

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Mobilize for MAS—Mutually Assured Survival—Against Countdown to World War III

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—According to the latest available reports, talks between Russia and the United States, and Russia and NATO will begin before mid-January, on the texts of the two draft agreements on security guarantees presented by Russia to the U.S. and NATO on Dec. 15. January 12 in Geneva is under consideration for the NATO-Russia talks, and before that, possibly January 10, for the bilateral U.S.-Russia meeting. This is critical diplomacy, which Russia has initiated. But also critical to stopping the countdown to World War III is the activation of citizens everywhere against the policy of brinkmanship and encroachment against Russia and China.

A barrage of warnings has come from Russia in the past 36 hours. President Vladimir Putin told Rossiya-1 TV on Dec. 26, that the talks dare not have a “destructive agenda” in which the United States and NATO, “will indulge in endless talk about the necessity of negotiations, but will do nothing but pump a neighboring country with state-of-the-art weapons systems and build up threats to Russia, and we will have to do something with these threats.”

Putin explicated the meaning of the “red line” which he has set. He said, “I want everyone both in our country and abroad, our partners to clearly understand: the matter is not in a line we don’t want anyone to cross. The matter is that we have nowhere to step back.” He stressed, “They have driven us to such a line, excuse my language, that we have nowhere to move.” He pointed to the risks of new missile systems deployed at a distance of four to five minutes’ flight to Moscow. “Well, where are you going to go now? They have simply driven us to the state when we must say: stop!” Putin went on, that this is the reason Russia’s initiative on security guarantees was made public for all nations to see.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov spoke sternly on Dec. 26, saying that January “is when it will become clear whether the Americans are ready to give a substantive response, or they will opt for protracting the process and for seeking to initiate a policy of years-long talks.” We need “an urgent, concrete solution....”

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said today, in an interview published today in the Russian journal *Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn* (*International Affairs*), among other points, that, “when we say that NATO facilities and all kinds of activities which are provocative for Russia need to be rolled back to the positions that existed in 1997, when the NATO-Russia Founding Act was signed, we are not bluffing.”

Reviewing these remarks and other developments today, Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche stressed that our job is to make sure that a large portion of people in every country possible, understands what is going on. We are in a countdown of extreme danger, with no “wiggle room” left. We are “close to a point of no return.”

The Schiller Institute posted a rush memorandum, “[Are We Sleepwalking into Thermonuclear World War III?](#)” on Christmas Eve, for circulation during the holiday period. This is currently being updated as an even more comprehensive dossier of the actual chronology of what created the dangerous strategic showdown with Russia.

Zepp-LaRouche stressed the need to make known the extreme danger, and also that there are solutions. The best anti-war policy involves working together on common, urgent tasks, and that means a modern health system in every nation. Look at the Afghanistan emergency in that way. Afghanistan “is a branching point.” Either there will be the necessary interventions to save lives and save the nation, or it will be an “unmitigated disaster ... that marks a decay into barbarism.” We will lose all of our humanity, knowing what is coming and not doing anything about it. Acting on this, and on other humanitarian crises, as well as on the war danger, is one and the same task, as the Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites addresses.

The situation is grave. The Russian leaders are speaking out in unmistakable terms. If we co-mobilize with a growing number of people, we can bring about MAS—mutually assured survival.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday December 28, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

- **Editor's Note:** *EIR Daily Alert* will skip publishing on New Year's Day (for Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022). The first two issues in 2022 will appear on Saturday, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 3.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Putin Explains, a Red Line Is Not a Game—It Means Nuclear Missiles 4-5 Minutes from Moscow

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Rossiya-1 TV on Sunday, could not have been clearer in his language to a national audience, as to what a red line actually is. “I want everyone both in our country and abroad, our partners, to clearly understand: the matter is not a line that we don't want anyone to cross. The matter is that we have nowhere to step back. They have driven us to such a line, excuse my language, that we have nowhere to move.” Referring to his repeated emphasis on the risks of new supplies of missile systems, deployed at a distance of four- to five-minutes' flight from Moscow. “Well, where are you going to go now? They have simply driven us to the state when we must say: Stop!”

Speaking on Rossiya-1's “Moscow. Kremlin. Putin” program, he further explained that this is also why Russia's Dec. 15 initiative on security guarantees was [made public on Dec. 17](#). “Our proposal is open and clear. We want people in Russia, [in Ukraine, in Europe](#), and in the [United States](#) to understand our idea that we want to implement during this negotiating process.... It sets certain limits for all participants in this [negotiating]

process. But we have only one goal—to reach agreements ensuring the security of Russia and its people now and in the long-term perspective.”

Then Putin made the effort to preempt some of the games used to preclude serious negotiations: “They will indulge in endless talk about the necessity of negotiations, but will do nothing but pump a neighboring country with state-of-the-art weapons systems and build up threats to Russia. And we will have to do something with these threats.”

Ryabkov Affirms, We Are Not Bluffing

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov volunteered to assist the West digest what is being said: Moscow is not bluffing when it says that NATO expansion must be stopped. On Monday morning, *Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn (International Affairs)* magazine published his interview, and, according to TASS, was emphatic: “When we say loud and clear that we demand an official withdrawal of the decision made at the 2008 Bucharest summit relating to Ukraine and Georgia’s [intentions] to join NATO, when we say that further expansion of NATO needs to be prevented, when we say that NATO facilities and all kinds of activities that are provocative for Russia need to be rolled back to the positions that existed in 1997 when the NATO-Russia Founding Act was signed, we are not bluffing. These are our real proposals. The West’s awareness of this needs to be facilitated and we are going to make every effort to achieve it.” There’s a New Year’s resolution one can believe in.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Electricity Bills for Italians Will Increase 50% in January

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—The head of the regulatory agency in Italy has announced that starting January, electricity bills will increase 50% and gas bills 40%. It is the highest price hike in Italian history.

The government has allocated a miserable €4 billion for relieving conditions for poorer families, but not a cent for industry.

Lega party head Matteo Salvini said on Christmas Eve, “We need more natural gas; stop quarreling with Russia because our firms are going to get hurt.” Salvini also insisted on research on “clean, healthy, safe, last-generation nuclear energy.”

Salvini joined representatives of steel producers in a press conference on the energy emergency today in Northern Italy. The Lega leader said his party will shortly announce some proposals. “In an emergency moment, prices must be controlled and profits should be shared.” Salvini said the energy crisis is as serious as the health crisis and used the word “lockdown” to make the point, remarking, “The energy lockdown is a real big national emergency.”

Gazprom Refutes Europe’s Blame over EU Gas Debacle; Putin Calls Out the Profiteering

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—This morning, the spokesman for Russia’s natural gas company Gazprom, Sergey Kupriyanov responded on Rossiya-1 TV to the hysterical charges that Russia was holding back deliveries of natural gas to Europe. “All the allegations against Russia and Gazprom relating to delivering an insufficient amount of gas to the European market are absolutely groundless, unacceptable and untrue. In other words, it is a pack of lies.” Gazprom has delivered 100% of what they’ve been contracted to deliver, and more. Further, Kupriyanov repeated that they are willing to deliver additional gas under terms of present contracts, which of course are lower than the spot market. (Last week, natural gas hit an historic of \$2,150 per 1,000 cubic meters, which translates to over \$200/MWh for households. Gazprom’s average contractual price has been under \$300 per 1,000 cubic meters, less than one-seventh of that.)

There was, indeed, a stoppage of natural gas through the Yamal-Europe pipeline through Ukraine last week, but the reality is that Europe, led by Germany and France, has simply not put in orders for more deliveries. “Gazprom books shipment capacity in accordance with the number of those requests, rather than the other way around.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin was somewhat more unbuttoned on the bizarre situation at his [annual year-end press conference](#) on Dec. 23, when Channel 1 asked about the charges that Russia was simultaneously trying to corner the market and also hold back from the market. “We were saying—and I want to repeat it—that there was no point in destroying long-term contracts. The European Commission was telling us: no, it is necessary to move to market relations, the market will set it right. This is how the market made its adjustment—over \$2,000 for 1,000 cubic meters.... You are correct, just yesterday they were shouting: Help, this is Russia and Gazprom expanding and taking over the market. We are not taking over anything. Indeed, we supply a lot, but we are not the only suppliers to the European market. However, we are probably the only ones who are increasing our supplies.

“We are being told to pump to cover the needs of the spot market, since they need to first meet the demand of their counterparties under long-term contracts. Look at what is happening. Germany is our largest consumer in Europe. I might have my numbers off a little, but they take about 50-51 billion cubic meters a year. We supplied an extra 5.6 billion cubic meters there, which is more than 10%. Listen, this is a decent amount. We supplied an extra 4.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Italy.

“You just mentioned the Yamal-Europe natural gas pipeline. I see Russia and Gazprom accused of Gazprom failing to book capacity for gas supplies to Europe via the Yamal-Europe route for the second or third day in a row. That is disgusting, how should I put it.... Well, okay. This is just totally out of line. After all, it failed to book capacity, because its counterparties and companies, mostly German and French, who buy gas from this route, failed to submit bids for purchase. What is there to transit if Gazprom has not received purchase requests?

“What did they do then? They turned on this route in reverse mode and have been pumping gas from Germany to Poland for several days now. I think everyone would find it interesting. Why? Because we supply gas to Germany under long-term contracts at prices that are three, four, six, or

even seven times lower than on the spot market. Should you resell even 1 billion cubic meters of gas, you will make almost a \$1 billion, \$900 million-plus. This is business.... They have stocked up on gas, having received from us 5.6 billion cubic meters on top of what is provided under long-term contracts, and are now reselling it,” Putin explained.

He made the point that the natural gas stopped last week for lack of orders, and the people who didn't order, also ran natural gas in the reverse direction—which would physically prevent product being delivered, should it have been ordered. The submerged insanity of treating staples of life as gambling chips seems to have broken out into open verbal insanity. Crazy is crashing on top of crazy.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

U.S.A. Cancelled 1,300 Flights Monday: Virus—Airborne; People—Grounded

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Around 1,300 airline flights were simply cancelled in the United States today, as Omicron wreaked its havoc, on top of a just-in-time industry incapable of responding. There were also about 6,000 delays in flights, many for hours. Not only coronavirus infections of pilots and staff, including ground support, but also, e.g., electrical outages in airports, contributed to airport hangars housing hordes of people in close proximity to each other.

Perhaps the most ridiculous cancellation was that of a Delta Airlines flight that was turned around midway in its scheduled trip from Seattle to Shanghai. Later, the airlines offered the explanation that it was China's fault. Tighter cleaning mandates imposed upon planes landing in China would “require significantly extended ground time and are not operationally viable for Delta.” Perhaps turnaround is fair play ... as China had previously established that they are not operationally viable for Delta (variant).

Reveal 1994-95 NATO Plot Against Russia—Will Lessons from Bill Clinton’s Role Help Biden Avoid Nuclear Confrontation?

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Two weeks before Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin had their Dec. 7 virtual meeting over the strategic crisis over Ukraine and the attempt to emplace missiles on Russia’s borders, 4-5 minutes away from Moscow, 18 documents, exposing the deliberate scheme in 1994-95 to push NATO to Russia’s border, and to mislead and lie to Russia along the way, were made public by the [National Security Archives](#) (NSA), housed at George Washington University. The release of the documents was the result of systematic FOIA work on the papers of Strobe Talbott, a longtime friend of President Clinton. In 1993, he became the Ambassador-at-Large for dealing with the breakup of the Soviet Union, and then, in 1994-2001 was the Deputy Secretary of State, specializing in the “new independent states” of the former Soviet Union. On Dec. 26, RT publicized the story, which is a story better known to Putin than to most Americans.

In brief, whatever Clinton’s intentions were in 1993-94, with his offer of a “Partnership for Peace” (PFP) with Russia, including a post-NATO, joint security arrangement, just after the November 1994 Republican sweep in the midterm elections, with Newt Gingrich’s vaunted “Contract on America,” Clinton fell in line with the hardline “confront Russia”—later identified with the New American Century gang. Clinton’s speech in Budapest at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit over Dec. 5-6, 1994, saying that NATO was expanding eastward and no country had the right to stand in its way, shocked then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin as a betrayal of promises made, and, as is now revealed, in extensive communications between Clinton and Yeltsin prior to that speech.

NSA’s Nov. 24 release of the 18 documents begins with a June 28, 1994 letter from Yeltsin to Clinton, prior to their meeting at the Group of 7 summit in Naples, Italy. Yeltsin expects that Clinton is bringing Russia into a new Group of 8 “which would co-opt in a natural way” NATO and its related cold war institutions, and be truly effective in working out a new international security arrangement for Russia and all the rest of Europe. ()

Next, a July 5, 1994 memorandum of Clinton's phone call with Yeltsin has Clinton trying to allay any concerns Yeltsin might have over Clinton's trip to Poland and the Baltics, on his way to the Naples summit. Clinton uses very careful language, couching any expansion of NATO as a subsidiary feature of strategic security arrangements with Russia. Yes, "NATO's role will eventually expand," but "I would like us to focus on the Partnership for Peace program so that we can achieve a united Europe where people respect each other's borders and work together." It was designed to sound to Yeltsin as the same thing he'd been told the previous year by Talbott, PfP is the strategic reality.

Before a September 1994 summit with Yeltsin in Washington, D.C., Talbott's memo to then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher, along with then-National Security Adviser Tony Lake, gives detailed talking points for how to handle Yeltsin: Assure him that Russia's interest will be taken into account, that Russia is "a key participant in the process of building new structures in Europe" and that the U.S. and Russia are "joined" together in this. The U.S. goal is "integration [of Russia]—resisting the temptation to create new divisions, or recreating old ones." The next day, a Talbott memorandum records Clinton following the script: He never said that Russia could not be considered for NATO membership during its expansion; and that "when we talk about NATO expanding, we are emphasizing inclusion, not exclusion." He would not spring any surprises on Yeltsin. "NATO expansion is not anti-Russian; it's not intended to be exclusive of Russia..." As late as November 1994, Yeltsin's letter to Clinton is about "a mutually beneficial partnership with the U.S. on the basis of equality." Such a coalition would be "the central factor in world politics"—and he'd work with the U.S. on issues related to Bosnia, Iraq, North Korea and Ukraine.

Then, Clinton made his hardline speech at the CSCE summit in Budapest, on Dec. 5, 1994: NATO is "the bedrock of security in Europe.... No country outside will be allowed to veto expansion." Yeltsin blew up, saying that the "domineering" U.S. was "trying to split [the] continent again" via NATO expansion. "It is a dangerous delusion to suppose the

destinies of continents and the world ... can somehow be managed from one single capital.... “If on those grounds ... the intentions are to move the responsibilities of NATO up to Russia’s borders, let me say one thing: It’s too early to bury democracy in Russia.”

Otherwise, the rest of the documents indicate that National Security Adviser Tony Lake had given Clinton a prepared text that, according to Talbott, was “sure to drive the Russians nuts.” Clinton’s Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering gave the follow-up plan: Vice President Al Gore should use his pre-planned December trip to now include calming Yeltsin, whereby he would describe “parallel NATO and U.S.-Russia tracks as spaceships docking simultaneously and very carefully.” This would prepare the way for Clinton’s May 1995 meeting with Yeltsin, when Clinton went to Moscow for the 50th anniversary celebrations of victory over Hitler. Yeltsin berated Clinton over NATO expansion plans. “How do you think it looks to us if one bloc continues to exist while the Warsaw Pact has been abolished? It’s a new form of encirclement if the one surviving Cold War bloc expands. Many Russians have a sense of fear. What do you want to achieve with this if Russia is your partner? We need a new structure for Pan-European security, not old ones!”

Clinton’s counter gave away the game. If Yeltsin would give up his public denunciations of the sellout of Russia, the U.S. would provide aid to get Yeltsin—then at 6% in the polls—through his 1996 electoral challenge. Clinton told Yeltsin that he, Clinton, can’t appear before the hardliners in the U.S. “to capitulate”—so, this means that Yeltsin would hear from Clinton “no talk about slowing the [NATO] process down or putting it on hold or anything like that.” That is, don’t push these points about the fate of nations. We can’t change these things, so getting re-elected is the real issue here.

Hopefully, some of the characters involved at that time will now be provoked by the release of these documents to make some amends to the human race, to help Biden learn from their mistakes—before it is too late.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Webb Space Telescope Orbit at Lagrange Point 2

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—The James Webb Space Telescope will be in orbit in a unique configuration when it reaches its destination at Lagrange Point 2, or L2.

The craft won't be in orbit around the Earth, as is the Hubble telescope, but will orbit around the Sun at a point which is 1.5 million kilometers (about 1 million miles) past Earth at L2, as illustrated in NASA's graphic, "[‘L2’ Will Be the James Webb Space Telescope's Home in Space.](#)"

This orbit allows it to stay in line with Earth as it rotates around the Sun, helping to shield it from the Sun and also maintain communications with Earth.

The [NASA website](#) explains: "Joseph-Louis Lagrange was an 18th-century mathematician who found the solution to what is called the 'three-body problem.' That is, is there any stable configuration, in which three bodies could orbit each other, yet stay in the same position relative to each other? As it turns out, there are five solutions to this problem—and they are called the five Lagrange points, after their discoverer. At Lagrange points, the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them. The L1, L2, and L3 points are all in line with each other—and L4 and L5 are at the points of equilateral triangles." That is, the Lagrange points are points of relatively stable balance between the gravitational forces of the Sun, Earth and Moon.

"The first Sun-Earth Lagrange point, L1, is 1.5 million km from the Earth towards the Sun, and there have been many solar observatories located here, including DSCOVR, WIND, SOHO, and ACE. There have been other satellites out at Sun-Earth L2, where Webb will be, including WMAP, Herschel, and Planck."

Here's a short video, "[Animation: The James Webb Space Telescope's Orbit](#)," illustrating how the orbit will look (the Webb telescope orbits L2 at

right angles to the plane of Earth's orbit, and that whole configuration orbits the Sun, so it would appear as a type of epicycle).

There are also several channels on YouTube which have a live tracking of the telescope, showing its location and deployment sequence of the sunshield and mirrors, such as "[James Webb Space Telescope Live Tracking. Where is WEBB.](#)"

Statement by Joel Dejean: Johannes Kepler and the James Webb Space Telescope

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Joel Dejean is running as a LaRouche Independent candidate for U.S. Congress from the new 38 C.D. in Texas.

Johannes Kepler was born 450 years ago today, on December 27, 1571. Using the naked-eye observations of Tycho Brahe, he was able to formulate the laws of planetary motions that are being used to guide the James Webb Space Telescope, launched on Christmas Day, to its observation station 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.

While Kepler was composing his *Harmony of the World*, Europe was beginning to become submerged in what became known as the Thirty Years' War, which killed a third of Europe's population. Today, we are in danger of sleep-walking into a thermonuclear war, which would wipe out all human civilization. Let us use the example of the James Webb Space Telescope, where scientists and engineers from 14 nations, working over 25 years, and spending 200 times less than that spent over the last 20 years by the U.S. and NATO to destroy Afghanistan, as an example of what Mankind is capable of, when it puts its mind into a truly human goal.

Think of what Kepler was able to discover about the Solar System, using only naked-eye observations. What will a future Kepler be able to discover about the universe, using fantastic instruments like the James Webb Space Telescope?

NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Cuba To Officially Join Belt and Road Initiative

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—On Dec. 24, Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz and He Lifeng, chairman of China's National Reform and Development Commission (NRDC) signed a cooperation agreement to jointly promote the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The agreement is intended to begin the process of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2018 when Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel was in China, which laid out Cuba's short-, medium- and long-term economic and social development goals to be carried out with China, as Cuba's strategic partner, in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to the Dec. 24 agreement, the two nations will cooperate on a number of bilateral projects which Cuba considers to be priorities, in the areas of infrastructure development, education, health and biotechnology, science and technology and culture, among others. The two governments will determine which projects in these areas they will work on together that will be to their mutual benefit to further strengthen and diversify their bilateral relations as well as those with third countries, *Juventud Rebelde* reported. The Dec. 24 cooperation agreement in effect makes official Cuba's entry into the BRI.

Iran and Iraq Discuss Joint Railway Project

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qasemi arrived in Baghdad to meet and hold talks with Iraqi officials on various areas of cooperation between the two countries in transportation. He is scheduled to meet and hold talks with Iraqi Transportation Minister Hussein al-Shibli on a four-day visit to Iraq, as well as with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi and President Barham Salih. The minister is also set to hold meetings with some Iraqi governors including of Najaf, Karbala, Babylon, Al-Qadisiyah and Basra. The implementation of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway project is one of the topics that will be discussed during Qasemi's visit to Iraq.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

Britain's National Health System Hitting Learning Disabled Children with 'Do Not Resuscitate' Orders?

Dec. 27 (EIRNS)—In 2020, there was evidence that Britain's National Health System (NHS), under pressure from the extra demands of COVID-19, began pushing "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders upon the elderly, and also upon adults with disabilities. The U.K.'s Care Quality Commission reported in March 2021, that the NHS had restricted the ability of patients to question the assignment of the DNR status, and/or denied challenges to their DNR decisions. They found, among other things, that hundreds of elderly care home residents were illegally designated DNR.

On Dec. 26, in an article in the *Daily Telegraph*, headlined, "Children with Learning Disabilities Offered 'Do Not Resuscitate' Orders," examples of similar NHS tactics are given, but now being insinuated among youth. They include examples of families of children with autism and other learning disabilities being routinely offered DNR status. In one case, a 16-year-old boy with Down's syndrome, during a routine checkup, was listed for DNR. His mother, when she found out, was horrified, saying that he was a happy, healthy youngster, and even winning gold medals in swimming.

Lacking an actual "war-winning" mobilization for healthcare capacity—including sufficient nutrition and clean water—that puts human populations beyond the reaches of pandemics, Nazi-like thoughts and practices become unavoidable. Time for the West to draw some of their old "red lines."