

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Leaping into the Future

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—Much of the world is hungry for something better, eager to achieve great things and to unlock new potentials. In President Donald Trump’s speech at the Republican National Convention, he said that “the Republican Party, the party of Abraham Lincoln, goes forward united, determined, and ready to welcome millions of Democrats, Independents, and anyone who believes in the greatness of America and the righteous heart of the American people.” Promising to create economic

growth, to develop a vaccine by the end of the year, and to protect the people from violent anarchists and criminals, Trump referred repeatedly to the “special purpose” of the United States, in contrast to the America-is-evil rhetoric emanating from the freak-show DNC.

The United States was created as a nation, in the form of an idea, an intention. From the first settlers in Boston, committed to creating a new society free of the oligarchism of Europe, through the American Revolution that achieved victory over that empire, to achievements in space and science, the United States truly has played a unique role in human history.

It is a rededication to the best impulses of the United States that can drive this nation towards playing a positive, collaborative world role in catalyzing the unlocking of new potentials that will define human life for the next century—new breakthroughs in nuclear science, space travel, biology, culture, and more. Struggling against decades of deindustrialization, the U.S. has developed a huge upgrade of the production of ventilators, increased production of PPE, and developed several promising potential treatments and vaccines. On Thursday, the White House announced the purchase of 150 million new, rapid antigen tests, with production expected to scale up to 50 million tests per month by October.

But there is an enormous tension between Trump’s intentions, his campaign promises both in 2016 and today, and the plans of the British Empire that has hated the United States since its creation. Absurd lies, manufactured in London, with some varnish applied in the United States, have duped some into believing that Russian President Vladimir Putin controls Donald Trump (a claim absurd on its face) and even achieved the impeachment of Trump regarding dealings with Ukraine of which his mentally addled opponent is actually himself guilty. Within the administration remain elements of what Trump has colorfully termed “The Swamp”—people like Mike Pompeo who seek to create new conflicts, in opposition to Trump’s repeatedly expressed desire to end the endless wars.

Several military events over the past week point to the very real danger of conflict:

- Russia has conducted, in international waters near Alaska, the largest military exercise in the Arctic since the Soviet era, involving 50 naval ships and 40 aircraft.
- In Syria, there was a collision between U.S. and Russian military vehicles, despite advance efforts to coordinate. What could have been the result of a U.S. or Russian service member being killed by the other nation?
- B-52 bombers were flown over all 30 NATO countries in a show of force.

The LaRouche movement has had a unique understanding of what is driving this conflict, and of how it parallels events in the economic sphere. It is not a coincidence that enormous, ever-larger bailouts are required to pump up the value of stocks: as economic window dressing and to maintain the parasitic British financial system at the expense of the real economy.

Trump and the world need the economic policies of LaRouche, if they are to succeed. Trump's intentions for the economy are good, although the means of realizing those intentions eludes him. Wrongly attacking China and boasting of killing Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani are not helpful steps achieving campaign promises of ending wars and creating economic growth.

The impulse to break from the recent, horrible past requires a strategy, and the Schiller Institute event next weekend will bring to life a dialogue focused on the policies of the LaRouche movement, urgently needed today. A [preliminary program and schedule of speakers](#) is now posted to the Schiller Institute Invitation and Registration page.

Dream big and unite around achieving things all people can be proud of. Trump said in his speech on Thursday: "We will launch a new age of American Ambition in Space. America will land the first woman on the Moon—and the United States will be the first nation to plant its flag on

Mars. This is the unifying national agenda that will bring our country together.”

Take up a mission that can bring the entire world together—overcoming the attempts to drive people apart within the United States and create barriers to collaboration among the nations of the world—a mission to make the world better than it has ever been.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Russian Navy Conducts Large-Scale Maneuvers in the Bering Sea Near Alaska

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—The Russian Navy conducted major military exercises near Alaska—the biggest such drills since Soviet times—involving dozens of ships and aircraft, the Russian military reported today, according to Associated Press.

Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, said that more than 50 warships and approximately 40 aircraft were taking place in the Bering Sea exercises. “We are holding such massive drills there for the first time ever,” Admiral Yevmenov said in a statement released by the Russian Defense Ministry, a message that will not be lost on the West.

Russia’s Pacific Fleet took part in the maneuvers, and its representatives said that as part of its exercise, the *Omsk* nuclear submarine—armed with 24 anti-ship missiles—and the *Varyag* missile cruiser launched cruise missiles at a practice target in the Bering Sea. Additionally, as part of this extensive exercise, Oniks missiles were launched from the coast of the Chukchi Peninsula at a practice target in the Gulf of Anadyr.

Admiral Yevmenov emphasized that the maneuvers are part of Russia’s efforts to boost its presence in the Arctic region, “We are building up our forces to ensure the economic region. We are getting used to the Arctic space.” The Russian military has rebuilt and expanded numerous facilities across the polar region, revamping runways and deploying additional air defense assets.

The United States monitored the Russian maneuvers. U.S. Northern Command spokesman Bill Lewis confirmed that the exercise is taking place in international waters, well outside U.S. territory.

Interestingly, on Aug. 27, NORAD sent F-22 fighter jets to intercept three groups of Tu-142 Russian maritime patrol aircraft that came close to Alaska; the Russian aircraft remained in the air for five hours.

B-52 Bombers Tour All of NATO

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—In an unusual display of military jingoism, B-52H bombers flew over all NATO members today in what was billed as a “training mission.” U.S. European Command had announced in a press release that four B-52s, flying out of Fairford, England, would fly over all 28 European members of NATO. According to a report in *Stars & Stripes*, the bombers were escorted by a total of about 80 fighter jets during the course of the exercise. Two more B-52s, flying out of Minot, North Dakota, were to fly over the U.S. and Canada. “This single-day mission titled Allied Sky is intended to demonstrate NATO solidarity, enhance readiness and provide training opportunities aimed at enhancing interoperability for all participating aircrews from the U.S. and NATO allies,” the release said.

“Today’s bomber task force mission is another example of how the Alliance sustains readiness, improves interoperability and demonstrates our ability to deliver on commitments from across the Atlantic,” said Eucom/NATO commander Gen. Tod Wolters. “By further enhancing our enduring relationships, we send a clear message to potential adversaries about our readiness to meet any global challenge.”

Russian-U.S. Altercation in Syria Ratchets Up Military Tensions

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—The Russian and U.S. militaries operating in Syria have become embroiled in a heated dispute over an incident in northeastern Syria in which four American soldiers were injured. According to the Russian account and social media postings, an American patrol attempted to block a Russian military police patrol in Malikiyah in the northeast corner of Hasakah province. Sputnik and Al Masdar published four videos originally

posted on social media showing the Russian and U.S. vehicles in close proximity to each other at speed and two Russian helicopters circling low overhead, apparently trying to intimidate the Americans. “U.S. forces appear to be blocking a road and then attempt to block the path of the Russian patrol when they drive through the field,” said one of the Twitter posts reported by Sputnik. The collision in which the four Americans were injured then apparently occurs.

In the aftermath, the Russian Defense Ministry initially reported that Chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov called Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley. Gerasimov “drew the U.S. side’s attention to the fact that the commanders of the International antiterrorist coalition were notified about the passage of the Russian military in accordance with the existing rules,” reported the Russian Defense Ministry, according to Sputnik. The ministry issued a statement the next day charging that it had followed all of the rules and protocols, including notification of the U.S. side of the route and timing of the Russian patrol, but that the U.S. vehicles tried to block the Russians anyway.

The U.S. side, first in a statement issued by National Security Council John Ulyot and then later yesterday by Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman accused the Russians of breaching the deconfliction protocol in effect between the two sides. “We have advised the Russians that their behavior was dangerous and unacceptable. We expect a return to routine and professional deconfliction in Syria and reserve the right to defend our forces vigorously whenever their safety is put at risk.” As RT pointed out in its coverage yesterday, it is the Russian military which is present legally in Syria at the request of the Damascus government, whereas the American presence is illegal. Damascus did not attack the U.S., nor did it invite Washington to send troops.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Government Purchases 150 Million Rapid COVID-19 Tests

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—Good news! On Aug. 27, the Trump Administration announced the purchase and production of 150 million rapid COVID-19 tests to be distributed nationwide. These tests, produced by Abbott and called BinaxNOW tests, test for antigens in about 15 minutes, and do not require the use of complex equipment or potentially dangerous chemicals. An Emergency Use Authorization was issued on Aug. 26.

About the size of a credit card (but thicker), they are relatively reliable, with sensitivity (correctly identifying positive cases) 97.1% of the time, and specificity (correctly identifying negative cases) 98.5% of the time.

If such tests are used frequently, the sensitivity is not an issue, although the specificity of 98.5% means that they will misdiagnose as positive 1.5% of uninfected people, who (along with their close contacts) might then isolate needlessly for two weeks.

Abbott will scale up production to the level of 50 million per month. This is excellent news, and help in achieving testing levels relative to infection levels such that contact tracing can be effective in more rapidly reducing the number of infections.

Hong Kong To Roll Out Nearly Universal COVID-19 Testing in September

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—Hong Kong, which has seen a new wave of COVID-19 infections following the large-scale demonstrations held there, has launched a program to offer testing for everyone age six and above. The testing initiative will begin on Sept. 1, with the goal of testing all residents within 7 days, with the possibility of expanding the program to 14 days if necessary. It is hoped that by performing the testing over a short period, positive cases can be identified for isolation, along with their recent close contacts, dramatically reducing the spread of the disease.

At current U.S. rates of testing, universal testing would take over a year.

New, less expensive types of tests, less sensitive than the PCR tests that are widely used, but still capable of identifying 99% of infectious persons, can make a huge difference in getting the disease to levels where contact tracing and isolation can be quite effective.

U.S. Sanctions Russian Developer of Sputnik V COVID Vaccine

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—On Aug. 26, the U.S. Department of Commerce placed sanctions on Russia’s 48th Central Scientific Research Institute (48th CSRI) of their Ministry of Defense. The 48th CSRI had made the news, 15 days earlier, for its partnership with the Gamaleya Institute in successfully developing the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine. To meet the standard of “acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the U.S.,” the Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security, specifically their “End-User Review Committee,” declared that it “has a reasonable cause to believe” that the 48th CSRI was “associated with the Russian biological weapons program.” The department is not legally obligated to present any evidence, and did not.

It is true that the 48th CSRI has an army of golden hamsters, which have been key in the testing of vaccines against MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, a coronavirus), Ebola and influenza. Evidently, the novel coronavirus was quite deadly to the hamsters, and the Sputnik V vaccine had a 100% success rate in saving their lives. It remains unclear whether the hamsters were “dual use” hamsters with a nefarious involvement with biological weapons.

Wednesday evening, Aug. 26, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said, “We certainly paid attention to the mentioned announcement of the U.S. authorities. It seems confusing to us. Especially since no evidence was presented. Familiar vague terms are used such as ‘there is a reasonable cause to believe...’.” Aug. 27, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov added: “This is a continuation of a sort of addiction to sanctions. Some kind of a Theatre of the Absurd of sanctions. We, of course, categorically reject any statements alleging some of our organizations of involvement or participation in the development of

chemical and bacteriological weapons—this is absolute nonsense.” The sanctions are “another example of overt, unbridled, and unfair competition.” Today, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova also stated: “One gets the impression that it is all about the trivial use of sanctions pressure in the interests of promoting their own companies, now pharmaceutical ones, as is the case with the ongoing promotion of their gas on the European market,” referring to the U.S. threat of sanctions against U.S. European allies, that are partners in the Nord Stream 2 construction.

The sanctions certainly delimit commercial activity with the Research Institute. However, it is not clear whether the sanctions will have any actual effect on the distribution of the Russian vaccine or whether somebody in Washington was looking for a sufficiently ugly way to sour relations between Trump and Putin.

India Hitting Record Highs in New Cases of Novel Coronavirus

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—India has recently recorded the highest amount of new COVID cases per day, now in the 70-80,000 range, passing both the U.S. and Brazil, which have now retreated to levels of around 40,000/day. Herein is a quick background sketch of India’s COVID profile.

From January through March, India contained COVID-19 cases, isolating three infected travelers from China and fourteen from Italy. However, two known “super spreader” events occurred in March involving a Sikh festival, with 27 known cases, and then a Tablighi Jamaat religious congregation, which spread 4,291 around the country. On March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a lockdown for the whole country.

India has a COVID-19 war room, centered at the Union Health Ministry, where they’ve tried to “break the chain” of transmission. They’ve employed a “cluster-containment” strategy that had been successful in the past dealing with smallpox. They quickly geared up testing capacity. As tests became available, they started testing those with a travel history from 12 countries designated as “high-risk.” Then they expanded to include those with influenza, and finally those with symptoms who were in hotspot areas. The last two months has seen an expansion from 200,000 tests/day to

a million/day. Production of an oral antiviral, favipiravir, was developed by July, costing about one-tenth of similar drugs, and made widely available. They have had an unusually low death rate—possibly related to the very youthful profile of the country’s population. Also, several companies are working on vaccines.

Their “cluster-containment” operation had the virus largely contained to ten specific provinces. Then, in part because of increased inattention to distancing and masks (“battle fatigue”) and to some restrictions being lifted on travel in June, the virus began to spread to new areas of India—in particular, the poor northern provinces of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and some of the southern provinces with older populations. New cases began to take off around June 18, reaching more than 60,000/day after Aug. 6. On Aug. 27, they shot up to 75,760 (about 8,500 more than Aug. 26). Of note, the numbers are affected by two countervailing factors: a) the late- July call of Prime Minister Modi for breaking the barrier of 1 million tests/day, which was achieved on Aug. 22. More cases are being found that were there all along, but not previously caught. However, b) this was achieved, in part, because of a greater use of the quicker, less accurate antigen tests. They are very useful for their quick turnaround time of 15-20 minutes, however, they give more false negatives, missing at least 20% of the cases. (The antigen tests probably account in part for the big drop in positivity in the last two weeks, down from 11% to 8%—measured for a seven-day rolling average.) The two factors affect the actual number of official new cases/day in opposite directions. Overall, while the central government has been aggressive in mobilizing production of testing capacity, PPEs, ventilators, therapeutics and vaccines, the recent rise has put serious strains upon their hospitals. Should the health dam be breached, they may shortly move from contained clusters, to community-wide spread.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Ibero-Americans Revolt over U.S. Neocon Proposed To Head Inter-American Development Bank

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—Former heads of state, current and former government ministers and institutional leaders of several Ibero-American nations are up in arms over the fact that the Trump Administration has nominated an American—National Security Council Western Hemisphere division head Mauricio Claver-Carone—to be the next president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The elections for that post are scheduled for mid-September at the next IADB assembly.

Since the bank's founding 60 years ago, its president has always been an Ibero-American, and its vice president an American. Regional leaders thus see Claver-Carone's nomination as an affront to the whole region, on top of the fact that he is neither a banker nor economist, but a raging neoconservative proponent of regime change, who hates China. In fact, he has vowed that, should he be elected, he intends to turn the bank into an "economic heavyweight" and "go to lender" that will be able to replace China as a major financier of infrastructure in Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Bloomberg reported Aug. 27.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and his sidekick, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, almost certainly had a hand in securing Claver-Carone's nomination. While some of the more pro-U.S. governments—Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador—are backing him, many current and former leaders of other countries, including from those three, and including five former heads of state, are calling for the September election to be postponed until some time in 2021. They question the nomination of an American citizen, and also emphasize that in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the looming need for economic reconstruction of the entire region requires careful reflection on the bank's purpose and priorities as an Inter-American institution.

On Aug. 7, the Latin American Reflection Roundtable issued a declaration to this effect, signed by 142 current and former government

officials, academics and diplomats, entitled “To Postpone the Election of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank Is a Priority.” It underscores the need for an urgent debate to address the “arduous task of economic and social reconstruction after the pandemic [is] diminished,” and calls for dedicating the next several months “to defining strategies and priorities, after which we shall agree by consensus on who will be at the head of the institution. This opportunity should also serve to formally confirm that a Latin American or Caribbean citizen must hold the Presidency of the institution.”

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Under Attack by Pompeo, China and Russia Accelerate Physical Economic, Scientific Development

Aug. 28 (EIRNS)—Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin exchanged congratulatory letters Aug. 26 on the initiation of the “Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation” between the two countries, which signals a heightening of their relationship and further accelerates the growing work of physical economics and fundamental science advance.

President Xi wrote to Putin, “As each country is the other’s largest neighbor, China and Russia have been working together and helping one another as the COVID-19 pandemic rages across the globe.” Xi mentioned “the high level and exceptionality of their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era,” and “building of a community with a shared future for mankind.” Putin wrote to Xi that “Activities under the framework of the Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation are rich in content, covering scientific research,” and will “improve the living standards of the two peoples.”

Though not his intention, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s attacks on each country, is profoundly strengthening the fundamental Russia-China alliance.

There are four sectors of the economy in which this is a pronounced development:

First, on Aug. 23 at a youth educational forum in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov confirmed that Russia is ready to work with China and private firm Huawei in setting up 5G technology in Russia. In response to a question about Russia's 5G policy, Lavrov replied, in part: "There is no doubt that we will not follow the example set by the Americans who demand that no one works with China on 5G, in particular with Huawei. This is not something we would do. On the contrary, we are interested in working with other countries on developing and introducing state-of-the-art technology." In June 2019, MTS, which is Russia's largest telecom operator, signed an agreement with Huawei to test 5G networks in Russia, and later that year, MTS launched a 5G mobile communication network at the All-Russian Exhibition Center in Moscow and in Kronshtadt, St. Petersburg. At the end of July 2020, MTS obtained a standard service license from the Russian Federal Communications Regulatory Agency to operate in 83 regions of Russia. Russia will now collaborate with Huawei on this.

Second, Russia is working to use its expertise to develop a fast neutron nuclear reactor in China. Over the last year, TVEL, the nuclear fuel manufacturing division of the Russian state nuclear corporation, Rosatom, has provided a batch of nuclear fuel for the China Experimental Fast Reactor under its contract with the China Nuclear Industry Corporation and China Institute of Atomic Energy. In most nuclear reactors, U-235 is split by a slower or "thermal" neutron, a neutron whose speed has been slowed down by a "neutron moderator," which is quite often water. In contrast, the fast neutron reactor has no moderator, and relies on fast neutrons to convert U-238 into plutonium-239 and other isotopes of plutonium. The fast neutron reactor "breeds" new plutonium fuel and reprocesses spent fuel, thus closing the nuclear cycle. (Most such reactors use liquid sodium as a coolant.) The fast neutron reactor is reportedly 60 times more resource efficient than conventional nuclear reactors. Russia has two large

operational fast neutron reactors, which, in collaboration with China, advance the platform for the world's nuclear energy.

Third, Russia and China have been working for five years on building a long-haul, wide-body passenger plane, the CRAIC CR929, to compete with Airbus and Boeing.

Fourth, Russia will increase its soybean production to provide China with 3.4 million tons of soybeans by 2024, Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maksim Reshetnikov and China's Commerce Minister Zhong Zhan announced Aug. 25, reported *South China Morning Post*.

Thus, the China-Russia collaboration is developing far beyond shipping Russian natural gas to China, into the growth of physical economy and fundamental science, as expressed by the Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation.

- Watch the [Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger](#) on Monday, August 31: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley's briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).