

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Who *Does* Speak for the United States?

March 25 (EIRNS)—In one sense *the* central strategic issue of the day, that question does not yet have a certain answer. And as it is being fought out, Helga Zepp-LaRouche warned in her weekly webcast yesterday, “the strategic situation is becoming increasingly worrisome, because you have a real collapse of relations between the U.S. and Russia, the U.S. and China,

the EU and China. So all of this forebodes nothing good, and needs some urgent change in direction.”

Is it President Joe Biden who speaks for the United States? Not according to the President himself, who yesterday announced that he was naming VP Kamala Harris to head up border issues for the administration, and that “when she speaks, she speaks for me, doesn’t have to check with me.” A few weeks earlier he had similarly given Secretary of State Tony Blinken *carte blanche*, and told the world that what Blinken says is American policy. World leaders are well aware that Biden can scarcely carry a thought all the way across a room, let alone navigate through the most complex economic and strategic crisis in centuries.

If not Biden, is it then Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who have spent the better part of the last two months denouncing Russia’s purported “reckless and adversarial actions,” and China’s “challenge to the rules-based order,” while imposing new criminal sanctions on both countries?

Or, worse still, is it admirals Davidson and Aquilino, or the Dr. Strangelove-wannabes of the U.S. Army’s “Multi-Domain Task Force,” who argue that “the line between conflict and peace is blurred,” and who therefore promote forward-basing U.S. forces to surround China in the Pacific, and who openly call for the use of military power to forcibly split Taiwan from China? If such British imperial utopian policies prevail as the voice of the United States, then the trajectory towards full-scale thermonuclear war is indeed a short one.

Fortunately, there are other voices and other policies being heard—emphatically including those of Lyndon LaRouche, “now through the voice of his wife, Doña Helga,” as former Mexican President López Portillo stated in 1998. Others in that international chorus of voices were also heard at last weekend’s Schiller Institute conference, putting together a global policy alternative to the bankruptcy of the trans-Atlantic financial system, which is the driving force towards war. The remarks of former state senator Richard Black stand out as another strong voice for the true United States.

But the issue posed is actually a deeper one: What *is* that real United States? We were wise to turn to Gottfried Leibniz, one of the true founding fathers of the United States, whose philosophical concept of *happiness* or *felicity*—as diametrically opposed to the hedonist’s notion of *pleasure*—defined the substantive content of the Declaration of Independence as well as the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution. But Leibniz also addressed the fundamental issue of foreign policy—the nature of justice in our relations with other sovereign nations—in his writings.

Take the question he posed at the outset of his 1702 “Meditation on the Common Concept of Justice.”

“It is agreed that whatever God wills is good and just. But there remains the question whether it is good and just because God wills it or whether God wills it because it is good and just, in other words whether justice and goodness are arbitrary or whether they belong to the necessary and eternal truths about the nature of things.”

Leibniz himself answered that the former view “would destroy the justice of God. For why praise him because he acts according to justice, if the notion of justice, in his case, adds nothing to that of action... Moreover this opinion would not sufficiently distinguish God from the devil.” He emphasized that those who hold that view “have done wrong to the attributes which make God lovable, and, having destroyed the love of God, they have left only fear behind.”

That distinction lies at the heart of a properly defined American foreign policy, especially in times of an existential crisis facing all mankind, when our very survival depends on achieving the general welfare of every other nation on the planet, as well as our own.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Schiller Institute’s China Declaration in Chinese Media

March 25 (EIRNS)—Chinese media have highlighted the Schiller Institute “Declaration of China Experts from All Over the World,” denouncing the

attacks on China, signed by 30 leading experts. [China Global Television Network](#) (CGTN) published an article on the petition but did not name any of the expert signers. China Central Television (CCTV) republished the CGTN article, which was followed by a report in [CCTV](#) on the French Schiller Institute's translation of the declaration with a summary in Chinese. Here is the CGTN article in full:

“China Experts Urge Cooperation, not Confrontation with China”

“The West should do better to respond to an offer of cooperation from China rather than seek confrontation, and find a common way to solve the crises challenging all of humanity, according to a declaration published on Tuesday by the Schiller Institute, a political and economic think tank based in Germany.

“The declaration, which was signed by over 30 experts, including the institute's founder and president Helga Zepp LaRouche, denounced what it said was an intensifying international campaign against China.

“For some time, an international anti-China campaign has escalated, where think tanks, mainstream media and strategic reports of all sorts paint a picture of China and its alleged intentions which is simply not true and is extremely dangerous. An enemy image is being projected that in the worst case leads to war,” it said.

“All signatories to the declaration have had “direct experience with China, be it that we have lived or worked there, or from repeated travel over longer periods of time.”

“Based on their experience and witnesses, they said the Chinese people are “fundamentally more optimistic about the future than the West” after the nation's successful poverty eradication campaign. And “trust in government is substantially greater,” which is illustrated and strengthened by the effective way China brought COVID-19 under control.

“The statement also said that China has been making progress in science and technology as well as innovation, urging the West to ‘do better to respond to the offer of cooperation, than seeking confrontation.’ ”

U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable Underway for ‘Shared Challenges to Shared Future’

March 25 (EIRNS)—On March 23, four online sessions over three weeks of the U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable kicked off, under the title, “Shared Challenges to Shared Future: Finding the Way Forward.” The second session, “Trade and Business Dialogue” takes place this evening; and the final two sessions will take place on April 1, “Agriculture Education Dialogue,” and the final meeting on April 8, “Think Tank Dialogue.” The events involve top agriculture business, national, and state leaders of the U.S. and China, brought together on the platform of co-host U.S. Heartland-China Association (USHCA), based in Missouri, founded in 2003 by former Gov. Bob Holden. The other co-sponsor is the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

The opening welcome remarks given by Holden and CPAFFC President Lin Songtian stressed, as Holden said, that “collaboration over confrontation” should characterize the relations between our nations. Lin maintained that good agriculture relations started between China and the U.S. going back to agriculture science and technology initiatives in 1972. He made reference to the Feb. 10 presidential phone call between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping, saying that “dialogue is better than conflict,” and that “we can cooperate on supply chains for common development.”

The speakers’ roster and friendship thrust make this series a dramatic counterpole to the anti-China media frenzy and Washington policy most notably pushed by former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and his successor Tony Blinken. Last November, Pompeo went to the heartland state of Minnesota, and gave a presentation in their state capitol, warning states and localities to have nothing to do with China.

This week, greetings and messages were conveyed to the U.S.-China Roundtable from Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Secretary of State Paul Pate, Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois, and others. From China, Vice Governor Xia Yanjun of Hebei Provincial People's Government and top agriculture official from Hebei

Province spoke. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill made a point of stating his appreciation for China sending masks and protective gear to his state, which reached 17 hospitals. He said that these masks enabled the state to provide help for rural areas, which was otherwise “not possible without China’s help.” Iowa Secretary of State Pate also spoke of Hebei Province donating to Iowa 40,000 masks and tens of thousands of pieces of protective gear.

The March 23 session was addressed by Sui Penfei, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation at the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, and by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Affairs Jason Hafemeister. He referred to China as the top market for U.S. agriculture production, and spoke of the two nations as “complementary” in this respect. He singled out the importance for world food security of work on biotechnology and genome mapping. In passing, he did make unfortunate mention of “net zero emissions” being a goal for the United States.

Minister Sui Pengfei said that it is important to implement the call between Biden and Xi, and agriculture is an important area in which to do it.

The chairmen spoke from John Deere, headquartered in Iowa; ADM headquartered in Illinois; and Syngenta, headquartered in China, since it was acquired by ChemChina in a deal begun in 2016.

The tone was set for this week’s event by two special presentations at the beginning. Kenneth Quinn, a former career ambassador and long-time head of the World Food Prize in Des Moines, presented the inspiring work of three world agriculture leaders—Norman Borlaug, Yuan Longping, and George Washington Carver. A special video was presented by Sarah Lande, former Executive Director of Iowa Sister States, which has sister state relations with Hebei. It reviewed the visits to Iowa by Xi Jinping, with many photographs, and stressing the theme of friendship among nations.

Ambassador Quinn proposed collaboration between China and the U.S. on three “shared challenges”: providing food for 9-10 billion people on the

planet by 2050; dealing with “climate volatility”; and preventing pandemics and human and animal diseases. He reviewed many Americans’ important trips to China, including by Iowan Henry Wallace, who went there as Franklin Roosevelt’s Vice President.

The Chicago Chinese Consulate and Washington Embassy sent top people to speak at the event. Minister Xu Xueyuan from the Embassy said that she hoped China and the U.S. “could meet each other halfway” and not have confrontation, saying that the Biden-Xi phone call and the Anchorage meetings showed how it is possible. We want to prevent miscalculation and avoid confrontation, and agriculture is important in that, she urged. The U.S. and China are the biggest agriculture powers in the world. She said that she agreed with Ambassador Quinn, that agriculture “can be the cornerstone of healthy bilateral relations.”

China Initiates a Diplomatic Offensive with Visit of Wang Yi to Southwest Asia

March 25 (EIRNS)—As Secretary of State Tony Blinken travels to Brussels in order to build a “common front” against Russia and China, China is taking up the challenge with its own diplomatic offensive. After his very successful March 22-23 meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Guilin, Foreign Minister Wang Yi is traveling to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Oman, the U.A.E., Iran and Bahrain. In Saudi Arabia he met with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman. The Crown Prince said that Saudi Arabia supports China policy in Xinjiang and Hong Kong, opposes interference in China’s internal affairs under any pretext, and opposes individual attempts to inflame relations between China and the Islamic world.

In Turkey, which has its own geopolitical operations with the Uighur element, the Uighurs were out to protest the visit in both Ankara and Istanbul. Nevertheless Turkey expressed support for China’s Belt and Road Initiative, which has given Turkey new corridors of transportation and development, accepted a major shipload of Chinese vaccines, and also supported an extradition treaty with China, which the Uighurs claim is

targeting them. Wang Yi met both with Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish side said it is interested in having a strategic partnership with China.

China has also announced that the government will be arranging a meeting in China between Israeli and Palestinian representatives in an attempt to get these important talks started and to counter the unilateral attempt, initiated under U.S. President Donald Trump, to settle the issue without the Palestinians.

In a related track, Defense Minister Wei Fenghe is visiting Serbia, Greece, and Hungary, three of the 17+1 Central and Eastern European countries that partner with China.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Seoul on March 24-25 where he met with South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, celebrated 30 years of Russian-South Korean relations, discussing, a visit to South Korea by President Putin and the North Korean missile tests.

It may well be dawning on the Anglo-American crowd that their imperial policy of containment may be something of a losing hand, with Blinken asserting in Brussels that the U.S. did not intend to force its “allies” to choose between the U.S. and China.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

U.S. Admiral Claims United States Must ‘Defend Taiwan’ or Lose Credibility; China Responds

March 25 (EIRNS)—Adm. John Aquilino, nominated to replace Adm. Philip Davidson as commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, argued during his March 25 confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, that in the event of a crisis over Taiwan, the U.S. would have to intervene to protect its “credibility” with U.S. allies. China views Taiwan’s location as being of strategic significance, he claimed. A successful invasion and occupation of the main island would threaten two-

thirds of global trade passing through the area and also extend the Chinese military's reach into the Indo-Pacific.

“The status of the United States as a partner with our allies and partners also is at stake, should we have a conflict in Taiwan,” he anticipated. “It certainly would impact the credibility of the United States as a partner in the region,” if China seized Taiwan without any U.S. intervention.

Aquilino told the committee that China's potential use of force against Taiwan was “the most dangerous concern” for American troops stationed in the region, where other threats include North Korea. However, he said, a combined allied contingent of “capable, lethal forces west of the date line” would create the required deterrence against any Chinese aggression targeting Taiwan, which considers good relations with the U.S. critical to its continued survival as a democracy.

At the Chinese Ministry of Defense briefing today, spokesman Ren Guoqiang responded to Aquilino's testimony and to previous comments by Admiral Davidson that China would take Taiwan within six years: “The relevant U.S. remarks seriously violated the one-China principle and sent the wrong signal to the ‘Taiwan independence’ separatist forces,” Ren countered. “The nature of this is very bad. China expresses its strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to it. The historical and legal facts that Taiwan is part of China and that both sides of the strait belong to one China cannot be changed by anyone or by any force! The Taiwan issue is purely China's internal affair, which concerns China's core interests and does not allow any external forces to interfere in any way. The Chinese People's Liberation Army is unwavering in its determination to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests.”

As most China scholars realize, Taiwan is *the* hot button issue for China. And the relationship with the United States was predicated on U.S. recognition that there was only one China, and that Taiwan was effectively recognized as a part of China, in whatever form that relationship might take. Similarly, China committed to resolve the Taiwan issue diplomatically and without the use of force. And while it is highly unlikely

that China would take Taiwan by force, if Taiwan declared independence with the support of the United States, all bets would be off, both with regard to the U.S.-China relationship and to the commitment by China not to use force.

U.S. Army Releases Utopian Operational Concept for War on China

March 25 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Army released the unclassified version of a Chief of Staff Paper #1 on March 23 entitled “Army Multi-Domain Transformation: Ready To Win in Competition and Conflict,” on how and why the Army plans to transform itself to become “a multi-domain capable force that is able to dominate adversaries in sustained large-scale combat operations by 2035.” The new operational concepts described in the report appear to be mainly aimed at China, and the “Multi-Domain Task Force,” which was established to develop this concept, is based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state and is assigned to Indo-Pacific Command.

Though its basic principles could be employed anywhere, the new concept seems to be tailored towards fighting China from islands in the Western Pacific. “Although our Army still maintains overmatch, it is fleeting,” the paper claims, reports *Defense News*. “By 2040, China and Russia will have weaponized all instruments of national power to undermine the collective wills of the United States, Allies and partners, while simultaneously cultivating their own security partnerships. This will lead to an unstructured international environment where the line between conflict and peace is blurred,” the paper went on. “As China and Russia continue to modernize their militaries, the Joint Force will find it increasingly difficult to deter their illicit and aggressive actions.” The Army identifies China as the country that poses the “most enduring strategic challenge” and is likely to reach “military parity” with the U.S. military by 2040.

As described by *Breaking Defense* newsletter, the new paper calls for the deployment of long-range missiles on islands to threaten targets deep within China’s “Anti-Access/Area Denial” defenses. “Rather than deploy

from the U.S. in response to an attack—a deployment that enemy missiles, submarines, sabotage, and cyber warfare can disrupt—these forces will be pre-deployed in peacetime or rapidly deployed in crisis, setting up inside the areas the enemy hope to deny access to,” *Breaking Defense* reports. “Once on the ground, these nimble, logistically lightweight units will avoid destruction by using cover, concealment, camouflage, decoys and frequent relocation.”

“The Army will provide [joint] combatant commanders with land forces that are persistent, cost effective, and survivable,” the paper says. “Technologically connected and geographically dispersed Army forces deployed across the land—whether archipelagic or continental—present a key operational problem for adversary sensing and targeting. Put simply, land forces are hard to kill.”

This Army concept, like the Defence Command Paper “[Defence in a Competitive Age](#),” released March 23 by the U.K. Defense Ministry, expects persistent confrontation with China and therefore intends to organize and posture Army forces so that they’re ready to attack China on a moment’s notice, instead of keeping them in the barracks when there isn’t a shooting war underway. It sounds very much like the hair-trigger alert posture of U.S. nuclear forces.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

‘Brazil Now Represents a Threat to Global Public Health,’ Argues Brazilian Epidemiologist

March 25 (EIRNS)—Dr. Pedro Hallal, an epidemiologist and Dean at the Federal University of Pelotas in southern Brazil, stated that “Brazil now represents a threat to global public health” that must be urgently addressed by international action. Hallal is the coordinator of Epicovid-19, the largest epidemiological study into the coronavirus in Brazil. Hallal stated that the pandemic is out of control in Brazil, which is now a breeding ground for dangerous new variants. “The virus is circulating so widely in Brazil that it

is possible, and I would say likely, that new variants will appear in the near future. We need to stop that urgently,” he said.

Hallal called for an international task force to address the crisis, since the policies of the Brazilian government of Jair Bolsonaro have brought the country to the brink of collapse. If not, “global efforts to control COVID-19 will be jeopardized,” he said.

An open letter from hundreds of leading financial figures in Brazil, including former ministers and five former presidents of Brazil’s Central Bank, also struck out against Bolsonaro’s COVID policy and demanded urgent change. Without ever mentioning Bolsonaro by name, the letter is clear, attacking Brazil’s “top political leadership” which displays “a disdain for science, looks to remedies without evidence of their effectiveness, encourages crowds, and flirts with the anti-vax movement.” They demand a nationally coordinated policy of social distancing, including a national lockdown if necessary.

Bolsonaro is feeling the heat, and has reluctantly agreed to meet with Brazil’s governors—who universally oppose his do-nothing policy and have tried to impose state-by-state measures—and has even promised to start a serious vaccination campaign (so far, less than 7% of Brazilians have had one dose of a vaccine). In over half of the country’s 26 states, the occupancy rate in intensive care units tops 90%. On March 23, daily deaths in the country topped 3,000 for the first time, with 3,251 deaths recorded. Brazil now accounts for one out of every four deaths *worldwide* from COVID. The biomedical research institution Fiocruz, a week ago reported that Brazil’s public health systems are “undergoing the worst collapse in history.”

“The situation is very, very concerning,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization. “Brazil has to take it seriously.” Dr. Hallal stated: “If we do not have enough vaccines in the next 30 to 45 days, the situation will be terrible—not only for Brazil, but for the rest of the world.”

Putin's Conference on Defeating COVID-19 by Outflanking the New Strains

March 25 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin held a videoconference on March 22 on the scientific and industrial mobilization needed to expand COVID-19 vaccine production, and to attack the virus and to develop the ability to vaccinate children. By way of introduction, he said that their Sputnik V vaccine, now approved in 55 countries representing 1.4 billion people, would expand to 2.5 billion people shortly. He celebrated the latest contract with India for production of another 100 million doses, as “the news of the day.” Now there are contracts for the production of 1.4 billion doses. For their own population, Russia is aiming for 139.6 million doses and, as of last week, have 40.2 million.

Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said that production is greatly increasing, with expectations that April should see 17 million more doses. Russia also has manufacturing agreements in 10 countries. Further, the new EpiVacCorona vaccine is planned for 11 million doses by July. It is designed to be able to hit a wide array of variants. The Health Minister Mikhail Murashko reported on a new version of Sputnik V that can be stored easily at above freezing temperatures (36-46° F), important for far-flung parts of Russia; and a new Sputnik Light, for trials on 12- to 17-year-olds. The concern there, was not so much about mortality but about possible unknown long-term sequelae to children from COVID-19.

The chairman of the board of Pharmstandard Viktor Kharitonin, reported that their ramping up to 200-300 million doses of Sputnik V per year involved recruiting Russian exile scientists back to Russia for the war against the virus: “Over 20% of our scientists returned from the EU, the United States and Israel at our invitation and are now helping us develop a modern pharmaceutical industry...”

Director Alexander Gintsburg of Sputnik V developer Gamaleya Institute highlighted talks last week, headed by Russian Ambassador to Italy Sergei Razov, with Italy's Spallanzani National Institute for Infectious Disease, “a counterpart of ours.” They agreed to produce a “draft

memorandum of cooperation” to work with Spallanzani’s key resource, “the largest collection of newly emerged and isolated strains of COVID-19 pathogens in Europe....” Plasma samples from people vaccinated with Sputnik V are to be tested for “the neutralizing activity of the serum.” Gamaleya Deputy Director for Research Denis Logunov, who actually developed the Sputnik V vaccine, explained that, as with the influenza virus, we “examine sera screening from vaccinated patients’ reactions to new strains. I consider this very important.... We must not miss the important moment when the virus, for one, gets out of control and the existing vaccines may become even potentially ineffective. In terms of science, I consider this prospect the most important.”

Mexico Insists on Universal Vaccine Access and Releasing Pharmaceutical Patents

March 25 (EIRNS)—Speaking yesterday at President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s daily press conference, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard addressed the issue of inequity in vaccine access, something he and the President have repeatedly raised publicly. Also present at the briefing was special guest, Bolivian President Luis Arce Catacora, who has been fighting to obtain vaccines for his nation. Ebrard criticized the UN’s COVAX mechanism for not acting quickly enough, and referred to López Obrador’s earlier statements that there are 67 nations in the world that still haven’t acquired a single dose of vaccine, while 10 nations hoard 70% of all vaccines. “This isn’t fair,” said Ebrard. “The only way to leave the pandemic behind is if we all have access.... If today, multinational institutions can’t guarantee this, then what?”

Ebrard particularly stressed the importance of technology transfer that will allow countries to produce vaccines, pointing to the agreement made this year between Argentina’s mAbxience biopharmaceutical firm and Mexico’s Liomont Lab to jointly produce the AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine. Argentina provides the active vaccine ingredient and Liomont does the bottling and packaging. The Foreign Minister also reiterated Mexico’s stance, as presented previously to the UN Security Council where it is

currently a member, that patents must be made available, or “liberated,” as he put it. “Now would be the time for the many big pharmaceutical companies that have developed the technology to produce vaccines—many of them with public funds from their countries—to place [that technology] at the disposition of the entire world.”

As reported by Ebrard, last August, Mexico signed an agreement with AZ which included technology transfer, “as soon as Oxford University indicated it was willing to share its development of the vaccine with AZ’s labs, and as long as there were no profit motive involved and would be made available to all countries able to produce it.” Then, more recently, the agreement with Argentina was signed, as a result of which, Ebrard reported, by yesterday Mexico was to have received 6 million doses from Argentina, and currently has a total of 18 million doses at the Liomont Labs. “They are in the process of finishing up and then distributing to Mexico and all of Latin America ... to those countries that have contracts,” as of the third week of April. Ebrard concluded, “We’re very close to distributing this to all of Latin America, which will be a great step forward for the region,” demonstrating “that we can act together, that we can tackle these types of important challenges and guarantee that our nations have access to that which by rights is theirs.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, March 26: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.