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EDITORIAL

The Choice: Is the World as Close to Peace, as It Is to War?

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Friday, June 30, the Schiller Institute-founded International Peace Coalition will resume its deliberations. These weekly meetings are occurring at a time when consultations between the Western and Eastern Churches are ongoing, largely in the form of Vatican diplomacy; China continues its diplomatic offensive in Europe, particularly

Italy; and Brazil and several nations of the African continent deepen their commitment to assisting in finding a way to end the world's ongoing wars and planetary conflicts, beginning with Ukraine. Last night, a subsidiary grouping, some of whose members are associated with the IPC, played the entirety of the [JFK American University speech](#) for an audience of about 40, using it as a springboard for discussion of what actions, including encouraging mass viewership of the speech during the upcoming holiday weekend, should be taken by the International Peace Coalition over the next days and weeks to inspire the United States to reverse course, for the world's sake, avoiding a humiliating defeat resulting not in a "victory," but in the very dissolution of Ukraine, or the usage of thermonuclear weapons in the very near future—as a growing number of both Russia and Western commentators are now suggesting.

While the ancient author of the Old Testament's Ecclesiastes may have been correct that "The perverse are hard to be corrected, and the number of fools is infinite," he did not go on to answer, to any satisfaction, the question: "And therefore, what?" That author did not have to face the reality of global human extinction in a thermonuclear war. He might, in that case, have driven himself to conceive of a new infinity, rather than settle for "all is vanity" as a final worldview.

Sometimes, as is the case now, single, extraordinary individuals, or small groups of individuals, must change the foolish course of a foolish humanity, despite the ostensible impossibility of doing precisely that. It is to that task that Americans must devote themselves now—not in November of 2024—in order to ever reactivate the institution of the American Presidency to work for good, despite the present occupant of the White House.

The present war is not waiting for humanity to catch up. The human cost on the battlefields of Ukraine is horrific. For every Russian soldier killed, ten Ukrainians die. Feeding that war with more weapons now, after last weekend, is as senseless and barbaric as the ritualistic feeding of children to the Canaanite god Moloch. What does that tell you about those in the

Congress calling for an increase in money for weapons, even if it blows up the recent federal budget negotiations?

The moral indifference of the trans-Atlantic world—its lack of any sense of shame—was on full, lurid display, in the disastrous circumstances that shaped the near-tragedy of the Prigozhin mutiny, a tawdry side-show that the Congressional “Gang of Eight” stupidly encouraged—at least by omission. Were they too silly to understand, that if they were being briefed about the “Prigozhin option” days before it was to occur, that that also meant that the Russian government was at least aware of that threat? Who advised to *not* contact the Putin regime about this, given the potential thermonuclear threat that a mutiny, coup or civil war in Russia would have posed to the world? Isn’t it clear that further deepening of distrust must lead, at some point down the line, to life-threatening strategic miscalculation? That was exactly what President Vladimir Putin went out of his way to defuse in the first hours of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Contrast the difference today, two decades later, with Vladimir Putin’s “first phone call” to President George W. Bush just after the 9/11 assault on the Presidency, and his message that he had instructed the Russian strategic nuclear rocket forces to not go to highest alert status. Remember that President George Bush said of Putin, “I looked the man in the eye. I found him to be very straightforward and trustworthy, I was able to get a sense of his soul”? (Bush later repudiated the statement.)

Remember when Putin and Bush in November of 2001, just two months after 9/11, jointly visited a high school in Crawford, Texas? On that occasion, President Putin said: “Being here I can feel the will of these people, the will to cooperate with the Russian Federation, the will to cooperate with Russia, and I can assure you that the Russian people fully share this commitment and are also committed to fully cooperating with the American people.”

This is a time, as in October of 1962, for all independently-thinking people to dispel the tragic and fatalistic elements that may cripple their own thinking, in order to act to successfully reverse this nation’s self-doomed

course. Reading and circulating JFK's American University speech this July 4, and throughout July into August 6, is a form of psychological "declaration of independence" from our current delusional, "colonized" state of mind.

For example, take the delusion, largely emanating from British and American media, that Russian President Vladimir Putin's government, in fact strengthened by his successful rapid suppression of a June 24 mutiny involving Prigozhin and his "Private Military Company Wagner" group, is "about to fall." Compare that to the reality that has begun to register about the doomed-to-fail Ukrainian "Spring/Summer counter-offensive." As journalist [Seymour Hersh](#) wrote yesterday, "We now know that the chronically unstable Prigozhin's revolt fizzled out within a day, as he fled to Belarus, with a no-prosecution guarantee, and his mercenary army was mingled into the Russian army. There was no march on Moscow, nor was there a significant threat to Putin's rule.

"Pity the Washington columnists and national security correspondents who seem to rely heavily on official backgrounders with White House and State Department officials. Given the published results of such briefings, those officials seem unable to look at the reality of the past few weeks, or the total disaster that has befallen the Ukraine military's counter-offensive...."

Apart from war, how do we get Americans to once again "choose this time and place to discuss a topic ... the most important topic on Earth: world peace" and then fight for that peace, now, 60 years after JFK spoke those words? We must *take back our government*. How do we do that? The United States Senate campaign of Diane Sare is showing how to answer that question, through its own interventions on several fronts, and its insistence that the name for peace is development, as that development process has now been embraced in particular and in approximation, by the nations of the Global Majority. We are standing up for principle, and against partisanship.

We must, in a real sense, do what was done when the country was founded: carry out the most profound, public discourse with all of the American people, and then strike out in a new direction. The [JFK American University speech](#), and the various uses it is being put to, is providing an emotional connection to “pre-coup America.” Our campaign is to return to the commitment of the [Declaration of Independence](#). “We hold these truths to be self evident—that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these rights are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the just consent of the governed, that whenever any government becomes destructive of those ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation upon such principles and organizing its Powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday June 30, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Xinhua Quotes Helga Zepp-LaRouche on Importance of China-European Economic Relations

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—Schiller Institute Chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche was quoted by China’s Xinhua on the importance of Chinese-European economic cooperation. The article by Breaking Latest website, datelined Paris, June 28, is entitled “[Deepen Mutual Trust and Cooperation To Promote Solutions to Global Issues—People from Many European Countries Positively Comment on China-EU Cooperation](#).” The article quotes seven Europeans who spoke to Xinhua on the importance of China’s relations for Europe.

Xinhua first quotes German Bundestag member Sevim Dadelen, who said that Germany and China need to strengthen political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. “This cooperation also means hundreds of thousands of jobs in Germany.”

Oliver Zipse, Chairman of the Board of BMW Group automaker, told Xinhua that “the companies of both sides have a common pursuit of promoting innovation and progress in the fields of electric mobility, circular sustainability, and intelligent connected vehicles. The BMW Group has a deep and long-standing relationship with China, and a strong partnership will enable BMW and its Chinese partners to continue to achieve win-win results in the transformation of the automotive industry.”

Mentioned third, Xinhua writes that Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the “founder and chairman of the German think-tank Schiller Institute, said that people in German industry have made it clear that decoupling from China will harm Germany’s own interests. At present, Germany is facing the threat of ‘de-industrialization,’ and cooperation with China is very important.”

Volker Chapke, honorary chairman of the Berlin Prussian Association, told Xinhua, “Germany and China need each other.”

Xinhua then cited three others: Leia Bessie, a French expert on China; a writer, Lyazid Benhami, vice-chairman of the Paris Association of French-Chinese Friendship; and Julio Rios, a well-known Spanish expert on China.

A [Xinhua article](#) datelined Berlin on June 30, took its lead from Premier Li Qiang’s visit to Germany and France as his first overseas trip since becoming prime minister this year saying his visits “have received a wide range of positive responses from industries, institutes and political groups.” It also quotes BASF president Jeffrey Lou, who said, “Accounting for half of the global chemical market, China is a strategic market and growth engine for BASF,” and Ludovic Weber, the Asia-Pacific CEO of the French multinational Saint Gobain, who “told Xinhua that the Chinese market is growing very fast and there are many ongoing investments, especially in the EV [electric vehicle] industry.” Weber said nobody wants

to see rising tensions. “The decoupling is kind of impossible,” he said, expressing expectations of strengthening the link between countries through infrastructure, businesses and mutual investments.”

Flash! U.K. No2NATO and Schiller Institute Team Up in Anti-War Broadcast

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—The No2NATO.org, founded by former British MP George Galloway to lead active opposition to NATO and its wars in the U.K., joined forces with the international Schiller Institute today to co-stream its third public meeting against NATO and its wars in Ukraine, Syria, etc. The last two No2NATO public meetings have been watched by hundreds of thousands of people, Galloway reported at the outset of today’s 1-hour-plus broadcast, making it the biggest anti-war meeting since the 2003 protests against the Iraq war. Joining George Galloway in today’s discussion were British-Syrian journalist Richard Medhurst, UK Column journalist Patrick Hennings, and the Schiller Institute’s own Anastasia Battle, introduced as the editor-in-chief of the institute’s *Leonore* magazine and organizer of the International Peace Coalition..

The discussion by all participants was on target, strategically broad (including discussion of the BRICS dynamic), appropriately serious, lively and action-oriented. Battle gave a top-down overview of the dynamic driving the supreme danger of nuclear war, with the oligarchical enemy collapsing and bankrupt, and left with nothing but nuclear war to try to save itself, even as an alternative system in which nations collaborate around development is coming into being. She informed everyone of the plans for worldwide demonstrations on August 6, and at one point, showed the intervention by herself and her husband in a one-two punch against Barack Obama in Michigan, as an example of what people can and must do. Full report tomorrow. Meanwhile, watch the meeting’s broadcast on the [Schiller Institute’s YouTube](#) channel at or [No2NATO](#)’s, and get it around!

Ritter on How Prigozhin's Greed Drove Him To Mutiny, with the Help of MI6

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former UN weapons inspector [Scott Ritter](#) posted a lengthy report yesterday on PMC Wagner and the June 23-34 revolt, providing a wealth of heretofore unreported details about those events, and how Wagner troops went from being national heroes to the path of self-destruction. He nails Wagner commander Yevgeny Prigozhin for trading in his loyalty to the state for greed and personal ambition. It all hinges around the two \$1 billion contracts that Wagner had with the Defense Ministry, one for fighting in the Donbass, and the other for providing food services to the Russian military. When those contracts expired on May 1—the fighting contract was temporarily extended until the fighting in Bakhmut was over—Prigozhin's gravy train came to an end. At the point that it became clear that the contracts would not be renewed, he flew into a rage against Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov, accusing them of corruption and of cheating Wagner of ammunition supplies.

“The impact of Prigozhin losing nearly \$2 billion in contacts, combined with an increasing level of paranoia on his part that he was caught up in a life-or-death struggle with Shoigu and Gerasimov, led the Wagner owner to double down on his vitriolic attacks on Russia's military leadership, and thereby create the impression that he and Wagner alone could guarantee military victory for Russia over Ukraine,” Ritter writes. He adds a paragraph later saying that “Prigozhin's opposition to Shoigu and Gerasimov, and his plotting to supplant them, did not escape the attention of either the Russian government, or Russia's enemies in Ukraine, the U.S., and Great Britain.”

MI6, in particular, “used its connectivity with the Ukrainian intelligence services, in coordination with MI6-controlled Russian oligarchs operating out of London, to reinforce Prigozhin's belief that he had the support of the Russian military, politicians, and business elite, all of whom Prigozhin was led to believe would rally to his side once Wagner began marching on Moscow.” That, of course, spectacularly turned out not to be the case.

“However, there remains an element of Russian society which, having been swayed by Prigozhin’s intensive PR campaign, continue to believe that Prigozhin’s complaints against Shoigu and Gerasimov were legitimate and, as such, so too was his march of Moscow,” Ritter writes. “The facts speak otherwise. At the time of Prigozhin’s precipitous move on Moscow, Sergei Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov were overseeing a Russian military campaign that was eviscerating Ukraine’s NATO-trained army, inflicting casualties at a 10-to-1 ratio. During the first three weeks of the current Ukrainian counteroffensive, more than 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed, along with hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles—many of which were just recently supplied to Ukraine—destroyed. The Russian military was well-equipped, well-trained, and well-led. Morale was high. Any notion that Shoigu and Gerasimov were professionally incompetent was belied by the facts.”

The real reason, Ritter says, that Prigozhin ended Wagner’s march to Moscow, “was the fact that they had encountered the Russian military outside Serpukhov, south of Moscow. There, some 2,500 Russian special forces backed by Russian air power were waiting. At the same time, some 10,000 Chechen “Akhmat” special forces had closed in on Rostov-on-Don, where Prigozhin had taken up headquarters, and were preparing to assault the city with the intent to destroy the Wagner forces deployed there, along with their leader. Wagner’s combat experience could not make up for the fact that they were not prepared to carry out sustained ground combat against Russian ground and air forces.

“Prigozhin was not only confronted with the reality of his imminent demise, and of the men who had accompanied him, but, contrary to the expectations created by the British and Ukrainian intelligence services before the Wagner mutiny, the fact that not a single military unit or officer, not a single politician, and not a single businessman—no one—rallied to Prigozhin’s cause; Russia had sided with its President, Vladimir Putin. While Prigozhin’s extensive PR campaign had succeeded in winning the hearts and minds of Russian people, it had failed to convince people that they should betray their president.”

Lavrov Charges U.S. with Lying About Not Interfering in Russian Internal Affairs

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a lengthy interview with Russia’s Channel One TV “Great Game” program yesterday, Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) accused the U.S. of having lied when it said it doesn’t interfere in Moscow’s affairs. “Everyone who knows the United States’ previous record of regime change can see that such a statement certainly sounds, I would say, somewhat artificial,” Lavrov said, reported TASS. “Besides, the way U.S. foundations and non-governmental organizations had functioned in our country until just recently, several years ago, and what they were doing to support and coach the opposition, are clear indications it is obvious deceit.”

“They [Western countries] are obsessed with preventing the formation of a democratic world order, of a multipolar world order, and are clinging to any opportunity to defend their hegemony,” Lavrov continued. “Of course, they see in Ukraine, first of all, a tool to prevent the emergence of a multipolar world, in this case, by preventing Russia from getting stronger,” he said, adding that “It is clear that this plot is doomed to failure.”

Furthermore, “It is a medical fact that they have destroyed the entire international legal system of deterrence and strategic stability. It’s a good thing they do not want a nuclear war; no one wants it. And the system of agreements, which has been destroyed by the United States, exists specifically to reduce its risk and to make this risk negligible at all,” he said.

As for Ukraine, Russia cannot give up the goals of its special military operation. Russian President Vladimir Putin “in the past few days has spoken at length to give an assessment of the current situation, especially stressing that, as we overcame the attempted mutiny, we haven’t made the slightest concessions with respect to the goals of the special military operation and haven’t lost any positions on the battlefield...,” Lavrov said. “It’s impossible to give them up—the goals that have been set.”

He added that Russia cannot change its approaches to the conduct of the special operation, as long as the West is purposefully creating threats to Russia's security, funneling lethal weapons into Ukraine, and as long as "the destruction of all things Russian in Ukraine continues to be their stated goal."

Lavrov also indicated that there is still at least one open channel of communications with the U.S. which, on the U.S. side, runs through Jake Sullivan, mainly on matters pertaining to embassy operations in both Washington and Moscow. More broadly, Lavrov noted that he would not reject communication with his Western counterparts. There have been two requests for conversations from Blinken, one by phone, and the other on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Bali last November, but none otherwise.

Lavrov's interview with Dimitri Simes on the Great Game broadcast is posted to the Foreign Ministry website, but not yet fully translated.

'Biden Must Heed JFK's Lessons on Rolling Back Nuclear Dangers'

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—The above headline is the primary message of the article which U.S. nuclear arms-control specialist [Matthew Bunn](#) published June 10 in the *National Interest*. On the 60th anniversary of its delivery, "Americans ought to remember President John F. Kennedy's 'A Strategy of Peace' speech and the positive diplomatic efforts it unleashed," Bunn insisted.

His contrast to today's "strategic defeat of Russia" policy is clear: "Sixty years ago, in the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy gave probably the greatest speech on nuclear arms ever given by an American President. Speaking only months after the crisis, Kennedy could have lashed out at the Soviet Union's reckless behavior in putting missiles in Cuba. Or he could have taken a triumphal tone.... Instead ... Kennedy made the case that the horrors of a potential nuclear holocaust made it urgent to find a path to peace and that doing so required both sides of the Cold War to change...."

However, Bunn, a former advisor to Bill Clinton’s White House Office of Science and Technology Policy on disarmament, and now based at the Harvard Kennedy School, does not push for the broad new paradigm which Kennedy put forward in that speech. He is thinking about “the need to manage hostility among nuclear-armed states” such as Russia, China, and North Korea, instead of seeking to eliminate the hostility altogether. So, he urges President Biden to emulate Kennedy and take “new action to bring down the temperature” with all those three countries, since, as he writes, the more hostility between nuclear-armed states, the more likely it is that a crisis will occur which would escalate to the use of nuclear weapons.

Bunn recalled how Kennedy’s announcement of a unilateral freeze on U.S. nuclear weapons testing, until a treaty banning such tests could be reached, initiated the post-Cuban Missile Crisis peace process. This led to the Limited Test Ban Treaty, unilateral reductions by both Russia and the U.S. of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and of military spending, and modest pullbacks of troops from the front lines in Central Europe. Among the various measures he proposes that Biden could adopt today, to set into motion a similar process, Bunn proposes various unilateral measures which Biden could take, such as announcing that a portion of U.S. nuclear missiles were being taken off alert, or perhaps committing the United States to never deploy its missiles where they could reach Moscow or Beijing in just a few minutes. But the latter would require an about-face in current U.S. policy.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Zelenskyy Demands ‘English Only Please, No Russian’

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has taken a further step in withdrawing Ukraine from the Slavic world and reintegrating it fully as an Anglo-American satrap. He is now submitting a bill to the unicameral Verkhovna Rada, which defines English as one of the languages of international communication in Ukraine in his desire to further eliminate the Russian language in Ukraine. Oleg Tsarev, a former

member of the Verkhovna Rada from the Party of the Regions, commented on the Zelenskyy initiative: “Nothing unusual is happening, the colony is adopting the language of the colonizers. Everything is going to the fact that English will become almost the main language in Ukraine.”

Tsarev notes that if the bill is passed, the border guards will be forbidden to speak Russian, and those applying for a visa, who speak only Russian, will have to work through interpreters. “Not many people in Ukraine speak English well,” Tsarev said. “Of course, they will be taught. But there is another problem—not so many people speak Ukrainian well either. Moreover, in Ukraine each region has its own dialect. The creators of Russian films, by the way, often do not take this into account. Their Bandera people speak the Poltava dialect, which is very different from the dialect of, say, the Lviv region.”

According to the bill, civil servants, heads of local administrations, the military, police officers, prosecutors, and tax officials, will have to speak English. It may also be mandatory to take an English exam to obtain a master’s degree.

King Charles Making a Killing on Climate Change

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—King Charles is making a dual killing on the “climate change” hoax—in financial profits from the monetary inflation it is “causing,” and in the people it is eliminating from the planet. The Royal Family could be awarded £111 million from the wind farms built on the Crown Estate, a “windfall” profit of almost £24 million. The Crown Estate comprises, among other properties, the entire seabed surrounding England, where companies have been purchasing leases for the establishment of wind farms, as demanded by the “Great Reset.” While the Crown Estate was historically the private property of the monarchy, that right had been withdrawn decades ago, in return for a government appropriation for the support of the Royal Family. That decision has been reversed, with the Crown receiving a cool 25% of the annual Crown Estates profits, instead of a parliamentarian-approved appropriation. That mega-scam was exposed in

EIR in its Feb. 26, 2021 issue, “[Queen Making ‘Windfall’ of Billions from Green Genocide.](#)”

Between the manipulated increase in energy prices, and the sale of offshore leases for wind farms, Crown Estate profits increased to £443 million, up by almost 25%. The question now is, will 25% of this windfall be handed over to King Charles, increasing his take from £86-£111 million, or will it go to the Treasury? Although earlier, Charles himself indicated that the windfall should go to the “public good,” it has not been specified whether that means to the Treasury, or to one of his “greenie” pet projects.

Molly Scott Cato, a professor of green economics at Roehampton University and a former Green MEP, said the King should waive his rights to the sovereign grant entirely. “After a year when so many have struggled to pay rocketing energy bills, questions will surely be asked about whether the King should take the 25% of the profit he is legally entitled to,” she said. “He was widely praised when, in January, he made the decision to transfer his share to be spent for the wider public good. I would hope that he repeats this decision at this time of crisis for so many of his subjects.”

The decision on how much profit Charles will pocket will not be made official until the end of this year.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Vatican Envoy Zuppi Meets with Kremlin Aide Ushakov, Patriarch Kirill

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Russia Archbishop Pavel (Paolo) Pezzi commented today on talks between Papal peace envoy Cardinal Matteo Zuppi and Russian Presidential aide Yury Ushakov. “The cardinal’s meeting with Ushakov was held in a good, positive atmosphere. The key topic was the humanitarian problem linked with refugees, including minors,” he told TASS, giving no further details.

“We can confirm this information,” he said, when asked to comment on Apostolic Nuncio to Russia Archbishop Giovanni d’Aniello’s remark that a meeting between Patriarch Kirill and Cardinal Zuppi would take place over June 28-29. In early June, Cardinal Zuppi visited Kyiv, where he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and religious leaders.

Zuppi arrived in Moscow on June 27 and began the second stage of his mission. Zuppi met on June 29 with the Russian Commissioner for Children’s Rights Maria Lvova-Belova, ignoring the arrest warrant against her by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, alleging the “illegal deportation” of children from Ukraine. Unlike the ICC, which has been entirely politicized, Zuppi is on a mission of mercy on behalf of the Pope.

“We discussed humanitarian issues related to military operations and the protection of children’s rights,” said Lvova-Belova on her Telegram channel. “I am sure that Christian love and mercy will help dialogue and mutual understanding.”

Zuppi also met with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. Greeting the visiting Papal envoy, Patriarch Kirill said: “Your Eminence, I am very glad that you arrived in Moscow, accompanied by brothers whom I know well. We appreciate that His Holiness sent you to Moscow. You head one of the largest metropolises, dioceses, in Italy, and are a very famous archpastor, carrying out an important service to his people.” The head of Russia’s Orthodox Church told Zuppi their churches should work together to avert “negative political development, and serve the cause of peace and justice.”

South Africa Rebuffs Attempt To Force Participation in Phony ‘Peace Conference’

June 29, 2023 (EIRNS)—German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, after being given a “cold shoulder” by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, met with Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor on June 27. The Baerbock visit was a further attempt to bring the “Global South “ aboard the ridiculous “peace conference” without Russian participation. At the end of their meeting, Pandor indicated that the African nations would continue

to pursue their peace proposal, and hold their own conference based on the African plan. “We want to see the cessation of hostilities in Ukraine as soon as possible and start a dialogue to resolve the crisis,” Pandor said. She also remarked, in reply to a question, that “an attempted rebellion will not affect our readiness to continue to engage with both countries, as agreed by the Presidents as part of the African peace mission.”

Baerbock had a different take on the meeting, claiming that there was a change in South Africa’s position on the matter. “It is obvious here that long efforts in diplomacy are paying off, since the voice of South Africa, in my opinion, has already changed,” Baerbock said. Baerbock first praised the African peace plan, and then immediately began to raise new accusations against Russia.