

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **Too Much Is Too Much. We Must Assert Our Right To Live!**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—Every day seems to bring the world closer to extinction. Today’s ratcheting up of tensions begins with a news item from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which issued a new travel advisory, warning American tourists and residents to leave Russia. Included among the reasons, is the Embassy’s assessment that “terrorist groups, both transnational and local” are planning to strike “with little or no warning ... tourist locations, transportation hubs and systems, markets/shopping malls,

local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas” in Russia.

Second news item: Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov reported today that Russian intelligence services have advised that “the United States is planning to send [terrorist] militants into Russia.” TASS news service reports that Russia’s Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) has provided quite specific reports that 60 ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists have been recruited from the Middle East theater for a crash course in making and using improvised explosive devices, sabotage, etc. at the illegally established U.S. Al-Tanf military base in Syria. They are then to be infiltrated into Russia in small groups.

Shades of Zbigniew Brzezinski! The Russian government, from President Putin on down, are well aware that the intent behind such operations is to revive the 1990s Anglo-American mercenary/jihadist strategy which spread war and terrorism across Russia—in an attempt to break Russia into a bunch of Western-run ethnic colonies. *EIR*’s Dec. 19, 2014 Fact Sheet “[Who Is Behind the Drive To Dismember Russia?](#)” is a good starting point to refresh your knowledge of the history of that operation and the networks involved.

In his famous 1999 “Storm Over Asia” video, American statesman Lyndon LaRouche warned even then that these strategies of war, “if continued, can lead to general nuclear war.”

How much more so today, when the dismemberment strategy is piled onto the conventional war being run against Russia, through Ukraine, by NATO itself, at the same time that the U.S. Air Force is shooting down “objects” from the sky, willy-nilly, in the name of protecting the world from “our” Chinese enemy.

The U.S.-U.K. NATO conglomerate tells the world that Russia and China are “our” enemies because they do not believe in “our values.”

Values such as refusing to lift the barbaric sanctions against Syria even in the face of a monstrous earthquake? Values such as blowing up the Nord Stream gas pipelines jointly owned by Russia and Germany—an act of war which is crushing the industry and freezing the people of ostensible NATO “ally” Germany? Values like deliberately driving for a thermonuclear showdown, if that’s what it takes, for Anglo-American finance to regain its role as sole “king of the world”?

This is too much. It is time to act. The Schiller Institute’s Helga Zepp-LaRouche warned today that all our lives are in extreme danger over the short-term ahead; the outbreak of nuclear war is the sword of Damocles hanging over us. And it is fast coming to a point of decision. Yes, she said, more voices are warning of this danger. But that is not enough. We need a worldwide mobilization by the people of all continents to insist on their right to live. That is what the Schiller Institute is working on, night and day.

Pope Francis has offered the Vatican as a venue for peace talks, and the Schiller Institute is building international support for that initiative—as a first step towards building an entirely new paradigm. Our aim is to get the world population aroused to the immediate danger of their extinction, she emphasized. Every venue offered by others builds that process: the proposal of Brazilian President Lula da Silva, the efforts of Turkish President Erdogan. The more people of the Global South say that they do not want to be drawn into this attack on Russia and China, but want to be non-aligned, the better. A call by a group of 20, 30, 40 developing countries for a conference on a new international security and development architecture, would help enormously. All of these things help to defuse the situation! The task in this dynamic process is to focus all these different efforts, in the way a laser focuses light, into bringing about the peace we require.

In short, the Schiller Institute’s leader insisted: “Right now, the key question is to get popular support from the majority of the world population to express that they are concerned about World War III; that they absolutely don’t go along,”

Wherever you are, help turn the world's attention to the Feb. 18 anti-war rally in Munich protesting the opening of the Munich Security Conference, and the Feb. 19 national "[Rage Against the War Machine](#)" rally in Washington, D.C., companion rallies in Los Angeles (Feb. 18), Mexico City (Feb. 19), Austin (Feb. 23), and Berlin, Rome, and cities in France on the weekend of Feb. 25-26. The more anti-war rallies the better.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday February 14, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

### Two Reports Imply NATO Deployment of Terrorism in Russia

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—The American Embassy in Moscow has issued an alert dated today telling American "tourists and residents" to leave Russia as soon as possible. As Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov immediately responded, the [State Department](#) has issued instructions for all Americans to leave Russia several times during the past year. But this alert—which is full of descriptions of actions the Russian government allegedly threatens Americans with, from false arrest to conscription into the armed forces—also contains the following warning of terrorism against Russia:

"Terrorist groups, both transnational and local terrorist organizations, and individuals inspired by extremist ideology continue plotting possible attacks in Russia. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs and systems, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas. Travel to the North Caucasus (including Chechnya and Mt. Elbrus) is prohibited for U.S. government employees and strongly discouraged for U.S. citizens."

In another report today, TASS quoted [Peskov](#) as saying: “Russian President Vladimir Putin’s public schedule will not be revised in the wake of reports the United States is planning to send militants in Russia. The security of the head of state is ensured, Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.” The TASS wire cited an intelligence report from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) that “the recruitment was being carried out among the members of groups affiliated with the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda.... In January this year, 60 terrorists with experience of participating in hostilities in the Middle East were reportedly selected.

“According to the SVR, they are currently undergoing crash courses at the U.S. base at Al-Tanf in Syria, where they are instructed in making and using improvised explosive devices, as well as methods of sabotage and other subversive activities.

“A special emphasis is on planning attacks against well-protected facilities, including foreign diplomatic missions, the SVR said. The foreign intelligence service emphasized that the United States was going to send militants to Russia in small groups.”

We should note that these planned terror actions would be a continuation and escalation of sabotage missions already run into Russia through the Ukrainian Armed Forces with special forces supported, evidently, by Great Britain.

## **Former German General Describes Grave Danger of NATO Policy for Nuclear War**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—*Berliner Zeitung* published an op-ed on Feb. 7 by Brig. Gen. Helmut Ganser (ret.), with his sharp assessment of where the Ukraine war is heading. Headlined “[Brigadier General Ganser: ‘This Is About a Sober and Rational Analysis,’](#)” he writes in part:

“Regardless of international law, the NATO states are moving toward a gray zone with the continued increase in their weapons system transfers, in which the boundaries beyond which NATO ultimately becomes a party to the war are becoming blurred. All the more so, with German tank deliveries

now on the rise, Germany's share of responsibility for the further course of the war and its consequences for European security is growing.

“Regarding the perspective for ending this destructive war, go back again to Clausewitz. ‘As soon as the expenditure of effort is so great that the value of the political objective can no longer balance it, this objective must be abandoned and peace followed.’ Looking ahead to the coming months, this point does not appear to have been reached in either Moscow or Kiev. Russia will launch a major offensive in the near term, before Western tanks are incorporated into Ukrainian land forces.

“Tens of thousands more soldiers and civilians are likely to perish before an end to the bloodshed is in sight. Whether the course of the front will even change significantly in the fighting is anything but certain. Moreover, Clausewitz could not have foreseen in the 19th century that his equation would be challenged over 100 years later by the existence of weapons of mass destruction. These are the nuclear weapons in numbers and destructive potential of the two nuclear superpowers that could make Earth uninhabitable in a dystopian escalation scenario.

“The West's military-political confrontation with Russia is more dangerous today than during the height of the Cold War. To dismiss the risk of escalation by referring to irrational fears is grossly negligent, even irresponsible. What is needed here is a sober and rational analysis. The heads of government of the NATO states have a responsibility to prevent damage to their countries and populations. It remains a reason of state to avoid nuclear escalation at all costs.”

The *Berliner Zeitung* is a leading newspaper in Germany's capital. Its publisher, Holder Friedrich, has signed the [Wagenknecht-Schwarzer manifesto for peace](#).

### **Berlusconi Charges Zelenskyy Is Responsible for War**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former Italian Prime Minister [Silvio Berlusconi](#) wreaked havoc among NATO circles by accusing the comedian of Kiev of being responsible for the slaughter of thousands of his citizens, and also

“advised” U.S. President Biden to force Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to enter negotiations with Russia.

Referring to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s failure to be invited to the Macron-Scholz-Zelenskyy meeting in Brussels, Berlusconi told journalists: “If I had been the Prime Minister talking to Zelenskyy, I would never have gone, because we are witnessing the devastation of his country and the massacre of its soldiers and civilians. It would have been sufficient for him to stop attacking the two autonomous republics of Donbass [Donetsk and Lugansk], and this would not have happened.... I judge this gentleman’s behavior very, very negatively,” he added.

To end the war between Russia and Ukraine, “I would think Mr. American President, Joe Biden, should take Zelenskyy and say to him, ‘after the end of the war, a Marshall Plan to rebuild Ukraine for \$9 trillion is at your disposal, on one condition, that you order a ceasefire tomorrow, also because as of tomorrow, we aren’t giving you any more dollars and we aren’t giving you any more weapons.’ Only such a thing could convince this gentleman to come to a ceasefire,” concluded Berlusconi.

While Berlusconi’s statements stirred up the hornet’s nest, including in the office of the Prime Minister itself and in Kiev, [Euromedia Research](#) Director Alessandra Ghisleri revealed that most Italians agree with Berlusconi. “Certainly, what Italians think is very close to what Silvio Berlusconi has said,” for instance on sending weapons. “Italians have always been against that, because they interpret this as an entry into the war, even if an indirect one,” Ghisleri told La7 television.

### **CIA-Linked David Ignatius Describes ‘New Front in U.S.-Chinese Confrontation’**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Washington Post*’s long-time columnist [David Ignatius](#), who has often been a favored conduit into the media for U.S. intelligence services, wrote a very frank Feb. 10 column identifying Earth surveillance “from the stratosphere,” or “near space” as an area of open competition between United States and China for more than a decade. Suddenly a combination of the Biden Administration and wild anti-China

hawks in Congress has changed that “in an especially frantic and destabilizing way, into a new front in a U.S.-Chinese confrontation that is nearing Cold War dimensions.”

Since at least 2010, Ignatius wrote, China has been openly describing its plans and practices for “utilization of near space,” referring to the stratosphere above 59,000 feet; and furthermore, it is responding to the United States in this. A 2019 article by two Chinese law professors is an example: In the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law*, they described China’s commercial program. One Shenzhen company, “Kuang-Chi is developing helium-filled balloons and other kinds of lighter-than-air-vehicles to furnish aerial surveillance, communication, near-space tourism, and wireless WiFi transmission to remote areas,” their article stated. “These represent the future of activities in the airspace.”

China has claimed that the Pentagon has aggressive plans for military use of high-altitude balloons, in a program called “Operation Thunder Cloud.” And “It turns out the Chinese are right,” Ignatius acknowledged. He quoted a U.S. Army press release from 2020 about Thunder Cloud, in which the Army said, “We are looking to operationalize the stratosphere.” In 2020 the commander of the USSPACECOM Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, told *Defense News*, “It’s just phenomenal what we’re able to do with high-altitude balloons.”

Importantly, Ignatius described China as thus reacting to constant flights of U.S. Navy reconnaissance aircraft, out of U.S. bases nearby in Japan and elsewhere, flying “perilously close to China’s airspace”—flights which the PLA Air Force surveillance planes cannot make along the borders of the United States. He called the flights of China’s balloons—which, as noted above, have multiple capabilities and potential uses including surveillance—as a “freedom of navigation” counter from the Chinese side.

### **China Denounces U.S. as No. 1 Surveillance Country in the World**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—China has denied that the objects shot down by the U.S. in recent days are theirs. In fact, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman [Wang Wenbin](#) issued a strong denunciation of U.S. spy and

surveillance operations in response to several reporters' questions this morning. "As a matter of fact, it is the U.S. who is the No. 1 surveillance country and has the largest spy network in the world," Wang said.

"Over the years, the U.S. has been engaged in massive, non-discriminate wiretapping and secret theft operations globally, including against its allies, by abusing its tech advantage," Wang continued. "These operations violate the sovereignty and interests of countries around the world, the international law and basic norms governing international relations, which makes the U.S. the absolute No. 1 country in terms of spying and surveillance."

China is a particularly major target of U.S. spying operations. "The U.S. military vessels and aircraft conduct frequent close-in reconnaissance on China, including 657 sorties last year and 64 sorties in January this year in the South China Sea alone, which seriously undermines China's national security and regional peace and stability," Wang said. "U.S. balloons have often entered other countries' airspace illegally. Since last year, U.S. high-altitude balloons have flown over Chinese airspace over ten times without authorization from China. The U.S. needs to reflect on its own behavior and change course rather than attacking others and stoking confrontation."

## COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

### **Deregulation Threatens Hiroshima-Level Explosion on U.S. Rails**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Feb. 2 [derailment of a Norfolk Southern freight train](#) near New Palestine, Ohio has resulted in dangerous, toxic chemical pollution on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border through a decision by the State of Ohio government for a "controlled burn" of chemicals to avoid explosion, which burn has become badly uncontrolled. A toxic pollution crisis, denied by state Attorney General Josh Shapiro and other state officials, has continued for more than a week.

Suspend judgment briefly on the state's actions. In the past five years, there have been eight significant freight derailments in the Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania metro area alone. That is the state of the nation's freight railroads, operating with crews of just one or two rail workers, with speedup of schedules and workers, and with minimal capital investment.

Worse, the Biden Department of Transportation, headed by Secretary Pete Buttigieg, recently promulgated a rule which expanded the range of what hazardous materials could be transported by rail, and in what quantities. What seemed to be the main focus of this rule? Allowing the transportation of liquefied natural gas by rail to LNG ports, that is, for exporting LNG to Europe to replace (at three times the price) the gas supplied by the Russo-German Nord Stream pipeline destroyed by sabotage in the Baltic Sea on Sept. 26, 2022.

The explosion of 22 LNG rail cars would be roughly equal the force of the Hiroshima bomb, according experts, critical of the National Transportation Safety Board that approved the rule, although including in its approval: "The risks of catastrophic liquefied natural gas releases in accidents is too great not to have operational controls in place before large blocks of tank cars and unit trains proliferate."

### **Global Decoupling the Context for Continuing Adani Group Attack**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—Western financial press and ratings agencies continue to hit India's Adani Group of companies and the Indian economy as hard as they can. The economic prospects for the biggest BRICS economies—China and India—appear to be for an acceleration of GDP growth to the range of 5-6%, according to the IMF/World Bank, while the EU and U.K. economies are in decline and the U.S. economy stagnating. The Russian Central bank has assessed the 2022 shrinkage of the Russian economy under monster sanctions at -2.5% rather than the -4.5% it earlier forecast, and has raised its 2023 forecast to the possibility of 1% growth rather than the -2% of its earlier forecast. This depends in part on Russia's goods trade with China and India continuing to expand in 2023 and on assistance with capital investment from those nations.

Thus the context for the continuing attacks on the Adani Group, which is a leading infrastructure investor, power generator and power grid

operator in India's economy. On Feb. 13 Bloomberg News reported and Reuters headlined (“Adani slashes growth targets amid rout...”) that Adani Group “planned to scale down capital spending.” An Adani Enterprises spokesman denied the report. Moody's Investors' Service downgraded Adani companies' outlook from “stable” to “negative,” as Fitch Ratings had already done on Feb. 9. Another Reuters wire, “Adani tries to calm investors as regulator confirms probe,” speculated hard that “The Adani crisis has sparked worries of financial contagion in India, ... and cast a shadow on the group's capital raising plans.”

*EIR Alert* has already reported that the Adani Group, along with three other Indian conglomerates, have scheduled a combined \$250 billion in new economic infrastructure investments from 2023-30. These large private investments may be linked to public investments in the crucial North-South International Transportation Corridor, and/or in Russia's Far East as discussed in President Putin's visit to Prime Minister Modi in December 2021.

The stocks of the Adani conglomerate have lost a huge \$120 billion in market value in the past two weeks. Massive short-selling of those stocks has not been done in India, where it would be legal, but by shadow banking speculators using derivatives products and operating outside India—which makes it illegal under Indian law. This is the main basis for the Adani suit launched against Hindenburg Research, the hedge fund which triggered the London-Wall Street short-selling drive.

## NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

### Chandra Muzaffar Seeks To Lift Syria Sanctions, Support Call for Erdogan-Assad Meeting

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Chandra Muzaffar](#), the founder and president of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST) in Malaysia, and a leading Islamic scholar, wrote an article for JUST “urging the American, British, Australian, Canadian, Swiss, and some European Union and Arab League governments to lift the unjust, immoral sanctions against Syria in

order to lessen the immense sufferings of the people caused by the massive earthquake of February 6, 2023.” Muzaffar has been an activist internationally, especially on behalf of the Palestinians in their battle with the Israeli occupation, and in regard to conflicts within Islam, such as countering the terrorist scourge.

Muzaffar made two critical points, one in regard to the Arab states joining in the U.S. sanctions against Syria, another regarding the potential of Presidents Erdogan of Türkiye and Assad of Syria meeting and restoring relations.

On the first, he notes that in November 2011, Syria was expelled from the Arab League, and was hit with a “whole range of new sanctions from travel bans and asset freezes to prohibitions on exports and restrictions upon the oil sector. The EU also joined the U.S. in embargoing the oil sector. 20% of Syria’s GDP came from oil. It has been estimated that the country has lost \$107 billion from its oil and gas earnings since 2011. ... Some Arab League states also froze Syrian government assets as did Türkiye in 2011. But none of these actions had as severe an impact upon the Syrian economy and State as the capture of territories containing oil and producing wheat and cotton by rebel groups linked to governments, ethnic movements or terrorist outfits in the region.”

But, he adds, before the earthquake, “on the 5th of January 2023, the president of Türkiye, Recep Erdogan indicated that he wants to meet up with the Syrian President, Bashar Assad, to discuss and resolve their differences. Let us hope and pray that both men will work towards such a meeting—a meeting which will result in a mutually acceptable solution to their problems. If the two leaders, who enjoyed a close friendship some time ago, make peace with one another, there is a strong possibility that Türkiye and Syria will be able to come together on a firm footing and most of the other protagonists will also be able to bury the hatchet.

“One hopes that this mammoth catastrophe will persuade some of the principal actors in these conflicts to reflect deeply on what has happened—the unfathomable suffering of millions of human beings on both sides of

the Türkiye-Syria border. If their suffering is to have any meaning at all, let it herald the end of conflicts and killings along the border and in other parts of Syria.

“If that happens, the deaths of thousands—especially little children—in one of the greatest tragedies in recent times would not have been in vain.”

### **Former EU Commission Vice President: Europe Must Free Itself from Anti-Russia Drive**

Feb. 13, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a lengthy interview with *Berliner Zeitung* published Feb. 11, former EU Commissioner for Enlargement Günter Verheugen, still an *éminence grise* of the 1970s pro-détente and dialogue current, called for a revival of the 1990s concept of a common area from Lisbon to Vladivostok as what should guide European policy. For a short period, this had also had the support of the United States, he said, but the “Americans developed a security doctrine in the 1990s that said: Nowhere in the world can there be a power stronger than us; we want to be number one everywhere. Russia’s re-emergence as a global rival had to be prevented. In addition, people in Washington are very suspicious when Germans and Russians communicate.”

*Berliner Zeitung* asked, “During the Yeltsin era, the Americans were closer to the Russians than the Germans. There was a time when the Americans were very supportive of Russia....”

Verheugen replied: “and exploited them! In the wild ‘90s, the Russians were weak. Their economy was completely unregulated. Predatory capitalism prevailed. During that time, the Russian people were robbed by Western fortune seekers, criminals, and by the aspiring oligarchs.”

Verheugen, originally with the Free Democrats, and now with the SPD, recalls the strategy of the Social Democrats then, which “stuck to the line that we must remain in dialogue with Russia, first and foremost on the issues of disarmament and arms control. Incidentally, the SPD’s approach—cooperation rather than confrontation—is also reflected in the EU’s strategic partnership with Russia, which worked very well for several

years. With regard to Ukraine, the EU unfortunately made the mistake of saying that the country had to choose between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union. That was wrong, because with Ukraine as a hinge, the idea of an economic area from Lisbon to Vladivostok could have been realized.”

In contrast to the present anti-Russian course, Verheugen went on, “Europe at that time had ‘the European Neighborhood Policy,’ which was originally designed to create a ‘ring of friends’ around the EU. This was to be implemented individually with each country, depending on its goals, needs and possibilities, and that is how the strategic partnership with Russia came about. We were in the process of achieving pan-European cooperation in important fields.”

He concluded his remarks, arguing, that “We must finally learn how we can live together peacefully on this planet....

“Together with France, Germany must create an EU that is willing and able to take its fate into its own hands. This is not an end in itself, but a condition for our playing any role in the world at all. To do this, we must also fundamentally change our attitude towards the countries of the Global South. These countries are tired of being constantly lectured by us. As an equal player on the international stage, without any superpower ambitions, the EU could help solve global problems on an equal footing, instead of having to understand what others decide. We have the potential to be an independent voice in the international community. We can do a lot more than we can currently do. This is ‘only’ a question of political will.”