

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Enough of Infectious Delusions: Investigate Nord Stream Revelations

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Is there a graveyard for delusions?

Can derivatives, that is, placing side-bets, replace agriculture, manufacturing, energy generation, etc., as the basis of a population's survival? Might a parasite persist forever, consuming and destroying its own home? Where do cancers go when the organisms are decimated and cease functioning?

The world is full of infectious delusions these days: The history of Ukraine began on February 24, 2022; the Russian action of a year ago was “unprovoked”; Chinese balloons are sapping our precious intelligence secrets; and the most indebted country in the world has kept sacrosanct, away from the \$31.5 trillion hole, the funds to cover your Social Security obligations. And, yes, then there's the unfathomable bombing of the Nord Stream pipelines last September.

The head of state, President Biden, had announced that the United States would end the Nord Stream pipeline if Russia did not do as we say. The pipelines then were destroyed. The countries along the pipeline assert that sabotage occurred—but it seems, for “national security” reasons or some such, everyone is to contract a collective amnesia. Somehow, it is impossible to investigate Seymour Hersh's claim, that during the BALTOPS22 military exercise, there were U.S. divers and Norwegian boats deployed to plant the bombs in the area. Here we have a seasoned, tested journalist who has proven his integrity, and he's denounced by a State Department spokesman, Ned Price, with a very different track record. One says, here are the details of the story, go investigate; the other says, I told you it didn't happen—don't you dare investigate.

Recently, Seymour Hersh reported on a group of U.S. intelligence and security professionals, whom he says have been willing to talk about a

filthy task force, involving the National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the #3 at State, the Under Secretary Victoria Nuland, who in December 2021, plotted to bomb the Nord Stream pipelines. The story and its significance are dealt with at today's Schiller Institute conference, ["Investigate Nord Stream Revelations: Stop Nuclear World War III!"](#) whose speakers included Helga Zepp-LaRouche, former CIA analysts Ray McGovern and Graham Fuller, human rights lawyer Prof. Francis Boyle, former Swiss Lt. Col. Ralph Bosshard, and former French Gen. Dominique Delawarde.

But the immediate point is, Seymour Hersh is old-fashioned. He didn't expect to have an easy time of it, telling the story that he did. He didn't get flustered, when such a national story is ignored by the poohbas of the Establishment media. He went ahead and spoke to the non-mainstream media outlets. And it appears, with his second bombshell released yesterday—that the CIA and Norway weren't only partners in crime in sabotaging the pipelines, but they partnered in the covert ops that provoked that Vietnam War debacle—that Hersh expected he would need to let loose a few depth charges of his own before the conspiracy of silence was shattered.

This week, the chair of the House Oversight Committee, James Comer, gave some of the same characters, Lloyd Austin, Antony Blinken and USAID's Samantha Power, 14 days from now to hand over all the records on \$113 billion of monies and matériel provided to Ukraine over the last year. He expects to find a trail of corruption amongst Kiev's regime. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) introduced a privileged resolution under the War Powers Act to withdraw all U.S. troops from Syria, a move that requires a vote in 16 more days. The two co-chairs of the House's Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, Reps. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Mark Pocan (D-WI), introduced their "People Over Pentagon Act" to move \$100 billion out from the defense budget and into other programs. Gaetz, Lee and Pocan all explicitly identify their common enemy as the "military-industrial complex." What would bring these representatives of the "right" and the

“left” into a conjoined struggle, but the same quality of leadership that fashioned the Feb. 19 peace demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial out of such previously disparate forces?

Infectious delusions undoubtedly can get a grip on healthy organisms and do no little amount of damage. But a life of relentless truth-telling, and enough deep-rooted optimism—enough to allow real humor and laughter over the ridiculous foibles that might ensnare us—might well send delusions to the graveyard. Because, the arc of the moral universe may very well be long, but it bends towards justice. To think otherwise means a short road to thermonuclear annihilation.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday February 24, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Seymour Hersh Ups the Ante, Exposes Norway and CIA's Secret Ops in Run-Up to Vietnam War

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Seymour Hersh evidently was loaded for bear, as he prepared for the possibility of a servile media attempting to stonewall his Feb. 8 charges, of U.S. President Biden ordering the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines. He had stated then that he had more material—and yesterday he let loose with a second round.

His new Substack posting, [“From the Gulf of Tonkin to the Baltic: The secret and incomplete history of U.S.-Norway collaboration in covert operations,”](#) relates that the “Norwegian Navy has a long and murky history of cooperation with American intelligence.” In early 1964, Norway provided the CIA special, heavily armed but fast boats, along with Norwegian captains and crew to train U.S. and South Vietnamese sailors, for a long-running series of clandestine coastal attacks upon North Vietnam, directed by the CIA and controlled by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in

Washington. This is based, again, upon Hersh's source "within the intelligence community." The secret actions were the prelude, over several months, prior to the North Vietnamese confronting U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin. The rest is, as they say, history.

Previously it was thought that the forays against North Vietnam's coastline had been run out of the American command in Saigon, but it turns out that even they evidently were bypassed. Hersh characterizes the bypassing of the regular military: "It was a secret war within a secret war." At least two Navy SEALs (the SEALs had been created in January 1962) were wounded on these missions, and received the Medal of Honor in secret. "This bit of top secret and heretofore unknown history raises, to this reporter, an obvious question: What else do we not know about the secret operation in Norway that led to the destruction of the pipelines?"

Hersh, keeping busy, recently granted a 26-minute interview to Turkiye's "[Inside America with Ghida Fakhry](#)," on his original case on the Nord Stream sabotage.

Ray McGovern Reveals How 'Washington Post Let Hersh's Dangerous Cat Out of the Bag'

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ray McGovern, the co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, after testifying at the UN Security Council's session on the U.S. sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines, noted the first crack, after two weeks of grim silence, in the U.S. legacy media giants on Seymour Hersh's authoritative exposure of the U.S. operation to bomb the pipelines. His article, "[Washington Post Lets Hersh's Dangerous Cat Out of the Bag](#)," posted on Antiwar.com, opens with:

"Bombshell No. 1: Seymour Hersh's Feb. 8 report that President Joe Biden authorized the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines built to carry cheap Russian gas to Europe.

"Bombshell No. 2: The *Washington Post* today ended the Establishment media embargo on Hersh's damning report, mentioning its findings and even including a link to his article."

He went on to include an edited summary from the Security Council of the testimony of [Jeffrey Sachs](#) to the UN Security Council along with McGovern: “As the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines on 26 September 2022 constitutes an act of international terrorism and represents a threat to peace, it is the Council’s responsibility to take up the question of who might have carried out the act, help bring the perpetrator to justice, pursue compensation for the damaged parties and prevent such actions from recurring in the future.

“Only a handful of state-level actors have both the technical capacity and access to the Baltic Sea to have carried out this action. These include the Russian Federation, the United States, the United Kingdom, Poland, Norway, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, either individually or in some combination.

“Pointing to investigative journalist Seymour Hersh’s detailed account of the Nord Stream destruction, he said his work attributes the Nord Stream destruction to a decision ordered by Biden. The Biden Administration offered no information contradicting Hersh’s account and/or any alternative explanation.”

McGovern also made the simple observation to the Security Council, says the report: “Mr. Hersh attracts whistleblowers because of his perfect record of protecting their identities and accurately publishing what they reveal, despite government attacks. While some are now smearing Mr. Hersh, such critics do not themselves have a good record of credibility....”

His presentation today, at the Schiller Institute’s conference “[Investigate Nord Stream Revelations: Stop Nuclear World War III!](#)” goes into depth on the strategic reality that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing, and about which the West has been deluding itself.

Bavarian Prime Minister Tells Chancellor Scholz, Baerbock’s Mouth Is ‘Security Risk’

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—German Chancellor Olaf Scholz must “stop” Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock before she becomes a “security risk”

and pushes Berlin towards a conflict with Moscow with her “thoughtless statements,” Bavaria’s Prime Minister Markus Söder said on Feb. 22 at the traditional Political Ash Wednesday event in Passau. Söder’s Christian Social Union is part of the opposition in the Bundestag.

The foreign minister and her party, Alliance 90/The Greens, are talking themselves into a “war frenzy” amid the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, said Söder, referring in particular to Baerbock’s January remarks to the European Council asserting the EU was “fighting a war against Russia,” which sparked an uproar at the time.

“A foreign minister has to be careful what she says,” Söder said, warning that “an escalation of words can quickly lead to the escalation of violence.” Germany is helping Ukraine but is not at war with Russia, he maintained. “Mr. Scholz, finally stop Ms. Baerbock,” Söder insisted, stressing that the foreign minister’s “thoughtless statements” are “to the detriment of our country.”

Söder also excoriated the Scholz-led three-party coalition government, on the whole, as “the worst government this country has ever seen.”

Pope Francis Appeals to International Community ‘Has Everything Possible Been Done To Stop the War?’

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Pope Francis, in yesterday’s general audience, on Ash Wednesday, made a special appeal after his catechesis, writing: “The day after tomorrow, on 24 February, it will be one year since the invasion of Ukraine, since the beginning of this absurd and cruel war. A sad anniversary! The toll of dead, wounded, refugees and displaced persons, destruction, economic and social damage speaks for itself. May the Lord forgive so many crimes and so much violence. He is the God of peace. Let us remain close to the tormented Ukrainian people, who continue to suffer, and let us ask ourselves: has everything possible been done to stop the war? I appeal to those who have authority over nations to make a concrete commitment to end the conflict, to achieve a cease-fire and to start peace negotiations. What is built on rubble will never be a true victory!”

Crux, an independent Catholic website, noted in its coverage: “Pope Francis and his top aides have repeatedly offered the Holy See’s service as a mediator in peace negotiations; however, that offer has so far gone unanswered; and while a slew of other heads of state, including United States President Joe Biden, have visited Ukraine in a show of solidarity, Francis has not, insisting that he will only visit if he is able to travel to both Kiev and Moscow.”

Beijing Foreign Ministry Replies to Media, Stop Hying ‘China Threat,’ Tell the Truth about Nord Stream!

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The [Chinese Foreign Ministry](#) replied to a Reuters question on the Biden Administration’s claim that it would release “intelligence” on China’s willingness to send military hardware to Russia.

“We can easily imagine that the ‘intelligence’ the U.S. referred to is most likely chasing shadows and smearing China,” Wang Wenbin, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, said today. “Since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, China has firmly stood on the side of dialogue and peace. We have promoted peace talks in our own ways and played a responsible and constructive role in easing tensions and alleviating the crisis. The U.S. is the biggest source of weaponry for the battlefield in Ukraine, yet it has kept smearing China by falsely claiming that China might offer weapons to Russia. This will not only hinder the process of the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis but also do further harm to China-U.S. relations. We urge the U.S. to stop smearing China and shifting blames, and stop fanning the flame and fueling the fight with more weaponry. The U.S. needs to work with China and the rest of the world to promote diplomatic negotiations with a view to settling the crisis.”

Wang pointedly concluded his response to Reuters: “Speaking of releasing valuable intelligence, the U.S. could release intelligence on the truth behind the Nord Stream blast. We hope the U.S. will provide a serious and responsible response to the revelations as soon as possible, rather than being evasive about it.”

Moscow Comments on Lula's Mediation Offer for Ukraine Conflict

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry took public note today of Brazilian President Lula da Silva's offer to help mediate a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine war, leaving the door open to it, with the qualifier that Russia is considering it from the standpoint of "the situation 'on the ground.' "

Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin conveyed the message in an interview with TASS published today. Galuzin expressed Russia's appreciation for the offer and for Brazil's resistance to U.S. pressure to take sides in the war, with the noted caveat. Galuzin's description of President Lula's mediation offer is carefully formulated, reflecting Russia's reading of the intent of the offer, more than President Lula's own public discussion of his offer.

"We took note of the President of Brazil's statements on the subject of possible mediation in order to find political ways to prevent escalation in Ukraine, correcting miscalculations in the field of international security on the basis of multilateralism, and considering the interests of all players. We are examining initiatives, mainly from the standpoint of Brazil's balanced policy, and, of course, taking into consideration the situation 'on the ground, We are examining initiatives, mainly from the standpoint of Brazil's balanced policy, and, of course, taking into consideration the situation 'on the ground,' " Galuzin told TASS.

Galuzin emphasized that Brazil is a strategic partner, both bilaterally and globally, pointing out that the two nations are "interacting constructively in the BRICS, G20, UN and its Security Council," where Brazil is currently a non-permanent member.

"I would like to emphasize that Russia values Brazil's balanced position in the current international situation, its rejection of unilateral coercive measures taken by the U.S. and its satellites against our country, and the refusal of our Brazilian partners to supply arms, military equipment, and ammunition to the Kiev regime," Galuzin further said. "At the same time,

we can see how Washington is putting pressure on Brazil. Such a sovereign stance deserves respect.”

Putin Announces Weapons Upgrade in Nuclear Subs and Hypersonic Missiles

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a video address to the Defender of the Fatherland Day event today, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) said that he would strengthen Russia’s military forces with new military equipment, new strike systems, drones, new communications systems, and new artillery systems. Further, there would also be improvement in the training of soldiers.

Regarding the nuclear triad, he said that the Russian military is prepared to deploy a new intercontinental ballistic missile system with hypersonic missiles and new nuclear submarines. He also said that, for the first time, Sarmat ICBM (called “Satan-2” by the Americans), which are able to carry multiple nuclear warheads, would be deployed this year. He announced: “We will continue mass production of air-based hypersonic Kinzhal systems and will start mass supplies of sea-based Zircon hypersonic missiles.”

“[A] modern and efficient army and navy are a guarantee of the country’s security and sovereignty, and a guarantee of its stable development and its future,” Putin said in the remarks posted to his website. “That is why, as before, we will give priority attention to strengthening our defense capability.” He added: “Our industry is quickly increasing the production of the entire range of conventional weapons and preparing for mass production of advanced models of equipment for the army and navy, as well as the aerospace forces.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

House Oversight Committee Demands That State and Defense Departments Account for Money Going to Ukraine

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The House Oversight Committee on Feb. 23 demanded that the State Department, its USAID, and the Pentagon submit proof that the \$113 billion in military and economic aid to Ukraine isn't being lost to “waste, fraud and abuse.”

In a letter to the heads of these entities, House Oversight Chairman James Comer explains: “Providing security and humanitarian assistance for warfighting and reconstruction purposes comes with an inherent risk of fraud, waste, and abuse. The United States must identify these risks and develop oversight mechanisms to mitigate them.” It calls for all the documents and communications regarding such assistance. Comer's committee is also demanding documentary evidence of the Biden administration's plans to tie aid shipments to anti-corruption initiatives, and documents detailing how the administration evaluates the success of its aid drive.

The letter gives Biden's officials until March 8 to provide all the evidence, dating back to the launch of Russia's military operation in Ukraine last February.

House Democrats Seek To Slash Defense Budget, Stop Military-Industrial Complex

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Reps. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Mark Pocan (D-WI), co-chairs of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, introduced the “People Over Pentagon Act,” designed to slash \$100 billion from the defense budget and reallocate it to other programs. Lee said in a release, as reported by *The Hill*: “Year after year, this country pours billions into our already-astronomical defense budget without stopping to question whether the additional funding is actually making us safer.”

Pocan explained: “More defense spending does not guarantee safety, but it does guarantee that the military-industrial complex will continue to get

richer. We can no longer afford to put these corporate interests over the needs of the American people.”

Gaetz Uses War Powers Act To Get U.S. Out of Syria

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz introduced on Feb. 21 a privileged resolution under the War Powers Act that, if passed, would direct the President to withdraw all U.S. troops from Syria within 15 days of passage. Under the rules, the House will have to vote on it within 18 days. According to a press release from his office, Gaetz filed the War Powers Resolution following a Feb. 17th press release from the U.S. Central Command, which announced that four U.S. service members had been wounded during a partnered helicopter raid by U.S. and (Kurdish) Syrian Democratic Forces in northeastern Syria, ultimately killing a senior ISIS leader.

Gaetz explained: “Congress has never authorized the use of military force in Syria. The United States is currently not in a war with or against Syria, so why are we conducting dangerous military operations there? President Biden must remove all U.S. Armed Forces from Syria. America First means actually putting the people of our country first—not the interests of the Military Industrial Complex.”

In comments to Fox News Digital, Gaetz reported that U.S. troops are in the middle of a civil war in Syria, and that there are Turkish, Russian, and Iranian forces in the country as well. “And it strikes me as a powder keg for very dangerous escalation,” he added. “And as we find ourselves here in 2023, we ought to ask ourselves, ‘Do we really want to continue the Obama-era policy of engaging in a Syrian civil war?’ I don’t think we should.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Ukrainian Mayor Found Guilty of Using Russian in Facebook Post

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Kharkov Mayor Igor Terekhov was fined by Kiev a second time for writing on his Facebook a message in Russian, a

language which is most familiar to his constituents. He was also fined earlier for the same “crime,” of using “a language other than the state one,” by Taras Kremen, the Commissioner for the Protection of the State Language. The fine is 3,400 hryvnia. At that time, Terekhov then filed a lawsuit against Kremen.

The outrageous language law, which was passed in 2019, says that all government officials must communicate only in Ukrainian. Terekhov said that he does so in official communications, but reserves the right to use Russian in personal communications with his constituents. For this reason he also submitted his lawsuit as a private citizen rather than as mayor.

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Webb Telescope Stuns Scientists, Finding Galaxies That Shouldn't Exist in a 'Big Bang' Universe

Feb. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Last July, the James Webb Space Telescope's high-resolution images confronted scientists with a profound anomaly. It has taken seven months to process the results and to pinch their arms. Joel Leja, a co-author of yesterday's *Nature* magazine article, ["A Population of Red Candidate Massive Galaxies ~600 Myr after the Big Bang,"](#) stated: “We expected only to find tiny, young, baby galaxies at this point in time, but we've discovered galaxies as mature as our own in what was previously understood to be the dawn of the universe. The revelation that massive galaxy formation began extremely early in the history of the universe upends what many of us had thought was settled science. We've been informally calling these objects 'universe breakers'—and they have been living up to their name so far.”

The scientists, on the presumption of a world originating in a “Big Bang” approximately 13.8 billion years ago, were examining data from six massive galaxies that evidently existed 13.1-13.3 billion years ago. As part of that model, they expected to see small, not-very-dense galaxies, forming from small clouds of stars and dust that slowly accumulated. However, Leja explained, these “objects are way more massive than anyone expected,” so

massive that they easily wipe away the various computer models' projections. "We looked into the very early universe for the first time and had no idea what we were going to find," Leja said. "It turns out we found something so unexpected it actually creates problems for science. It calls the whole picture of early galaxy formation into question."

"When we got the data, everyone just started diving in, and these massive things popped out really fast," Leja continued. "We started doing the modeling and tried to figure out what they were, because they were so big and bright. My first thought was we had made a mistake and we would just find it and move on with our lives. But we have yet to find that mistake, despite a lot of trying."

So, the Webb Telescope data have usefully stopped the astronomers from just moving on with their lives. Leja reflected: "What's funny is we have all these things we hope to learn from James Webb and this was nowhere near the top of the list. We've found something we never thought to ask the universe—and it happened way faster than I thought, but here we are."

Universe to humans: Have fun transforming your thought processes!