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EDITORIAL

F-16 Fighter Jets in Ukraine Means NATO in Ukraine; Restore JFK Wisdom in America Now

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—We are seeing the escalation of both the danger of all-out nuclear war over Ukraine, and of initiatives towards a resolution of

the conflict. The situation makes it imperative to move the U.S. towards the wisdom and morality clearly stated 60 years ago this June 10, by [President John F. Kennedy](#) at American University. He said, speaking just months after the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, “Total war makes no sense in an age when great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces....”

On the danger front. The “international coalition” for sending F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine, that U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte pledged to bring about in the days before the Group of Seven May 19-21 Summit in Japan, has come to pass. President Joe Biden and others spoke of their commitment at the G7 Hiroshima meeting. Today in Brussels, further commitment was made at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting. Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra announced that training will start “very soon” for Ukrainian pilots on the F-16 planes.

The significance of the F-16s being put in Ukraine is that NATO will be in Ukraine. This is straightforward, and it is significant that it was stated as the view of Russia last night in Washington by the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. [Anatoly Antonov](#): “There is no infrastructure for the operation of the F-16 in Ukraine and the needed number of pilots and maintenance personnel is not there either. What will happen if the American fighters take off from NATO airfields, controlled by foreign ‘volunteers’?”

Add to this picture, the startup this week of the biggest ever NATO exercises in Europe, the Defender 2023 drills of all kinds. One expert warns that the Air Defender Exercises beginning June 12 provide an opportunity extremely conducive for an accidental or deliberate clash between NATO and Russia.

Meantime, the provocations against Russia are extreme. In the last 24 hours, Ukraine forces are shelling inside Russia, in the District of Belgorod. And once again, for about the seventh time, Kiev is accusing Russia of shelling the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, where Russian forces have controlled since early 2022.

Notably opposite to all this are a number of initiatives in the direction of providing a potential resolution of the crisis. On May 20, the Vatican officially confirmed that Pope Francis has designated as head of a Peace Mission, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, who, among other responsibilities, is head of Italy's Conference of Bishops. The Vatican statement reports that the Mission's mandate is to start to reduce tensions over Ukraine—no matter how unlikely—and make way for pathways to peace processes.

This week, China's official envoy to promote the same goal, senior diplomat Li Hui, will be going to Moscow, according to TASS today, from unnamed diplomatic sources. Li was in Kiev last week, visiting certain government leaders, even if his purpose was dismissed out of hand by Zelenskyy.

President Lula da Silva of Brazil has also reiterated his intentions for working with other nations—what he has called earlier this year, a “Peace Club”—on a path to resolving the Ukraine crisis. He spoke today, after attending the G7 summit as representing one of the eight guest nations, but he did not toe the G7/NATO line on Russia and international relations. Da Silva said that the Group of Seven was not the proper venue to be taking up Ukraine, and an international venue, such as the United Nations General Assembly, should be enlisted. He gave a timeframe of late June to early July. “It is necessary to discuss the war in Ukraine in the UN. During all five months of my Presidency, no one invited me to attend a UN meeting to discuss this war. We could reschedule the General Assembly meeting, which usually takes place in September, to June or July to discuss the war.”

We also take note of—with caution concerning its integrity—the report that the Prime Minister of Denmark Lars Lokke Rasmussen, at today's EU Foreign Ministers meeting, offered Denmark as a negotiations location for Ukraine and Russia, as long as the nations of China and Brazil, and India, participate, he said.

But amidst it all, a special flame for truth and morality must come from the United States. June 10 is the date in 1963, in which President Kennedy

in his American University speech, carried high that flame which can ignite its renewal today, if we organize to make that happen.

[Join in the mobilization](#) in any way you can.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday May 23, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Ambassador Antonov Warns against NATO Fighter Jets in Ukraine, Drone Strikes on Crimea

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Ambassador to the U.S. [Anatoly Antonov](#) has issued stern warnings to the U.S. about F-16s in Ukraine, and drone strikes on Crimea. Included in a statement on the embassy's website on May 21, he said, “There is no infrastructure for the operation of the F-16 in Ukraine and the needed number of pilots and maintenance personnel is not there either. What will happen if the American fighters take off from NATO airfields, controlled by foreign ‘volunteers’?”

Today, in response to a media question, [Antonov](#) admonished against any “thoughtless judgments” about permitting drone attacks on Crimea, saying that attacks on Crimea would be considered by Moscow as an attack on any other region of the Russian Federation. “I would like to warn representatives of the administration against thoughtless judgments on Crimea, especially in terms of ‘blessing’ the Kiev regime for air attacks on the peninsula. Let me remind you that strikes on this territory are considered by us as an attack on any other region of the Russian Federation. It is important that the United States is fully aware of the Russian response.”

Ambassador Antonov opened his statement commenting on the May 19-21 summit of the G7 in Hiroshima. “Washington completely subordinated the G7 members to its own policy regarding the conflict in Ukraine.

Moreover, it sharply tightened its approaches towards two important issues. I am talking about preparations for the transfer of F-16 fighter jets to the Kiev regime, as well as the unconditional approval of strikes on Crimea using American and other Western weapons.

“Such steps once again clearly demonstrate that the United States has never been interested in peace, and our decision to conduct a special military operation was absolutely correct. Ever since the coup in Kiev in 2014, the United States has only wanted a strategic defeat for Russia and now continues to fan the flames of conflict,” he said.

Brazil President Calls for a UN General Assembly Summit on Ukraine

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Brazil President [Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#) at a press conference, today, said that the Ukraine crisis should be taken up by the UN, preferably in the General Assembly. As reported by TASS, he said, “It is necessary to discuss the war in Ukraine in the UN. During all five months of my presidency, no one invited me to attend a UN meeting to discuss this war. We could reschedule the General Assembly meeting, which usually takes place in September, to June or July to discuss the war.”

President Da Silva, who attended the May 19-21 Group of Seven heads of state summit in Japan, representing one of the eight invited guest nations, said that the leaders of both Ukraine and Russia should be invited to attend the UN General Assembly, giving presentations, and then deliberations would begin. He explained why that discussing the crisis within the frameworks of the G7 or the Group of 20 is not suitable, and that the crisis should be addressed at the UN in a special way.

Austrian Foreign Minister Calls for Dialogue with Russia

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Vienna maintains an informal channel of communication with Moscow and calls for dialogue with Russia despite the Ukrainian conflict, Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said in an interview in Germany’s daily *Die Welt* today.

“The West should continue talking with Russia the way the U.S. government is doing,” he pointed out to the German publication.

According to Schallenberg, international platforms such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations should be used for further talks with Russia. Austria's top diplomat sees it as "the global responsibility" of Western countries.

Schallenberg emphasized that Vienna continues to communicate with Moscow through informal channels. "Russia has not disappeared from the map, remaining the EU's biggest geographical neighbor and the world's major nuclear power," he declared.

China Summons Japanese Ambassador To Complain About G7 Meeting

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Japan's Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi was called on the carpet by [Beijing's Foreign Ministry](#), which complained about "the hype around China-related issues" at the G7 meeting, chaired by Japan in Hiroshima. Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong said that Japan had collaborated with the other countries at the G7 summit "in activities and joint declarations ... to smear and attack China, grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, violating the basic principles of international law and the spirit of the four political documents between China and Japan," referring to the China-Japan Joint Statement of 1972.

He said Japan's actions were detrimental to China's sovereignty, security and development interests, and that China is "strongly dissatisfied and firmly opposes" them. "Japan should correct its understanding of China, grasp strategic autonomy, adhere to the principles of the four political documents between China and Japan, and truly promote the stable development of bilateral relations with a constructive attitude," Sun said.

Ambassador Tarumi didn't take well to the criticism but rebutted that it was "natural" for the G7 to refer to issues of common concern as it has done in the past and will continue to do so in the future as long as China does not change its behavior. "China should first take positive steps to address those issues of concern if China demands not to refer to them," Tarumi told Sun, according to Reuters.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said during a briefing this morning that his country's policy toward China has been consistent that it will insist on matters that are needed and urge responsible behavior, while taking steps to address concerns and cooperate on common issues.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Lula Tells G7, Confronting Global Threats Requires 'Abandoning Collapsed Paradigms'

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Addressing the G7 working group entitled ["Working Together To Confront Multiple Crises,"](#) on May 20, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva confronted the attendees with some uncomfortable truths about the current global systemic crisis and changes required to address it.

He was seated between President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who listened to him slam the International Monetary Fund for ignoring the consequences for developing nations of the IMF's brutal austerity policies, and his demand that the global financial system "must be at the service of production, labor and employment. We will only have true sustainable development by directing our efforts and resources to the real economy."

That should have happened after the 2009 crisis, but never materialized, he observed. He pointedly warned that the poverty, unemployment, hunger, environmental degradation and the pandemics of the current era can only be addressed by a state that encourages "public policies directed toward guaranteeing fundamental rights and the collective wellbeing" of the population.

A few hours after his speech, Lula met privately with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, to whom he reportedly repeated some of his same remarks about IMF policy and told her that the IMF "is destroying Argentina" and other developing nations. The Argentine state news agency Telam reported May 20 that it received a communiqué from Planalto, the

Office of the Brazilian Presidency, explaining that Lula “also addressed Argentina’s economic situation with the IMF’s Managing Director, as it is a necessary element in South America’s regional balance.”

Lula recalled that the last time he attended a G7 meeting was in 2009, during the “catastrophic” global financial crisis which led to the creation of the G20 “and exposed the fragility of the dogmas and mistakes of neoliberalism.” Unfortunately, he added, the impetus for reform at that time “wasn’t enough to correct the excesses of the deregulation of the markets or the apologists for a minimalist state. The global financial architecture changed very little and the bases of a new economic governance were not launched.”

The world today faces “multiple overlapping crises,” Lula warned—Covid pandemic, climate change, geopolitical tensions, “a war in the heart of Europe,” pressures on food and energy security, and threats to democracy.” This was his only reference to the Ukraine war in that speech.

Lula continued that meeting these challenges “will require a change of mentality. It’s necessary to overturn myths and abandon collapsed paradigms.” Moreover, “foreign indebtedness of many countries, of which Brazil was a victim in the past and today threatens Argentina, is the cause of the glaring and growing inequality, and demands that the International Monetary Fund consider the social consequences of its austerity policies.”

Lula also addressed the “false dichotomy between growth and protection of the environment,” which he said, should have already been overcome. “Combatting hunger, poverty and inequality must be placed at the center of the international agenda, ensuring adequate financing and technology transfer.” No solution will be found in “the creation of antagonistic blocs or in answers that consider only a small number of countries. ... The transition to a multipolar world demands profound changes in the institutions. ... It makes no sense to insist that emerging countries contribute to resolving the ‘multiple crises’ the world confronts without addressing their legitimate concerns, or without their being adequately represented in the primary bodies of global governance.”

The Brazilian President emphasized the importance of the G20, but said it could become more effective with a composition that responds “to the demands and interests of all the regions of the world.” That therefore “implies a more adequate representation of African nations.” He also again demanded reform of the UN Security Council with the inclusion of new permanent members. Otherwise, he said, it will never “recover the effectiveness, or political and moral authority to deal with the conflicts and dilemmas of the 21st century. A world that is more democratic in the making of decisions that affect everyone is the best guarantee of peace, of sustainable development and the rights of the most vulnerable and the protection of the planet.

“Before it’s too late,” he concluded his remarks.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Uganda and Russia To Step Up Economic Cooperation, Including Nuclear Power

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) reported after his meeting with Ugandan Foreign Minister Jeje Odongo on May 18, that their two nations discussed “stepping up our mutually beneficial cooperation in almost all possible areas.” Lavrov named “several promising sectors” under discussion in particular: energy, geological exploration, minerals extraction, research, education, telecommunication, cyber security, agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

On the last, Lavrov pointed to the February 2023 visit to Uganda by Anna Popova, head of Russia’s Federal Service for the Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor), one of whose responsibilities is sanitary and epidemiological supervision. President Yoweri Museveni and Popova had discussed the possibility of Rospotrebnadzor setting up a laboratory in Uganda, Lavrov reported. Russia’s AK&M news agency had reported at the end of her visit that joint action plan would be prepared for approval during the July 2023 Russia-Africa Forum in St. Petersburg, for Russia’s experience “in ensuring

national biological safety, developing laboratory infrastructure, [and] conducting scientific research” to be made available to Uganda.

On the energy front, Lavrov said he and Odongo had discussed getting Russian businesses “more proactive” in contributing to Uganda’s aggressive efforts to develop its oil and gas industry. (See “[EACOP and the Battle for African Development: Zeus vs. Prometheus](#)” in *EIR*, Jan. 6, 2023.)

But Russia is not lagging in support of Uganda’s efforts to move into the nuclear era. Lavrov referenced the 2019 “Agreement on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy” between Russia and Uganda, and reported that “from a practical perspective, we are discussing a project to set up a nuclear technology center in Uganda, including on nuclear medicine.”

Solomon Muyita, spokesperson for Uganda’s Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, had told Turkiye’s Anadolu Agency at a March 2023 meeting on African nuclear energy development in Kampala, that Uganda is interested in using nuclear technology for radiotherapy and other nuclear medicine applications. This could prove important for East Africa as a whole. Russia’s multi-year project to build a nuclear medicine center in Bolivia is advancing, with operations at the first two units (one for isotope and radiopharmaceuticals production, the other for food irradiation) underway. When fully completed and operational in 2025, Bolivia will take over control of the Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center, and make its services available to the many countries in South America lacking such capabilities.

Uzbekistan President Mirziyoyev Says Construction Phase Has Started for Trans-Eurasia Corridor Rail Link

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#) reported that work has started on an important Central Asian rail link, in his May 19 remarks to the China-Central Asia Summit heads of state summit in Xi’an, China. As reported on the President’s website, he said: “The development of safe and shortest transport corridors connecting China with our region, with the access to Europe, Middle East and South Asia is of

strategic importance. The priority project for the revival of the ‘Great Silk Road’ is the Trans-Eurasian Highway, the key components of which will be the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan automobile and railroad. We have already been moving to the stage of practical work together with our Chinese and Kyrgyz partners. In the future, the implementation of this project and the construction of the Trans-Afghan Corridor will allow to connect China with the countries of South Asia by alternative ways within the Belt and Road Initiative.”

The CKU Railway will run a length of 523 km, of which 213 are in China, 260 km in Kyrgyzstan, and 50 in Uzbekistan. The rough terrain will require 90 tunnels. The feasibility study is due no later than June 1, 2023.

Mirziyoyev also reported on the importance of constructing the Trans-Afghan Rail Corridor. Besides its role for linking the landlocked Uzbekistan to the Arabian Sea via Afghanistan and Pakistan, it will provide China and Central Asia with interconnections to South Asia.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

China Blasts G7 for Hypocritical Lies That China Is a Nuclear Threat

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning today responded to accusations against China by the Group of Seven and U.S. President Joe Biden, in particular, making the false charge that China is posing a nuclear armaments threat and building up its civilian nuclear energy to abet military use. At today’s press briefing Mao said, “The G7 is in no position to dictate to other countries on nuclear arms control,” noting that the U.S. possesses the world’s largest and most advanced nuclear arsenal, yet it adheres to the policy of first use of nuclear weapons and proliferates weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to non-nuclear weapons states. “Three of the G7 members are nuclear weapon states, and the remaining four participate in nuclear sharing or sit under a nuclear umbrella.” She reiterated the well-known fact that China *does* have a policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

The G7 issued on May 19, along with its Joint Communiqué, a Reference Document titled, “[G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear Disarmament](#),” which not only attacked Russia for allegedly being a nuclear threat, but stated, “At the same time, China’s accelerating build-up of its nuclear arsenal without transparency nor meaningful dialogue poses a concern to global and regional stability.”

President Joe Biden also spoke out at the G7 in Japan, making charges against China for nuclear armament and related nuclear power development.

It is one of the minor ironies of history that the 2023 G7 Summit in Hiroshima would make “nuclear proliferation” a main concern of their deliberations, particularly since most of their decisions have set the world on the road to nuclear annihilation. As the U.S. has reneged on all the promises made to the Russian Federation after the fall of the Soviet Union, including the clear commitment for NATO not to expand eastward of a reunited Germany, and is fully intent on conducting a major conventional war with the aim of reducing Russia to a minor power, Russia has been forced to abandon the other treaties with the U.S. which would limit their nuclear response capabilities. Complaining about this matter is a blatant attempt to put the onus on Russia for the demise of the nuclear proliferation architecture.

In the case of China, while it has nowhere near the nuclear capabilities of the United States and Russia, the ongoing attempt to organize countries of the Asia-Pacific in a Pacific Rim NATO has led China to increase its nuclear arsenal in order to meet a possible threat from the United States. China also has one of the most ambitious programs for nuclear energy development, a pillar of its effort to move away from fossil fuels without imposing austerity on its people. Statements from President Biden at the G7 seem to indicate that there are sanctions in the works to restrict China’s nuclear energy program.

At his May 21 Hiroshima press conference, [Biden](#) said: “And if you take a look at what’s happened, we are more secure, with all the talk about

China's building its military—it is building its military, and that's why I've made it clear that I am not going to prepare—I'm not prepared to trade certain items with China.

“And when I was asked by President Xi why, I said, ‘Because you're using them to build nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and I'm not going to do it.’ And we've now got commitment from all of our allies they're not going to either provide that kind of material that allows them to do that.”

The DOD has been falsely accusing China of developing their fast breeder program (which Russia, the leader in this field, is helping with), in order to develop plutonium for nuclear weapons. The argument itself is based on false pretenses, as China's program for developing weapons-grade plutonium is not at all helped by the plutonium produced in fast breeders. The objective seems to be to cripple China's successful nuclear power program, but possible sanctions specifically related to this program have not yet been elaborated.

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Eleven Scientists Prove the Flooding in Italy Is Unrelated to Climate Change

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Eleven scientists, members of [Clintel Italy](#), published a statement on May 20, in which they reject the proposition being pushed by climate zombies, that the current flood in Italy is related to man-made climate change. The scientists demonstrate with data that similar and even more severe flooding has occurred several times in the past, and they call for infrastructure investment to prevent such flooding in the future.

Their statement says: “It is then necessary to implement interventions aimed at general water management (creation of mountain reservoirs, expansion reservoirs, levees, and whatever else the best hydraulic engineering and geological sciences have to offer) and the improvement of the weather risk management system by the Civil Defense (e.g., through the development of nowcasting systems). These interventions will better

protect the population from flood phenomena, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, will allow, in times of heavy rainfall, the collection of water ready to be distributed during the driest periods.”

They continue: “Reducing the use of coal, oil and gas with the goal of mitigating the climate in order to prevent environmental disasters, is not only illusory, but worse, diverts resources from possible interventions of sure effectiveness. We therefore urge the government not to justify, with the ostensible aim of protecting us from adverse weather events, initiatives aimed at achieving an illusory energy transition to technologies that are inadequate, in terms of unreliability and intermittency, to the needs of our society. Instead, we urge attention to turn to adaptation efforts that achieve greater protection of our land than is currently the case. Too many areas of our country are under-protected and exposed to sporadic events, a circumstance that will continue to confront us with situations similar to the one our fellow citizens are experiencing today. A circumstance in being, this, not only for meteorological events but also for those of seismic origin.”

The signers are: Umberto Crescenti, Alberto Prestininzi, Franco Battaglia, Mario Giaccio, Enrico Miccadei, Giuliano Panza, Ernesto Pedrocchi, Franco Prodi, Renato Angelo Ricci, Nicola Scafetta and Ugo Spezia. Together with others, they authored the book *Dialogue on Climate* which was recently published in Italy. Prestininzi, Prodi, Battaglia and Scafetta have participated in Schiller Institute conferences in the past.

Climate Truth Reaches Political Level in Italy

May 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Following the breakthrough of truthful scientists in mainstream media debates on the current flooding in Italy, political leaders have found the courage to expose climate change fraud in Italy.

Fratelli d’Italia Senate faction leader Lucio Malan gave an interview to ANSA May 20, saying: “In every scientific field there are no definitive truths; there is always research. On the issue of climate change there are many voices, starting with Franco Prodi’s, different from the thinking spread by the media. Even in theology one is ready for research, let alone

on climate. Then it is not true that these phenomena have never been seen in past decades: I think of Polesine, the flooding of Pisa, Florence, Venice. Dogmas may be fine in other fields, but it is always good to have a non-absolutist attitude.”

The same day, Malan tweeted: “The only real climate change deniers are the climate Taliban who talk as if before 1880 the temperature was always stable and as if before 1970 there were no extreme events.”

Malan’s statements prompted hysterical reactions from the Democratic Party, the Five Stars and other opposition factions.

But former Prime Minister Romano Prodi, a historical leader of the center-left coalition, dropped climate change arguments and called for infrastructure investments, reported in the daily *La Verità*.