foreign Ministers Meet, Welcome 15 ‘BRICS-Plus’ Guests

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—The foreign ministers of the BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—met in Cape Town, South Africa, today for a two-day summit, the second day of which will be dedicated to a meeting of the “BRICS-Plus,” the foreign ministers of the 5 member nations and 15 from nations of the Global South, including those seeking membership. Most of those attending tomorrow’s session will attend virtually, but the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, are attending in person.

According to South Africa's Ambassador at Large for Asia and BRICS Anil Sooklal, up to 30 states have submitted official and unofficial applications for BRICS membership. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's goal to promote closer BRICS relations with African countries is reflected in the fact that among 15 top diplomats invited to the BRICS-Plus meeting, 8 are from Africa. There were many bilateral meetings held today among all the attendees with productive results.

The main task for this gathering is to prepare the agenda for the Aug. 22-24 summit of BRICS heads of state and government in Johannesburg, which may include creation of a BRICS currency and consolidating the BRICS as a leadership body that speaks for, and defends the interests of, the nations of the Global South. On the issue of the BRICS currency, South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor pointed out that there are discussions underway worldwide, including among the BRICS nations, about ways to avoid the use of the U.S. dollar, and she stressed the need to strengthen the positions of BRICS currencies in international trade.

Western media covering the event couldn't refrain from introducing geopolitical issues, blathering about the danger of the BRICS becoming a "counterweight to the U.S. and the EU," how non-alignment is a problem, or speculating over whether Russian President Vladimir Putin will be able to attend the August BRICS summit because of the arrest warrant issued against him by the International Criminal Court. Reuters circulated a rumor that South Africa might ask Beijing to host the August summit, to avoid having to deal with the delicate issue of Putin and the ICC.

But introductory remarks made by each minister at the opening session this morning focused on the reality-based issues that are of primary concern for discussion. Minister Pandor said that "our vision of BRICS is for our partnership to provide global leadership in a world fractured by competition, geopolitical tension, inequality and deteriorating global security."

India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar pointed to the concentration of economic power which "leaves too many nations at the

mercy of too few.” He stressed the urgency of reforming the UN and its Security Council. “Old ways cannot address new situations. We are a symbol of change. We must act,” he said. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov charged that sanctions directed against Russia and other countries by the West are instruments of colonialism, intended to unfairly suppress rivals in a global power struggle, Reuters reported him saying.

China’s 15th Straits Forum To Begin in Xiamen on June 16

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—China’s government in Beijing, joined by groups and individuals from Taiwan, will hold the 15th Straits Forum beginning on June 16, in the coastal city of Xiamen, Fujian province. Zhu Fenglian, deputy director for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council of China, told media on May 29 that the plenary conference will take place on June 17.

Individuals of various backgrounds from Taiwan will participate, including representatives from political parties, co-sponsors of the event, professionals from different industries, and members of religious circles. Altogether there will be 51 events during this forum, promoting cultural and economic exchanges and communication among the youth and people across the Taiwan Strait. The forum is co-hosted by 84 institutions from both sides of the Strait and will offer more than 1,200 jobs and 1,000 internship and training opportunities to young people from Taiwan. The idea is to foster cooperation across diverse sectors, such as rural revitalization, and entrepreneurship among young people from Taiwan, as well as industries encompassing science, education, culture and finance.

South Africa’s Ramaphosa Resists Geopolitical Pressures

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—TASS noted today that South Africa has come under extreme pressure in recent months from the U.S. and the European Union, demanding that it curb ties with Russia and China. A case in point was the charge made by U.S. Ambassador [Reuben Brigety](#) on May 11, that South Africa was providing Russia with weapons, contrary to its claim of neutrality on the Ukraine war. At the time, Brigety loudly complained about South Africa’s non-alignment and claimed that the BRICS was being

promoted as a “counterpoint to the G7.” After South Africa’s foreign ministry summoned him to deliver a *démarche* on May 12, Brigety publicly apologized.

Yesterday President Cyril Ramaphosa, speaking before the National Assembly in Cape Town, described how there had been “concerted efforts to draw South Africa into the broader geopolitical contest around the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Yet we have consistently maintained our non-aligned stance, our respect for the UN Charter and for the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue.

“Our understanding of non-alignment—which is distinct from the concept of neutrality—is rooted in the Bandung principles, which continue to guide the Non-Aligned Movement....

“From the beginning of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, our position has been that this conflict needs to be resolved through negotiation. South Africa is pleased to participate in a mission by six African countries to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict.” Ramaphosa then announced that he intended to send four of his senior ministers, headed by Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, “as my envoys to the G7 countries to explain our peace mission....”

On May 16, Ramaphosa had announced in a joint press conference with visiting Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong: “Over the [May 12-13] weekend I presented an African leaders peace mission to President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during separate telephone calls. Principal to our discussions are efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the devastating conflict in the Ukraine, its cost in human lives and impact on the African continent. In this regard, I presented the initiative on behalf of African Heads of State, from Zambia, Senegal, Congo, Uganda, Egypt and South Africa. The two leaders agreed to receive the mission and the African Heads of State, in both Moscow and Kiev. I agreed with both President Putin and President Zelenskyy to commence with preparations for engagements with the African Heads of State. The

Secretary General of the United Nations was briefed and welcomed the initiative.”

The next day, the director of the foreign ministry (DIRCO) Zane Dangor briefed lawmakers on plans in early June by the six heads of state to “be shuffling between the two capitals to engage in the facilitating of peace talks to at least get toward a ceasefire.”

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Zelenskyy Demands a Non-Peace Conference for His Non-Peace Proposal

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenskyy proposed at the G7 meeting in Hiroshima that there be a peace conference arranged for the Ukraine-Russia conflict—except that Russia not be invited. This actually makes sense, if the stipulation is that the “Ukrainian Peace Plan” is the agenda. That is, the starting point for negotiations has three conditions: Russia’s military withdraws from all the regions of Ukraine that in 2014 had voted to join Russia (after objecting to the violent coup that overthrew the elected Ukrainian government); Russia hands over Putin and other Russian leaders for international tribunals; and Russia pays reparations to Ukraine. Since the proposal was designed as a non-starter, a non-peace conference is an appropriate follow up.

The *Wall Street Journal* yesterday reported that France, Denmark and Sweden have offered to host the public relations event. The *Journal* suggests that it won’t be a charade, because EU officials plan to water down Kiev’s proposal “to make it more acceptable” to those outside of Europe. However, such a way of proceeding, by humoring Kiev’s fantasies, in reality tells those who actually proposed dealing with both Kiev and Moscow—that is, the Vatican, Brazil, China, India, and African nations—to stand aside.

The head Zelenskyy’s Presidential Office Andriy Yermak acknowledged that the peace process “is not possible without the whole world, including the leaders of the Global South”—just not including

Russia. He proceeded to explain the outreach to the daily: “We require a unified plan of the responsible civilized world that really wants to live in peace.” Evidently Russia would have been invited if they had been responsible and civilized.

So far, Kiev’s outreach has been bumpy, as Zelenskyy skipped his meeting with Brazil’s President Lula and he told a skeptical Arab League that they were succumbing to “Russian influence.” Ukrinform reports that today Zelenskyy indicated, indirectly, that the organizing of the targeted audience has run into problems. Zelenskyy told the press: “As for the peace formula, we are now at the stage where we will organize such a summit.... Of course, we want as many countries as possible to take part in it. That is why the date has not yet been determined.”

Erdogan Expected To Host Both Zelenskyy and Putin in Turkiye

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Daily Sabah*, citing *Hurriyet Daily News*, reported May 31 that both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are expected to visit Turkiye to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to discuss the situation of the war and the fate of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. This follows a warning by Russia on May 29 that the grain deal was in danger unless a UN agreement to overcome obstacles to Russian grain and fertilizer exports is fulfilled.

Moscow Continues To Expose London War Involvement

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, during a joint press conference with Mozambique’s Foreign Minister yesterday, exposed British involvement in Ukrainian terror attacks inside Russia. “London is one of the main string-pullers, those who are inciting the whole West to support Ukraine more and more openly and more seriously,” TASS quoted him as saying. “The British Foreign Secretary has speculated on television or on social media that Britain does not encourage strikes on Russian territory proper, but the Ukrainian authorities and the Ukrainian armed forces allegedly know better how they should secure their territorial integrity. [This is] direct incitement to what the terrorists in Kiev have been doing.”

Russia's Embassy in London also issued a statement taking on [Foreign Secretary James Cleverly](#)'s remarks in Estonia. "It seems British officials, aiming to take on new heights in ratcheting up the Ukrainian conflict, have now managed to surpass their overseas partners in their reckless rhetoric," wrote the embassy post on its website.

"Belligerent statements by the head of British 'diplomacy' cannot be considered anything less than emboldening the Kiev regime to commit new acts of terror against civilian infrastructure and peaceful citizens of Russia. It seems those looking out the windows in the Foreign Office (or in Estonia) view residential buildings in Moscow as 'legitimate military targets.' We therefore assume that such statements are indicative of Mr. Cleverly's readiness to assume responsibility for the harm and suffering inflicted on Russians, as well as the extremely dangerous escalation of the conflict."

Russian Military Repels Another Ukrainian Incursion into Belgorod Province

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russian Defense Ministry reported today that the Russian armed forces, jointly with units of the Border Guard Service and Federal Security Service, repelled a cross-border Ukrainian incursion into the Belgorod Region. "At around 3:00 a.m. Moscow time, after intense shelling of civilian facilities in Belgorod region, Ukrainian terrorist groups with up to two motorized infantry companies reinforced with tanks attempted to invade Russian territory near Novaya Tavolzhanka and the Shebekino international road checkpoint," the ministry said in a statement on its Telegram channel. "Three attacks by Ukrainian terrorist formations were repelled by the selfless actions of Russian servicemen. Helicopters of the Western Military District carried out eleven strikes on the enemy. Rocket and artillery forces carried out 77 firing missions, and two heavy flamethrowers launched two strikes. As a result of active operations by the border troops of the Western Military District and the Russian Federal Security Service, the terrorist units of the Kiev regime, which suffered significant losses, were driven back."

Prior to today's attack, Shebekino had been subjected to what Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov described as "non-stop" shelling, during which eight civilians were wounded. He said that on Tuesday, May 30, more than 200 projectiles hit Shebekino and nearby areas, killing one civilian and wounding several others.

"We are concerned about this situation, the shelling of civilian facilities continues there," Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters at the Kremlin yesterday. "The situation there is quite alarming, measures are being taken," he declared. "By the way, we haven't heard a word of condemnation from any of the countries of the collective West."

Meanwhile, Donetsk People's Republic security forces told TASS that three civilians died in the Kalininsky district of Donetsk, yesterday, as the result of Ukrainian shelling. "Three casualties so far. They died before the ambulance could get to them," the source said.

Acting Head of the D.P.R. Denis Pushilin said that Ukrainian forces can now reach any part of the D.P.R. with the long-range missiles that it has been provided with. "Almost all D.P.R. territory is under shelling. We see that the West crosses the red line by supplying the weapons to the Kiev regime. And we see that these missiles"—Pushilin is clearly referring to the British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles—"taking into consideration their range, can reach absolutely anywhere (any part of the D.P.R.). However, we still continue to work, counting on our armed forces, on the work of air defense systems," Pushilin told reporters. This morning, D.P.R. military authorities reported 38 shelling attacks over the previous day, involving 228 rockets and shells of varying calibers.

Zelenskyy Dictates NATO July Summit Must Grant Kiev Immediate Accession at Vilnius

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—Speaking today at the European Political Community Summit in Moldova, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy demanded that the NATO summit in Vilnius on July 11-12 grant his regime security guarantees and an immediate pathway to membership in the Alliance. An early edition of the *Financial Times*, quoted by RT, cited

“people familiar with the matter” saying that Zelenskyy threatened to skip the NATO meeting unless his demands were met. A later edition of *FT* omitted that part.

Zelenskyy argued: “This year—is for decisions. And this is the third point I would like to emphasize.

“In summer—in Vilnius, at the NATO summit—the clear invitation to membership for Ukraine is needed, and the security guarantees on the way to NATO membership are needed. In fall, on our accession to the EU—clear positive decision is needed. And we are also preparing the Peace Summit, which will guide the world majority to implement the joint Peace Formula, and it is a global need. The time has come, and the doubts must vanish.”

The *FT* felt compelled to say that Zelenskyy’s demands came just after Russia “conducted its 18th air strike on Kiev in the past 31 days, killing three people in the capital.” No mention of Kiev’s own murderous attacks on civilians in the Russian capital and along the border or in the Donbass.

There is no consensus on Ukraine joining NATO, however. Even Germany’s hapless Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stated today, that while NATO is open to new members, there can be no discussion now about accepting a new member that is “in the midst of a war.” One French official quoted by the *FT* pointed to the “intense” discussions going on among Kiev’s Western backers on what form security guarantees would take, and how much money would have to be pledged by individual countries, with the rest provided by multilateral organizations.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Medea Benjamin Reviews Peace Efforts, Proposals

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—From the efforts of Turkiye, Italy and Israel in the spring of 2022, to the May 2023 announcement by Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen that his country is willing to host a peace summit,

Medea Benjamin—co-founder of CODEPINK—asks what it will take to get the U.S. and NATO to end opposition to peace.

Seymour Hersh reports that leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are eager to end the war and rebuild Ukraine, in part to address the refugee situation. On May 23, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said, “Looking at the fact that NATO is not ready to send troops, it’s obvious that there is no victory for poor Ukrainians on the battlefield.”

China’s peace initiative has been taken up through his envoy Li Hui’s meetings with Presidents Vladimir Putin, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Kiev’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, and European leaders. Brazilian President Lula da Silva has appointed former Defense Minister Celso Amorim as his peace envoy. Amorim has also met with both Putin and Zelenskyy.

On May 16, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and five other African Presidents added their voices through the announcement of a mission by six African Presidents, led by Senegal President Macky Sall, who was recently the Chairman of the African Union. South Africa and Senegal are joined by Congo, Egypt, Uganda, and Zambia. Pope Francis continues to work for peace, including through his appointment of Cardinal Matteo Zuppi as peace envoy.

But, Benjamin asks, “will any of these initiatives bear fruit?” This depends on changing U.S. and NATO opposition to peace talks.

In the U.S. itself, paid advertisements appeared in May in the *New York Times* and *The Hill* to urge peace. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, representing over 1,000 cities, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the President and Congress to “maximize diplomatic efforts to end the war as soon as possible by working with Ukraine and Russia to reach an immediate ceasefire and negotiate with mutual concessions in conformity with the UN Charter, knowing that the risks of wider war grow the longer the war continues.”

Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. have promoted efforts for a negotiated peace.

What more will Americans and other NATO citizens do to cause an outbreak of peace? We must not sleepwalk into World War III.

Is No-Good FBI Opening Up a New Investigation of Julian Assange?

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—It appears that the sleazebags at the FBI are worried that the U.S. case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who's been imprisoned in London without charges at the maximum security HM Prison Belmarsh since 2019, isn't as strong as thought. Assange's lawyers and family members now suspect that the FBI is digging around for new evidence and that U.S. prosecutors might be planning a new indictment or a superseding indictment against Assange, according to Australian dailies *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

Last week, the FBI requested an interview with well-known Scottish novelist Andrew O'Hagan, who worked as a ghostwriter for Assange's autobiography over a decade ago, but had a public falling out with him and subsequently publicly attacked him in a 2014 essay in the *London Review of Books*. O'Hagan, however, declined the FBI's request to meet "voluntarily," stating, "I would not give a witness statement against a fellow journalist being pursued for telling the truth."

It has been three years since U.S. prosecutors handed down an indictment against Assange, and his lawyers didn't think there was even an active investigation underway. Stephen Kenney, Assange's Australian lawyer, remarked that "it appears they are continuing to try to investigate, which I find unusual, given the amount of time that has passed since the investigation began."

This occurs at a time of growing optimism about the possibility of Assange being released, as a result of tremendous international pressure and mobilizations that have grown over the past year, including a strong statement from [Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese](#), who told Australia Broadcasting Corp. on May 4, "I just say that enough is enough.

There is nothing to be served by his ongoing incarceration,” referring to U.S. extradition efforts against Assange. Assange’s brother Gabriel Shipton, told the *Sydney Morning Herald*, that indications of a new investigation “shows they understand how weak the charges against Julian are and are trying to strengthen them.”

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Israeli Legitimacy of Illegal Jewish Settlement Aggravating Tensions with Washington

June 1, 2023 (EIRNS)—Israeli journalist Ben Caspit, writing in *Al-Monitor* on May 30, reports that tensions between the Biden Administration and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were aggravated this week when an illegal yeshiva on the West Bank, called Homesh, was moved from private land to Israeli state-owned land, giving it the appearance of government backing. “We are deeply troubled by the Israeli government’s recent order that allows its citizens to establish a permanent presence in the Homesh outpost in the northern West Bank,” [State Department](#) spokesman Matthew Miller declared on May 21.

Caspit notes that throughout decades of controversial Israeli settlements on the West Bank, illegal activities were carried out by the settlers themselves, seeking to expand their hold on the land and periodically clashing with troops sent to dismantle ad hoc settlements. This time, the government—or at least parts of it—is clearly behind the move, in obvious provocation of the Palestinians, the Biden Administration, and the EU.

“Former military chief Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, currently an opposition lawmaker, believes the move reflects the unprecedented appointment of two defense ministers,” Caspit writes. “The first is Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, in charge of overall defense matters. The second is Finance Minister and Minister in the Defense Ministry hard-line nationalist Bezalel Smotrich, who is in charge of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Eizenkot noted that the division of authority among these two is unclear, allowing for murky policy moves and a measure of deniability.

“ ‘Israel broke an explicit promise to previous American administrations and also to the current American administration only two months ago,’ Eizenkot said.

“He was referring to Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip” in 2005. “At the time, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon committed to President George Bush not to rebuild the West Bank settlements. He also referred to commitments by the current Netanyahu government at the Aqaba and Sharm al-Sheikh summits to freeze settlement expansion, at least for a few months. In addition, Prime Minister Netanyahu committed to the Biden Administration that despite the repeal of the 2005 ban two months ago, Israel would not build new outposts on the lands of the four demolished settlements.”

“It’s not just Homesh,” a senior U.S. diplomatic source told Caspit on condition of anonymity, “it’s all that’s happening; it’s the fact that no one bothers to act according to the law anymore; it’s the fact that Smotrich declares that he intends to double the number of settlers in the territories; it’s the fact that there’s a feeling that the Israelis are doing everything to generate provocations in as little time as possible.”

A senior Western diplomatic source in Tel Aviv told Caspit that Netanyahu’s tacit approval of the Homesh resettlement further distances prospects of a breakthrough in renewed efforts to make peace with Saudi Arabia and even Netanyahu’s coveted invitation to the White House.

“Netanyahu is confident that he can continue to go with [the settlers] and pretend not to do so, eliminate any chance of calm in the territories or political negotiations with the Palestinians with one hand, and make peace with Saudi Arabia with the other. In the near future, he will realize that such a maneuver is even beyond his prowess,” said the source.