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EDITORIAL

NATO, G7 Confrontation Dynamic Is Unrelenting—*Dona Nobis Pacem*

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—We remain at the edge of World War III, given the unrelenting confrontation dynamic of Global NATO, the Group of Seven, and cohorts. This is seen in the continued supply and pledges of more weapons to Ukraine, in the loose talk about how tactical nuclear weapons have their uses, and in many other crimes and lies.

Exemplifying the economic confrontationism is this week's approval by the European Union, G7 and Australia for the \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian seaborne oil. It is insane in its own terms, for a group of buyers to dictate to a seller, that has other buyers, what a price should be. But regardless of logic, the intent is heinous.

It stands out that at least German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is prepared to conduct diplomacy and speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the crisis. They talked by phone Dec. 2, at the initiative of Scholz. Putin spoke about the worsening destruction caused by the intransigence and war-making of the West. The two leaders agreed to stay in touch, and concurred that the type of joint action embodied in the July Black Sea grain export initiative, facilitated by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, should be expanded generally, including and the unblocking of food and fertilizer exports from Russia.

Despite this bent toward diplomacy, Scholz nonetheless, only two days earlier, said that for Ukraine negotiations to occur, it must be accepted that, "There is no aggression coming from NATO." He addressed the Berlin Security Forum, adding that, the West and Germany, will "support Ukraine for as long as it takes."

Such madness just points up the role of the LaRouche movement—the Schiller Institute conferences and the international collaboration—with

those who already recognize, or are prepared to do so, the danger of this persistent confrontation.

Schiller Institute founder and leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche today made the point, and spoke of the warning by Lyndon LaRouche, going back to 1971 when the U.S. broke the fixed exchange rates to floating the dollar and currencies, when he analyzed that if neoliberalism are allowed to continue, then fascism and war will result.

However, forces are gathering momentum for a new system, a new international development and security architecture. For example, were discussions on it occurred in the past two days at events centered in Moscow. Just the titles make the point: “New Models of Cooperation Between BRICS and the EAEU as Alternatives to the Old Economic Paradigm” was the title of the plenary at a meeting Dec. 2 of representatives of the BRICS and the Eurasian Economic Union. At the same time, on Dec. 1-2 HSE University in Moscow hosted the 4th International Conference “The World Majority in Contemporary International Realities: From Fragmentation to New Institutionalization.”

Zepp-LaRouche herself was featured today in a 15-minute special video on China’s television network CGTN, in which she detailed the “Strategic Landscape of the Belt and Road Initiative—Past, Present and Future.” Beautiful photographs illustrated Zepp-LaRouche’s report about the nature of physical economy development. Aspects of her elaboration of development, on universal principles, and their implications for action and peace are now under discussion among individuals and groups internationally, in the aftermath of her Nov. 22 conference keynote, “Principles of a New Security and Development Architecture,” at the international Schiller Institute conference, “Stop the Danger of Nuclear War Now.”

“We have momentum, danger, and hope” is how Zepp-LaRouche summed up our immediate situation, as a call to action for mobilization over the holidays. Schiller activists organized a vigil at the National

Christmas Tree at the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., performing the entire canon *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday December 5, 2022: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Scholz Seeks Phone Discussion with Putin

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin was on the phone with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz Dec. 2, telling him that Germany should change its approach to the Ukraine conflict. Both Berlin and [Moscow](#) report that the call was made at the initiative of Scholz.

According to President Putin's website, "The discussion focused on various aspects of the situation around Ukraine. Vladimir Putin again explained in detail Russia's fundamental approaches to the special military operation and pointed out the destructive policy of Western countries, including Germany, pumping the Kiev regime with weapons and training the Ukrainian military. All this, as well as their comprehensive political and financial support for Ukraine, leads Kiev to reject any idea of negotiations. In addition, it encourages radical Ukrainian nationalists to commit more and more bloody crimes against the civilian population." Moscow reported that, "The President of Russia called on Germany to reconsider its approaches in the context of the Ukrainian developments."

Scholz condemned the Russian missile attacks in Ukraine, according to a government spokesman, underscoring Germany's determination to support Ukraine "in ensuring its defense capability against Russian aggression." In addition, Scholz urged that a diplomatic solution be reached as soon as possible, including a withdrawal of Russian troops.

Putin said that “the Russian Armed Forces had for a long time refrained from pinpoint missile strikes at certain targets on the territory of Ukraine, but now such measures have become an unavoidable and inevitable response to Kiev’s provocative attacks against Russia’s civilian infrastructure, including the Crimean bridge and energy facilities.”

Putin also insisted, in the words of the Kremlin: “This list of incidents also includes the terrorist attacks against the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines. A transparent investigation into the circumstances of those attacks must be conducted and it must include the relevant Russian agencies.”

Putin and Scholz, however, agreed on the importance of the grain deal. “Vladimir Putin and Olaf Scholz also touched upon certain aspects of implementing the July 22 Istanbul package deal on the export of Ukrainian grain from the Black Sea ports and the unblocking of food and fertilizer exports from Russia. The parties emphasized the need for *bona fide* comprehensive implementation of the grain deal, which implies the elimination of all barriers for Russian exports.”

Both leaders stressed the important role of the recently extended grain agreement under the aegis of the United Nations and agreed to remain in contact.

Olaf Scholz Speaks of Return to Old Security Architecture, Instead of Building a New One at Berlin Security Forum

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—Many questions remain open, after a speech German Chancellor Olaf Scholz gave at the Berlin Security Conference Nov. 30, in which he declared that peace in Europe depends on the revival of post-Cold War security agreements with Russia, but ruled out a return to the “partnership” of the past. “We have to go back to the agreements which we had in the last decades and which were the basis for peace and security order in Europe,” Scholz said, adding there was a “willingness” in Berlin to discuss arms control and missile deployment treaties with Moscow, but that building this “peace order” would depend on Russia making some significant concessions. Chief among these would be an acceptance that

“there is no aggression coming from NATO.” Moscow has argued since the 1990s that the Eastward expansion of NATO threatens Russia’s security, and that Ukraine’s membership in the alliance—which Kiev insists will happen and NATO has not ruled out—presents an existential threat to the Russian state. Scholz also declared that Germany will “support Ukraine for as long as it takes,” a phrase that U.S., EU, and NATO leaders have repeatedly used when referring to their multibillion-dollar arms shipments to Kiev.

The Chancellor stressed that Germany will likely never return to the “strong partnership” it enjoyed with Russia before the NATO conflict against Russia run out of Ukraine. This partnership—in which German industry achieved Europe-wide dominance with the help of inexpensive Russian gas—was undermined by Berlin’s backing of the EU’s anti-Russian sanctions regime, and then by the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines, which precludes an easy return to the February 2022 status quo.

Zelenskyy Moves To Ban Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—The West’s darling of democracy, Ukrainian President [Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#) informed Ukrainians in his daily television address on Dec. 1 that his regime will now ban the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, subject its clergy to sanctions, and step up policing of religious activities generally in Ukraine. The UOC had officially broken its ties to the Moscow Patriarchate last May, but the UOC is being charged with threatening “Ukraine’s spiritual independence” by alleged ties to Russia.

All opposition media and political parties had already been prohibited and persecuted under the same justification. Now the Ukrainian state is taking over religious activities.

Zelenskyy announced that the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) has “instructed” the government to submit “a draft law making it impossible for religious organizations affiliated with centers of influence in the Russian Federation to operate in Ukraine.” The capabilities and status of the “State Service on Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience” will be beefed up to “protect the rights and legitimate interests of the Ukrainians

and the state.” National security agencies “must intensify measures to identify and counter subversive activities of Russian special services in the religious environment of Ukraine.” That requires, he specified, that “personal sanctions” be applied against those found “guilty.”

“We will ensure, in particular, spiritual independence. We will never allow anyone to build an empire inside the Ukrainian soul,” Zelenskyy proclaimed.

The [Center for Countering Disinformation](#), an agency of the NSDC, denounced any claim that this assault threatens religious freedom as “Russian propaganda.” In a Dec. 2 Telegram post, CCD asserted that “the authorities of Ukraine do not forbid being Christians, as the propaganda says, to give up your religious views or traditions, but Ukraine must be cleansed of everything russian and cleanse all areas of life where russia has penetrated” (sic spelling).

This is the same fascist concept of ethnic “cleansing” expressed by NSDC Secretary [Oleksiy Danilov](#) in his speech, the same day as Zelenskyy’s, to a powwow of Ukraine’s foreign backers at the Kyiv Security Forum, demanding that Russia “be destroyed so that they cease to exist as a country within the limits in which they exist,” labeling all Russians “barbarians,” and ranting to “Muscovy” that “you are not at all worthy of anyone in the world communicating with you.”

Zelenskyy’s speech made official the attack on the church already under way. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), notoriously linked with the Myrotvorets assassination operation and operating under the NSDC, raided several UOC churches and monasteries on Nov. 22. They raided others in three regions on Dec. 2. A source in the Office of the Presidency told the [Ukrainian News Agency](#) the same day that sanctions have been imposed on 14 UOC representatives and a former member of the Verkhovna Rada (the parliament), Vadim Novinsky. (No reasons for the sanctions were given.)

Zelenskyy’s Dec. 2 remarks to the Hryhorii Skovoroda University imply that “cleansing” of scientific circles and universities may soon follow. He told the students and teachers that he “believes it is necessary to develop

Ukrainian universities and science, as this is an informational warfare. This also applies to the country's spiritual sphere," Ukrinform reported.

Pentagon Unveils New B-21 Stealth Bomber

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Department of Defense revealed the first B-21 stealth bomber in a lavish ceremony at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California, last night, that was designed to hype the aircraft without actually revealing anything we didn't already know, which isn't much. The aircraft was towed just far enough out of the hangar to bring the nose under the lights. No view of the aircraft was allowed besides a straight-on shot of the nose which revealed very little about the aircraft's configuration. When the ceremony was over the lights were shut off and it was pushed back into the hangar.

The aircraft is named the Raider, after the Doolittle Raiders of World War II fame. The Doolittle Raiders "showed the strength and the reach of American airpower," Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said in his speech. "The audacity of the Doolittle Raiders has inspired generations of American aviators. And it's fitting that the next chapter in American airpower is named in their honor."

But Austin was referring to only half the story of the Raiders. The other half is the courage, acknowledged by the Rainers, of the Chinese peasants, soldiers, missionaries and others who risked their lives to get as many of the Raiders as possible—64 men, including Doolittle himself, among the 80 total—out of China before the Japanese could find them. Now the B-21 plane is designed to bomb China (as well as Russia and Iran), making its name an insult.

Nigerian President Reveals That Weapons from Ukraine Are Going to Boko Haram

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—The weapons pipeline to Ukraine, fed extensively by the U.S. and its European allies, seems to have at least one outflow in Africa. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari told the 16th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in Abuja on

Nov. 29 that weapons from the Ukraine war are now slipping into the Lake Chad Basin region. According to the *Sahara Reporter*, Buhari said the Russia/Ukraine conflict and other violent situations in the Sahel region of West Africa had compounded the Boko Haram terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin region. He said though a lot had been done to decimate the strength of the Boko Haram terror group and other violent extremist groups in the region, terrorist threats persist.

“Regrettably, the situation in the Sahel and the raging war in Ukraine serve as major sources of weapons and fighters that bolster the ranks of the terrorists in Lake Chad Region. A substantial proportion of the arms and ammunition procured to execute the war in Libya, continues to find its way to the Lake Chad Region and other parts of the Sahel. Weapons being used for the war in Ukraine and Russia are equally beginning to filter to the region,” Buhari said.

“This illegal movement of arms into the region has heightened the proliferation of small arms and light weapons which continues to threaten our collective peace and security in the region. There is therefore, the urgent need for expedited collaborative actions by our border control agencies and other security services to stop the circulation of all illegal weapons in the region,” he said.

NEW WORLD PARADIGM

Kremlin Will ‘Not Accept’ Price Cap on Russian Oil Exports

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, speaking with reporters today, said of the oil price cap: “We are analyzing it now. Some preparation has been made.” He was addressing the \$60 a barrel price cap on seaborne oil from Russia, decreed by the EU, the G7 and Australia. He said, “We will not accept this cap, and we will inform you ... after the analysis, which will be carried out quickly.”

Iran and Turkmenistan Meet on Joint Plans for Energy and Water, Including with Afghanistan

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—On Nov. 30, Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdymukhamedov met in Ashgabat with Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian, over strengthening Iran-Turkmenistan relations in energy, water and other spheres. In particular, tripartite relations with Afghanistan are being prepared concerning the Hari River, and other shared resources.

Pakistan and Afghanistan Hold Policy Meeting in Kabul; Pakistan Mission Head Victim of Assassination Attempt

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—The Pakistan Head of Mission in Kabul is safe after suffering an assassination attempt on Dec. 2, which seriously wounded his bodyguard. The incident occurred just days after representatives of the Pakistan and Afghanistan governments conferred in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar met in Kabul on Nov. 29 with Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, in the first such high-level meeting since Shehbaz Sharif became Pakistan's Prime Minister in April.

Many things were discussed, including accelerating trade, and facilities for travellers between the two countries.

Of great importance, an agreement was reached to proceed with work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the CASA-1000 (Central Asia-South Asia) power project, and on the Trans-Afghan Rail project among other developments that have been on hold for a long time. The projects reviewed were reported by Turkey's Anadolu Agency:

“The \$7 billion TAPI project, which was supposed to be completed by the end of 2017, has been pushed back due to the Taliban's war against the U.S.-backed Afghan regime, which ended in August last year.

“A 1,600 km (994-mile) pipeline will transport 3.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day from Turkmenistan to the three South Asian countries.

“While CASA-1000 is a \$1.16 billion project currently under construction, it will allow surplus hydroelectricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to be exported to Afghanistan and then to Pakistan.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

EU-G7 Oil Price Cap Will Be a Oil Price Flop

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—The EU and the G7 reached an agreement on an oil price cap of \$60 per barrel, which is higher than the current market price, but they say it is meant to avoid “market shocks,” and assert that it will limit future Russian export gains. It applies to seaborne Russian oil. On the eve of the agreement, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had claimed that other “partners” would be associated with the deal.

Among such “partners” are certainly not oil producers. OPEC will meet Dec. 4 to decide a cut in production as retaliation. China and India, for sure, won’t join the price cap. And so on.

A buyer imposing prices on a seller won’t work in a market with many buyers, but it is a recipe for self-inflicted destruction. The Russian government has already announced that they will sell their oil elsewhere. According to the London-based *Financial Times*, Russia is prepared for that, having bought a hundred tankers for the job.

***Financial Times* Covers Deficiencies in West’s Defense Industry, Britain Outsourcing Production**

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—While the sponsors of the Kiev regime have been able to provide sufficient supplies of weapons and munitions for terrorist armies in both Ukraine and Africa, they are unable to support real war. The *Financial Times* reported yesterday that Kiev’s backers are more and more concerned by the struggle to increase ammunition production as the conflict chews through their stockpiles. At stake, *FT* says, is not only the West’s ability to continue supplying Ukraine with the weapons it needs, but also allies’ capacity to show adversaries, such as China, that they have an industrial base that can produce sufficient weaponry to mount a credible defense

against possible attack. “Ukraine has focused us ... on what really matters,” William LaPlante, the Pentagon’s chief weapons buyer, told a recent conference at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. “What matters is production. Production really matters.”

The *FT* notes that the U.K. has turned to a third party, which it has declined to identify, to restock its depleted stores of NLAW anti-tank missiles. “There are some really hard realities that we have been forced to learn,” James Heapey, U.K. Armed Forces Minister, said in October.

This situation is narrowly attributed to two factors, the first being the “peace dividend” following the end of the Cold War and the war on terrorism, and the second being government bureaucracy and corporate financing: Governments have been slow to write up the long-term contracts necessary to increase production, and corporations are reluctant to make the investments in expanded capacity unless they can be sure that those investments will still be paying dividends five to ten years down the road.

Lockheed Martin, meanwhile, seems to be having no trouble getting contracts related to production of its HIMARS rocket launcher and rocket ammunition. On Dec. 1, the Pentagon awarded a \$431 million contract to Lockheed Martin for full rate production of the launchers, reported *Defense News*. This followed a \$14.4 million contract from the Army last month to increase production capacity for the launchers from 60 per year to 96. In November, the Army also awarded Lockheed a \$521 million deal to replenish U.S. stocks of Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, the ammunition for the HIMARS.

Germany Transfers More Military Equipment to Ukraine, but Its Ammunition Is Disappearing

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—According to reports circulating yesterday, Germany has transferred more military equipment to the Kiev regime. According to the *Ukraine Defense Express*, the equipment includes three BEAVER bridge-laying tanks, eight unmanned surface vessels (two were transferred to Ukraine earlier), 12 border protection vehicles (65 of them have already been provided in total), 4,000 sleeping bags (in addition to the 10,000

delivered earlier), spare parts for Mi-24 helicopters, and 30 ambulances. In addition, the decision was made to transfer seven more Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, following the three that were delivered in August, and 100,000 first aid kits.

But the Gepards and other weapons supplied by Germany, such as the Pzh 2000 self-propelled howitzers, need ammunition. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht is coming under fire for not solving Germany's ammunition problem. *Politico Europe* notes that media reports suggest that for some weapon systems, Germany may only have ammunition left for a few hours of combat should war break out.

In an apparent last-minute attempt to address the critical shortcomings, Lambrecht wrote to Finance Minister Christian Lindner on Nov. 29, urging him to “immediately provide significant amounts of budget funds” for purchasing new ammunition. Yet Lindner, who is from the liberal Free Democratic Party, turned down that request on Dec. 1 in a spicy letter—seen by *Politico*—and sent on his behalf by Finance State Secretary Steffen Saebisch, who suggested that Lambrecht should first do her own homework before asking for financial help. In what is said to be a rather cynical tone, Saebisch wrote that he “must state” that Lambrecht never mentioned the need for additional ammunition procurement during budget debates in the last months.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz sought to defend Lambrecht on Dec. 1, telling reporters that she was “very committed” to eliminating shortcomings in the Bundeswehr's ammunition stocks: “I can assure you: She is doing everything she can to ensure that this succeeds, and it will succeed.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

New England Home Heating Prices Soar, Run on Firewood

Dec. 3 (EIRNS)—New England residents are getting slammed by high prices for home heating gas and oil, and there is a run on firewood, whose prices are likewise soaring.

As of Nov. 1, the average residential heating bill for gas jumped up 22-38%, depending on location and the supplier, on what the rate would be compared to last year. Over 50% of New England homes use gas for heat.

Another 33% of homes in New England use heating oil. Prices were 65% higher in October for heating oil, compared with same time last year, and that's just the start.

There is a run on firewood, with merchants unable to meet demand. In the Boston area, a cord of wood was going for about \$500 in November, with kiln-dried wood costing up to \$700.

Supplies on hand in the Northeast of "distillate fuels inventories," according to the Energy Information Agency are 44% less than in the week of Nov. 11, the same week last year. The many factors include the lack of storage, the lack of refining capacity, the fall in imports, some of which had traditionally come to New England from Russia, and the lack of pipelines.