

# Obama Peddles London's War Plans on Europe Tour

by Jeffrey Steinberg

June 9—President Barack Obama's trip to Europe last week was all about escalating the provocations against Russia—provocations that could easily lead to strategic confrontation and a thermonuclear war of annihilation. Lyndon LaRouche reiterated this week that unless Obama is constitutionally removed from office in the immediate days ahead, the war danger will spill over into a hot conflict. President Obama visited Warsaw, Brussels, Paris, and Normandy last week to meet with European leaders, attend the G-7 summit, and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landing.

From the moment he landed on Polish soil, Obama issued one provocation after another, targeted at Moscow. On his first day in Warsaw, the President announced the "European Reassurance Initiative," a new \$1 billion Pentagon program to provide advanced military training, forward basing of military equipment and American troops, and expanded NATO maneuvers with the nations bordering Russia, including at least three non-NATO members: Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. Obama focused on increased U.S. and NATO naval maneuvers in the Baltic and Black Seas—two waterways vital to Russian national security.

In Warsaw, Obama had the first of several meetings with newly elected Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, during which the U.S. President announced \$5 million in additional U.S. military aid to Ukraine. On June 5, the Pentagon announced the deployment of U.S. military advisors to Kiev to develop plans to bolster

Ukraine's armed forces. As President Obama was pressing to add more NATO military forces on Russia's western front, the NATO Parliamentary Council was meeting in Brussels to ratify an accelerated Membership Action Plan for Georgia. NATO Secretary General Fogh Rasmussen announced that he was committed to bringing Georgia into NATO at the September NATO meeting in Wales. Coincident with the Brussels NATO meeting, news reports resurfaced that both Sweden and Finland are once again being pressed to formally join NATO.

## Deployments Underway

At the conclusion of the meeting of NATO ministers of defense, among whom was U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, the ministers announced a new Readiness Action Plan to beef up NATO forces on the Russian borders. Rasmussen incredibly claimed to reporters that the expansion eastward was in compliance with the 1997 treaty that created the NATO-Russia Council, which barred troop buildups by either side in the border region. His claims were immediately repudiated by Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergei Ivanov, who told RIA Novosti that the actions were "of an obvious destabilizing nature and had nothing to do with the real security problems in Europe." Ivanov emphasized that there are security concerns shared by Russia and NATO, but they do not come from Europe. He was referring to the continuing threat of al-Qaeda and other neo-Salafist terror-

ist groups and the menace of opium and heroin coming out of Afghanistan.

The U.S. targeting of Russia militarily was not limited to rhetoric and pledges of future military expansion. During the week that Obama was touring Europe, the U.S. announced the indefinite deployment of three additional B-52 strategic bombers to the European Command. And the *USS Ross*, a Navy destroyer equipped with Aegis missile defense systems, was dispatched from Norfolk, Va. to Rota, Spain, joining the *USS Donald Cook* as part of the expanding U.S. missile defense system. By 2015, there will be four Aegis destroyers based out of Rota, and deploying into the Black Sea and Baltic Sea.

The U.S. Navy and Air Force also played a major role in BALTOPS 2014, joint maneuvers involving a total of 13 countries in the Baltic region, which will run until June 21. Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, one of Europe's leading neoconservative hawks, greeted President Obama's arrival by calling for more U.S. and NATO troops to be stationed on Polish soil. Obama responded to Sikorski's provocative statements by threatening to "escalate economic costs on Russia."

By the end of his Europe tour, President Obama was confronted with a stark reality: A majority of European governments are opposed to his provocations against Russia and want no part of them. Coming out of the G-7 heads of state summit, Obama tried to claim that there was "lock-step" trans-Atlantic unity against the alleged Russian threats.

But in reality, Obama was rebuffed by some of Washington's most important European allies. French President François Hollande used the occasion of the Obama visit to formally announce that France would go ahead with delivery of a helicopter carrier to Russia. Before Obama left Europe, the first 400 Russian troops arrived in France to begin training on helicopter operations on the new French-built carrier. Hollande made clear that France is interested in boosting military sales and other economic cooperation with Russia.

To make matters worse for Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel gave her endorsement to Hollande's decision to go ahead with the arms sales, despite harsh pressure from the Obama Administration to cancel the contracts. Even within eastern Europe, there is no universal enthusiasm for the buildup being pushed by Obama. Both Slovakia and the Czech Republic are opposed to further expansion of U.S. and NATO forces toward the Russian border. Czech Prime Minister Bo-

huslav Sobotka warned against the idea of a return to the Cold War and the erection of a "new Iron Curtain."

Obama also failed to get any pledge from the other G-7 heads of state for further sanctions against Russia. Unfortunately, this European opposition to Obama's war provocations is not sufficient to deter him from pursuing a course of strategic confrontation with Moscow. On the contrary, Obama is aggressively proceeding ahead on the basis of the same Anglo-American combination that brought on the Iraq and Afghan wars. British Prime Minister David Cameron announced that he was prepared to deploy a 1,000-man British tank unit to the east, in tandem with the U.S. buildup.

### **Russia Counters Obama's War Plans**

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin and his top military and security aides have been making good on their promise to counter the U.S.-NATO provocations. Moscow officials have also made clear that they understand that the real danger is that the West is putting the pieces in place for an offensive nuclear war against Russia at some time in the near future. At the Moscow International Security Conference two years ago, top Russian military officials pledged that Moscow would develop new systems to counter the U.S. nuclear war plans.

Now some of those plans are already reaching fruition. Russia conducted maneuvers from May 27 through June 6, demonstrating the new Iskander short-range missiles that are to be deployed in the Western Military District, bordering on Ukraine and other states targeted for the latest round of NATO eastward expansion. The Russian Armed Forces are also accelerating plans to deploy the new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missiles with a 9,000-km range, with the first subs to be equipped with the Bulavas in July.

Just prior to the Obama Europe tour, the third annual Moscow International Security Conference took place, attended by delegations from around the world, including the U.S. The May 23 session of that conference was devoted to a series of high-level Russian and Belarusian officials presenting in-depth profiles of the U.S.-NATO strategy of irregular warfare under the guise of "color revolutions." The essential point made was that the U.S. and NATO have been in a state of war against Russia for the past decade, employing non-governmental organizations (NGOs), terrorist organizations, and mercenaries, to overthrow regimes standing in the way of Western political domination and resource grabs (see this week's *Feature*).