

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### **India Ships Wheat to Afghanistan Via Pakistan—Spirit of Operation Ibn Sina**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—A shipment of 50,000 tons of wheat and life-saving medicines is currently making its way from India to Afghanistan, across Pakistan. On Nov. 22, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan personally announced approval for the transit, which otherwise is prohibited, because in recent times, only exports from Afghanistan to India could cross Pakistan, but not the other way around, due to the enmity between India

and Pakistan. Now, for a common humanitarian project, India and Pakistan have set their enmity aside.

This is just one instance, not grand, but it is in the direction—the spirit—of Operation Ibn Sina, called for by Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche in October. She calls for a multi-nation, all-out response to the Afghanistan dire situation, by providing emergency aid, and infrastructure-building, with healthcare capacity in the forefront, and an immediate return of the financial assets to the nation of Afghanistan. This is in the interest of all throughout the region, and worldwide.

This perspective is urgent for the 38 million in Afghanistan, 95% of whom are without reliable food, as well as lacking water, shelter, fuel and power. The same driving spirit is needed to address the world hyperinflationary breakdown and pandemic, as well as to provide relief for all places of extreme need, including Haiti, Yemen, Syria, Libya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and elsewhere.

Institutionally, this spirit is expressed in a new White Paper released today by China, on the eve of the Nov. 29-30 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which meets every three years, and will be held this year in Dakar, Senegal, as well as online. President Xi Jinping will address the Forum by video Nov. 29. Today's document is titled, "[China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals](#)." The hallmark of the report's message is how the Belt and Road Initiative serves the mutual benefit of Africa and China, and all participating nations.

The need for major multinational collaboration against the pandemic could not be more conspicuous than in the latest turn of events on the pandemic virus. Today, a new SARS-CoV-2 variant has been designated a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization, which dubbed it Omicron. First identified in recent weeks in South Africa, which has proficiency in genetic mapping, the virus has since shown to have been present in many places in Africa, and has travelled outside Africa, showing up in Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium. Among features of concern about Omicron, are mutations of its protein spikes which may allow it "to

escape,” as the epidemiologists say, the current vaccines. These and other traits are still under scrutiny.

The first reaction in the trans-Atlantic countries today was to “pull up the drawbridge, and fill up the moat” to fend off Omicron by banning travel to eight designated African countries. Whatever justifiable role travel bans and lockdowns may have, what is needed overall is what was spelled out Nov. 23 by former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders in her call [“Open Letter to Virologists and Medical Experts Around the World to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic.”](#)

However, the pathological commitment to geopolitics is still blinding the trans-Atlantic to reality of all kinds, and what must be done. Worse, it hardens people to not give a damn. Look at the latest of what is called the “migrant crisis”—in the Americas and in Europe, which is really a terrible expression of the breakdown of the West. The recent decades of multiple R2P wars and forced austerity have inevitably uprooted millions of people, now roaming in desperation to find some place on Earth to be able to live and work in peace.

Look at the English Channel. On one day this month, 1,000 people tried to cross from France to land in Britain. On Wednesday, Nov. 24, this week, 27 people died when their boat capsized, and meanwhile, the same day France interdicted 671 people, preventing them from attempting the crossing. So far this year, 25,000 have sought asylum in the U.K., after crossing the English Channel, and thousands more have entered by other means. On Sunday, Nov. 28, there is to be an emergency meeting of certain European officials. But now a feud is in play between Britain and France. After Prime Minister Boris Johnson tweeted an open letter to President Emmanuel Macron yesterday, with proposals including that France should take back Channel-crossers, then today, Macron disinvited British Home Minister Priti Patel from the Sunday meeting. Macron denounced the Johnson letter. No one is addressing the causes of the collapse and desperation.

This brings us again to the need for activation of people, wherever their location, to exert leadership for the policies that will end this quickening hell. Helga Zepp-LaRouche spoke of this in her Nov. 24 strategic weekly Schiller Institute webcast. After reporting on the latest dismal government-formation process in Germany, with very bad policies, she made the general point: “I can only say, people have to wake up and start to fight for a different policy. And that can only be peaceful cooperation with Russia and China, the development of the developing countries—Africa, Southwest Asia, together with the Belt and Road Initiative of China. So the alternatives are there, but we need a population which is really becoming active....”

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday November 29, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## COVID 19

### **New COVID-19 Variant, 'Omicron,' Should Surprise No One**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—The world is supposed to be shocked that a new COVID-19 variant has a whole host of mutations. The only real surprise, however, is that, with such an uneven rollout of vaccines, such a development didn't occur before now.

The new variant, B.1.1.529, was tagged “Omicron” and labelled a “Variant of Concern” by the World Health Organization scientists on Nov. 26, Friday evening. It was evidently first discovered in Botswana in early November, however, most of the dozens of cases identified have been in South Africa's Guateng Province. The heavily populated, though small province, includes the major city Johannesburg. South Africa has one of the world's best genetic sequencing operations for identifying new strains of Covid.

Questions about its transmissibility, its virulence, and the efficacy of vaccines against it are now on the table. The unusually large number of mutations (ten, as opposed to two or three on the Delta and Beta variants) found on the spike protein is at the center of the concern. The spike protein is a feature of the virus that made it efficient in latching onto human cells, and, hence, is a key feature for the vaccines to target. The high transmissibility of both the original virus and, later, the Delta variant, suggests that the virus was at or near peak capability in infecting humans, so it has been thought that random mutations were not that likely to make a significant difference in transmissibility. However, the initial estimation, from genetic sequencing, that 90% of the recent cases in Guateng are the Omicron variant, speaks to the possibility of a very high transmissibility.

The other main concern, virulence, is even more unknown. Of note, the mutations on the spike protein could alter the shape of the spike, which then might lessen the efficacy of vaccines. The vaccine companies are at least a couple of weeks away from initial test results.

Not much discussed, but certainly worrisome, is that there was nothing about the known level of viral activity in Botswana or South Africa that made them stand out as a likely candidate for generating a new variant. Botswana, with 2.4 million people, is now at about three-to-four dozen new cases/day (in the ballpark of 6,000 cases/day for the U.S.). They last had significant known activity back in July, peaking at 2,400 such cases on July 31, and have been under 500/day for two months now. South Africa, a nation of 58.8 million, has been at about 350 official new cases/day recently (in the ballpark of 2,000/day for the U.S.), with a peak of 21,000 back on July 10, and a level under 1,600 for two months now. Various possibilities include that the intense levels of July and August brewed up a strain not noticed until early November, or that relatively moderate or low levels of viral spread can also generate such intense mutational levels. Neither possibility is good news.

Throughout Nov. 25-26, countries are closing down air flights from a group of African countries: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe,

Mozambique, Namibia and Eswatini—though epidemiologists fear that the barn door is being closed too late. Early reports include closings by EU countries, the U.K., United States, China, India, Japan, South Korea. Besides the previous reports of Omicron cases in Botswana and South Africa, now Hong Kong, Israel and Belgium report cases.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Polish President Duda Meets NATO's Stoltenberg Ahead of NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Next week NATO foreign ministers will be meeting on Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Riga, Latvia, with foreign ministers from Ukraine and Georgia present as invited guests. Ahead of that meeting, Polish President Andrzej Duda flew to Brussels on Nov. 25 to meet with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at NATO headquarters, where he demanded that even more NATO troops be deployed to the alliance's eastern frontier. "Caution and vigilance from NATO, which is responsible for the military security of the allies, is necessary," Duda said during their joint press conference. "That should be demonstrated through the strengthening of the strategic surveillance of the region ... through strengthening of the air policing mission—and I mentioned that in my conversation with the Secretary General—also strengthening of observation surveillance and strengthening of NATO units along the eastern flank of the alliance," Duda said.

Duda claimed that the border crisis with Belarus, which he called a hybrid attack, has to be seen as part of a package that also includes the recent spike in gas prices in Europe and the alleged Russian buildup along its border with Ukraine. "They have to be coordinated," Duda remarked. "It's hard to assess it otherwise."

Stoltenberg did not specifically comment on Duda's proposals for additional troop deployments or stepped-up air policing, but he said NATO foreign ministers would discuss the Russian mobilization next week. "We see a large and unusual concentration of forces, combined with aggressive

rhetoric and disinformation from Moscow,” Stoltenberg said. “So we call on Russia to be transparent, reduce tensions and de-escalate.”

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has set for himself the task of getting more support for Kiev from the Atlantic Alliance. “The key topic of my visit will be another escalation in connection with Russia’s increase in its forces on the border with Ukraine, the danger of a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine and the steps we are taking with Euro-Atlantic partners to prevent such a scenario,” he said yesterday, reported the 112.International channel. He further stated that Ukraine’s progress in the reforms needed to move towards NATO membership would also be discussed.

### **Chinese Defense Spokesman Affirms, No Compromise Possible on Taiwan**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—China is open to good military-to-military relations with the U.S. but the U.S. should expect no compromise on the Taiwan question from Beijing. “We have repeatedly stressed that China has a principle in dealing with relations with the U.S. military. The principle is that our national sovereignty, dignity and core interests can’t be jeopardized, which is especially applicable when it comes to the Taiwan question—there is no room for compromise in our position and the U.S. shall not have any illusion about that,” Ministry of National Defense spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian said during the ministry’s monthly press conference yesterday.

Wu said that one of the achievements of the Biden-Xi Jinping virtual summit on Nov. 16 was that it had pointed out the development direction for military-to-military relations and injected new momentum into such ties. “The military ties are important parts of the overall bilateral relations,” he said. “Maintaining good, stable military-to-military relations is in the interest of both nations and is the shared hope of the international community.”

“President Xi has emphasized that China and the U.S. must find the right way of dealing with each other and this is the most important matter

in the global system for the coming 50 years,” he continued. “The Chinese military is willing to work with the U.S. to take practical steps to honor the presidents’ meeting; uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation; adopt farsighted and practical perspectives; strengthen communication, exchange and cooperation; and appropriately handle our divergences so that we can improve the bilateral military relations to benefit the peoples of both countries and the rest of the world.”

However, the U.S. side has made a lot of irresponsible statements and provocative acts in terms of the Taiwan question, the South China Sea and its close reconnaissance by air and naval forces, prompting the Chinese military to respond through firm, targeted actions, Wu said, reported China Military Online.

## GREEN NEW DEAL

### **ECB Suppresses Fundamental Rights To Favor Climate Rights**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Despite the flop at the Glasgow COP26 event and the unfolding energy and inflation crisis, the ECB goes ahead with its “shifting the trillions” agenda. In focus, is the global system of law which should allow suppression of fundamental rights to favor the climate agenda. As keynote speaker at the European Central Bank Legal Conference in Frankfurt this week, ECB Executive Board member Frank Elderson argued for an evolution of fundamental rights into climate rights. A chapter of his speech is “ECB: From Fundamental Rights to Climate Rights.”

Elderson mentioned several cases in which courts have ruled against governments and corporations for climate crimes or omissions, to argue that such litigations will increase and will become extraterritorial, asserting, “The protection of the environment as a global right that transcends borders, leads to the assertion of claims with an extraterritorial nature.”

In conclusion, “Just as the financial risk implications of climate change place it squarely within the mandates of central banks and supervisors, the

fact that climate rights branch off from the tree of fundamental rights places them squarely within the mandates of the courts. I am confident that courts around the world will take inspiration from each other to ensure that climate rights—and I would say environmental rights, too—are being served by our legal system in the same way as any other human right. In this context, I trust that everyone will continue working together—and within their mandate—to develop solid legal foundations to address the challenges of climate change.”

## **COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

### **Brussels Dictates Warning to Italy on Debt**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—“Playtime is over!” After a year-long break for the pandemic, the EU Commission is coming back to fiscal austerity. In its yearly review of member states’ budget plans, the [EU Commission](#) found that some states spent at a rate too high. Italy was especially warned on Nov. 24 to start reducing its spending next year.

“Given the level of Italy’s government debt and high sustainability challenges in the medium term before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic ... it is important to preserve prudent fiscal policy in order to ensure sustainable public finances in the medium term,” the Commission affirmed. Presenting the report, Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis asserted that the Italian government should ensure that spending not increase at the same rate as it had been recently.

## **UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC**

### **U.S. and Taiwan Hold Second Economic Dialogue in Ongoing Operation To Contain China**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Jose Fernandez, met with Taiwanese Minister of Economic Affairs Wang Mei-hua on Nov. 23 in the second high-level Economic Dialogue, established during the Trump Administration, as the

U.S. began and continues to toy with the dangerous Taiwan card, as a means to pressure the People's Republic of China.

China's Foreign Ministry has issued a protest over these Taiwan high-level talks with U.S. government officials which goes against the letter and the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué, that provides the basis for U.S.-China relations.

The U.S. delegation also included Rick Waters, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for China, Taiwan and Mongolia in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. The discussions both concerned trade issues, and also attempted to promote supply chain security, and cooperation on pharmaceuticals, health, clean energy and semiconductors amid a global chip crunch.

While the P.R.C. had previously had significant exchanges on semiconductors with Taiwan, the U.S., in their "technological apartheid" policy, succeeded in getting Taiwan to reveal their "supply line" data with regard to semiconductors which helped squelch the trade with the P.R.C.

### **Russia Sending Large Shipment of Diesel Oil to New England**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Four tankers carrying approximately 2 million barrels of Russian diesel are due to arrive shortly in New Haven, Connecticut and New York City, as reported by the Vortexa, an energy cargo-tracking agency. As covered by Bloomberg on Nov. 18, Russian producers have been ramping up production of a diesel that is dependent on a feedstock extracted from costly natural gas. Bloomberg quotes Clay Seigle, managing director for Vortexa in Houston: "It's very rare we'd see volumes this large coming to the East Coast."

With cold weather and high prices, the arrival of the four tankers may invoke memories of happy reception of Russia's *Alexander Nevsky*, deployed to New York City in 1863, in a visit meant to make clear to the British and French supporters of the Confederacy, that the Union did not stand alone.

## NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

### China White Paper on ‘China-Africa in the New Era’

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Today China released a new White Paper, titled, “China and Africa in the New Era: A Partnership of Equals.” It comes on the eve of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which meets every three years, and will be held Nov. 29-30 in Dakar, Senegal and online. China’s President Xi Jinping will give a video address to the summit on opening day.

The white paper is a full report, with graphs and charts of the accomplishments to date of China-Africa projects, trade and developments. This record completely refutes the bluster by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was in Senegal on Nov. 19-20, the third stop of his tour, after Kenya (Nov. 17-18) and Nigeria (Nov. 18-19). Blinken made ludicrous claims in Dakar, about how the Build Back Better World (BBBW) was superior to working with China, which he denounced for alleged human rights violations, and for enticing nations into debt traps.

China is Africa’s biggest single trade partner. In 2020 the figure for China-Africa trade as a total of the continent’s total trade exceeded 21%. And there is an increased export to China of mechanical and electrical products and high-tech products, now accounting for more than 50% of the total. And China is the second largest destination for Africa’s agricultural exports.

China is also investing in Africa’s agriculture development, with 7,456 African trainees having received agricultural training in China. Through projects such as sending Chinese agricultural experts to Africa, more than 50,000 Africans have been trained and 23 agricultural demonstration centers have been built. By the end of 2020, more than 200 Chinese companies have an investment stock of \$1.11 billion in the agricultural sector in 35 African countries, covering areas such as planting, breeding and processing, according to China’s White Paper.

In infrastructure development, China is also in the lead. Since the founding of the FOCAC in 2000, Chinese companies have helped African countries build and upgrade more than 10,000 km of railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, nearly 1,000 bridges and 100 ports, and 66,000 km of power transmission and distribution. China has helped build and install power-generating capacity of 120,000 MW, a communications backbone network of 150,000 km and a network service covering nearly 700 million user terminals.

The digital network in Africa was also expanded by China, helping to build submarine cable projects connecting Africa with Europe, Asia, and the Americas. They have built more than half the continent's wireless sites and high-speed mobile broadband networks, with more than 200,000 km of optical fiber being laid, giving broadband internet access to 6 million households, and serving more than 900 million local people.

The People's Republic has done yeoman's service in bringing the lessons of China's poverty reduction to Africa, supporting local governments, academics, enterprises, and youth and non-governmental organizations in carrying out exchanges and cooperation on poverty reduction.

In the pandemic, China has been a friend in need in these difficult times, in providing medical and services. Over the past 58 years, China has sent a total of 23,000 medical team members to Africa, who have treated 230 million patients. At present there are nearly 1,000 Chinese medical workers in 45 African countries. Chinese medical teams carried out 34 free clinical programs under the Brightness Action initiative, restoring the eyesight of almost 10,000 African cataract patients. To date, it has helped 18 African countries strengthen medical specialties, covering cardiology, critical care medicine, trauma and endoscopy. China has also trained 20,000 African medical personnel. China was also the first country to insist on the export of vaccines to African countries and took the lead in exporting its own vaccines. By November 2021, China had provided 1.7 billion doses of the

COVID-19 vaccine to more than 110 countries and organizations, including 50 African countries.

China is also working diligently in the area of education, setting up an education fund under UNESCO to train 10,000 teachers in African countries. It is deeply involved in sharing its science and innovation capabilities and is working with several African countries in developing their satellite capabilities.

In the area of security, China has provided over 30,000 peacekeepers in Africa to perform tasks in 17 peacekeeping mission areas, with more than 1,800 peacekeepers currently performing missions in Mali, the D.R. Congo, South Sudan, Abyei and Western Sahara.

Most African countries are aware of the long history of China in Africa as a friend and a benefactor and never as a colonial or colonial-surrogate power, with its own “vested interests” in Africa. In the White Paper, China has also underlined the importance of maintaining equity and justice in aid and development projects in Africa, without political preconditions. China also stresses the importance of maintaining the principle of multilateralism and equality of the developing countries. It hopes to cooperate with the countries in Africa to achieve that new and just world economic order that has been the concern of the developing nations, since it was raised in the 1970s by Lyndon LaRouche and his international collaborators in the Global South.

## SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Serbia Eyes a Nuclear Reactor of Its Own**

Nov. 26 (EIRNS)—Serbia is considering the possibility of building a nuclear power plant, President Aleksandar Vučić said, and went on that country is discussing the idea with Russia’s Rosatom, reported Balkan Green Energy News on Nov. 24

President Vučić has already announced Serbia is willing to become a minority shareholder of any nuclear power plant in the region. One of the

options is the planned nuclear power plant near the Hungarian town of Paks. However, for the first time Vucic also mentioned the option of constructing a plant in Serbia itself.

In an interview Nov. 24 with the official channel of Vladimir Soloviev, “Soloviev Live” on YouTube, before his two-day visit to Russia to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, Vučić stressed Serbia had not earlier thought about building its own nuclear power plant, but that it is now starting to seriously consider the option.

There is a problem with financing because a nuclear power plant costs more than €10 billion, but Serbian laws don't allow state debt above 60% of GDP, Vučić underlined. The budget restrictions are in line with project-suffocating EU budget standards, although Serbia is not an EU member. Serbia is in talks with Rosatom on the next steps. A few days ago, the Serbian President spoke in Belgrade with Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev about the construction of a center for high technology and innovations in Serbia.

The governments of Serbia and Russia have already signed the agreement on cooperation in the construction of a center for high technology in medicine, science, agriculture, industry, and social development. The implementation of the project is planned after the signing of two agreements during President Vučić's visit to Russia.