
International Intelligence

IMF: Nations Must Avoid 'Risk' of Longer Lifespans

April 12—The International Monetary Fund's 2012 *World Economic Outlook* report focuses on what for them is the terrible fact that people around the world are living three years longer than expected. The annual study states that this will increase the "cost of aging" (measured in terms of pensions; not even including health-care costs) by 50%. Bemoaning that "longevity is a bigger risk than thought," the IMF demands that countries "prepare now for the risk of longer lifespans." This should include plans to cover increased costs by: 1) reducing pension benefits; 2) raising taxes; and 3) increasing the retirement age, including by automatically linking it to longevity.

London's *Daily Telegraph* discusses what the IMF study means for the U.K., reporting, with dismay, that one third of all babies born in the U.K. today are expected to live to 100. Chancellor of the Exchequer David Osborne has pushed novel solutions, including financial products for "self-insuring against longevity risk."

Astronauts, Scientists Challenge Climate Fraud

April 11—A letter addressed to NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and signed by 49 former astronauts and NASA scientists on March 28, and just released, asks Bolden to end NASA's support for the unscientific "man-made global warming" hoax. The list includes eight former astronauts, plus NASA scientists, executives, and engineers, 21 of whom worked for the space agency for more than 30 years; some, more than 40 years.

The letter states, in part: "We, the undersigned, respectfully request that NASA and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) refrain from including unproven remarks in public releases and websites. We believe the

claims by NASA and GISS, that man-made carbon dioxide is having a catastrophic impact on global climate change, are not substantiated, especially when considering thousands of years of empirical data. With hundreds of well-known climate scientists and then of thousands of other scientists publicly declaring their disbelief in the catastrophic forecasts, coming particularly from the GISS leadership, it is clear that the science is *not settled*" (emphasis in the original).

"The unbridled advocacy of CO₂ being the major cause of climate change is unbecoming of NASA's history of making an objective assessment of all available scientific data prior to making decisions or public statements.

"We request that NASA refrain from including unproven and unsupported remarks in its future releases and websites on this subject. At risk is damage to the exemplary reputation of NASA, NASA's current or former scientists and employees, and even the reputation of science itself."

P5+1 Talks on Iran Have Positive First Session

April 14—The opening of the talks between the UN Permanent Five plus Germany (P5+1) and Iran, in Istanbul today, was described as "positive" by all involved, and a second session was set for May 23 in Baghdad. While there is plenty of room for sabotage, both EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, speaking for the P5+1, and Iran's negotiator Saeed Jalili described the other side as being open to constructive dialogue.

The U.S. requested a bilateral meeting with the Iranian delegation, but was turned down. Jalili's request that sanctions be lifted or relaxed immediately was rejected by the U.S. side. A U.S. official said Washington still expected a European Union oil embargo to take effect on July 1, and that other measures would continue.

Jalili rejected the idea that Iran would give up its 20% program for enrichment of nuclear fuel. "We embark on providing

for our needs on the basis of our rights and within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty," he said, and added that "suspending Iran's nuclear activities in return for the removal of sanctions is a literature which belongs to the past."

Repubblica Cites LaRouche On Bering Strait Tunnel

April 12—"The real end of the Cold War, the tombstone over the conflict between the two blocs, the fall of the economic and ideological Wall that still divides the globalized world, is a 150-km-long undersea tunnel. The great dream nurtured by Russian scientist Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleyev, suggested to the 16th U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln, ultimately picked up by American economist Lyndon LaRouche in 1987, will become a reality."

Thus states an article in the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on April 11, promoted on the front page with the headline "U.S.A.-Russia Tunnel To End the Cold War." Author Daniele Mastrogiacomo refers to Russian Railways head Vladimir Yakunin's press conference on April 7:

"An official of few words, raised in the rigid Soviet school, Russian Railways head Vladimir Yakunin, has announced that the most extraordinary engineering work of all time will start within two years.... The project is called Worldlink: a network of railway lines going up from Istanbul, coming together in Warsaw and then, along the Trans-Siberian Railway, reaching the far end of Siberia.... The Russian Federation and United States of America will be united physically by an undersea tunnel which is twice as long as that tunnel connecting England to France by the Channel Tunnel....

"The project has been studied for more than 150 years, between sudden impulses and forced interruptions. But the global financial crisis, the need to revive trade in order to re-start the world economy, and the desperate need for raw materials have made a breach in ancient rivalries."