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NATO's Syria Ploy Could Start Thermonuclear War
Tony Blair Deployed To Secure Obama Re-Election
Russia's Plans for a Permanent Lunar Presence

**LaRouche: Only Glass-Steagall Now
Can Halt Global Breakdown**

KESHA ROGERS
LAROCHE DEMOCRAT FOR CONGRESS • TX-22

RESTORE
**GLASS-
STEAGALL**



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EIR

From the Managing Editor

The eruption of the Spanish banking crisis this past week, once again made it abundantly clear that the entire euro/trans-Atlantic financial system is *kaput*. On May 26, Lyndon LaRouche issued a call to action: President Franklin Roosevelt's 1933 Glass-Steagall Act must be revived immediately, with the passage of Rep. Marcy Kaptur's H.R. 1489: "The rate of collapse now exceeds the rate of the attempts to overtake the collapse," LaRouche stated. "That means that, essentially, the entire European system, in its present form, is in the process of a hopeless degeneration. . . . The only solution in Europe, in particular, is Glass-Steagall, or the Glass-Steagall equivalent, with no fooling around. Straight Glass-Steagall! No bailouts! None!" (See *Economics*.)

Of course, Spain is only the latest domino to fall: See our updates on Greece, which may pull out of the euro any day now, and Ireland which votes May 31 on the despised Austerity Treaty.

That Glass-Steagall's time has come is trumpeted by our cover photo: Kesha Rogers, the LaRouche candidate for Congress, on May 29, won the Democratic primary in the Texas 22nd CD—for the *second time!*—by campaigning for Glass-Steagall as the keystone of a recovery program, along with NAWAPA, and a national credit system.

In *International*, we cover the attempt by the London-centered madmen to provoke a nuclear showdown over Syria; the ongoing tragedy caused by London's puppet Obama in Afghanistan; and the oligarchy's latest atrocity in West Africa.

Obama's obeisance to the British Crown is more out in the open than ever before, with the high-profile role being played by Tony Blair in Obama's reelection campaign (*National*). Thankfully, top U.S. military figures, including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, are resisting the British/Obama drive to provoke Russian and China into a nuclear showdown, also reported in *National*.

Meanwhile, Russia is charging ahead in its efforts to advance its space program. In this week's *Feature*, we cover the Global Space Exploration conference in Washington, where Russian space agency chief Vladimir Popovkin announced plans to establish "laboratories on the surface of the Moon," as bases for doing lunar research. An interview with Popovkin by LPAC follows, along with coverage of high-level public discussion in Russia of space exploration, including the ambitious Strategic Defense of Earth.



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Kesha Rogers, LaRouche Democrat, won the Texas 22nd CD primary election May 29, campaigning for Glass-Steagall and ousting Obama.



LPAC

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Abruptly, but lawfully, the Spanish debt crisis has erupted into a systemic rupture in the trans-Atlantic financial and monetary facade, thus posing the immediate question: How much longer will the London-centered financial system survive? Lyndon LaRouche says the collapse is upon us, and outlines the remedies.

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LaRouche: Only Glass-Steagall Can Halt Global Breakdown

by the Editors

May 29—Abruptly, but lawfully, the Spanish debt crisis has erupted into a systemic rupture in the entire trans-Atlantic financial and monetary facade, posing the immediate question: How far will the European Monetary Union and the entire trans-Atlantic financial system survive into the days or weeks ahead? *The collapse is upon us.*

Late on Friday afternoon May 25, the Spanish government revealed that bailing out the Bankia bank, which was nationalized on May 9, will cost Spanish taxpayers nearly EU24 billion—and rising. Many other Spanish banks are facing imminent collapse or bailout; the autonomous Spanish regions, with gigantic debts of their own, are all bankrupt and desperate for their own bailouts. Over the past week, Spanish and foreign depositors have been pulling their money out of the weakest Spanish banks in a panic, in a repeat of the capital flight out of the Greek banks months ago.

But the Spanish government's bank bailout fund had only EU5.4 billion in its coffers, so two days later, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced a new plan to bail out Bankia with government bonds—basically, funny money. The next day, in the face of plunging markets and soaring interest rates, Rajoy called a press conference to repudiate his plan, and plead instead for a direct bailout by the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). The funds for Bankia, of course, would only be the beginning, as the government estimates that other Spanish banks need an additional EU50-60 billion—on top of the EU170 billion debt crises in the bankrupt regions.

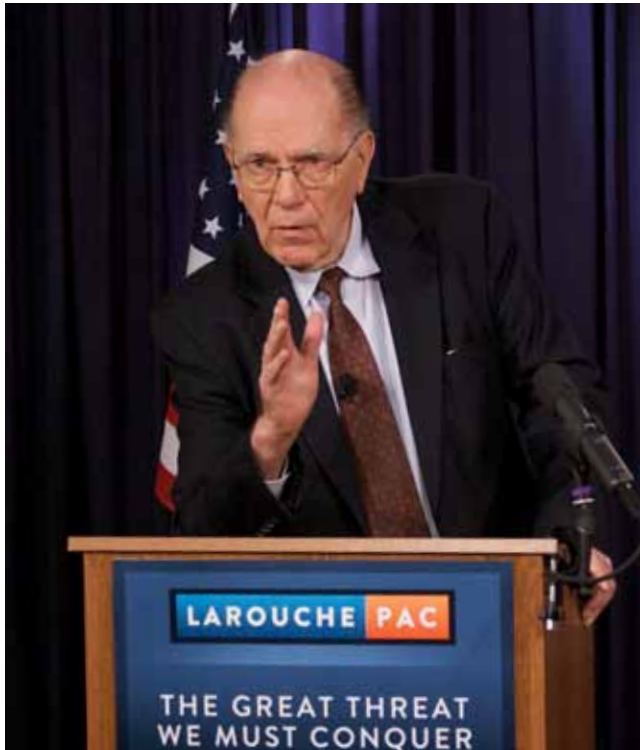
The situations in Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Ireland are equally on the edge of total disintegration—and the exposure of the big Wall Street banks to this European disintegration is so enormous that there is no portion of the trans-Atlantic system that is exempt from the sudden, crushing reality of this collapse.

Non-Solutions

The hyperinflationary “solutions” being discussed by European leaders are known to be no solutions at all, as bankers and companies are now publicly admitting. The euro system is at an end, and they are scrambling to put together a “Plan B.”

Some examples: On May 27 Richard Ward, the CEO of the insurance giant Lloyds of London, admitted in an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph* that his company has devised plans for the breakup of the European Monetary Union, based on anticipating that Greece, which faces new elections June 17 (the last election was May 6), will be leaving the euro, and adopting its old currency, the drachma. The Franco-German firm Euler Hermes, which provides credit insurance for euro-denominated businesses, said it was considering canceling future credit default swap contracts for Greek debt denominated in euros. And the head of the Swiss National Bank, Thomas Jordan, has acknowledged that his government is working up contingency plans for the breakup of the euro.

Whether the system holds together for a few days or weeks more, or whether it goes into meltdown in the



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Lyndon LaRouche comments on the current meltdown of the euro system: "If the rate of inflation is higher than the rate of your bailout, then what happens when you try to increase the bailout, is you increase the hysteria. You increase the rate of collapse. The rate of collapse exceeds the rate of bailout."

coming hours, the moment of truth has arrived, when all options to hold the current system together have run out.

On May 26, in response to this immediate crisis, Lyndon LaRouche issued a call to action. Referring to the overall trans-Atlantic financial bubble, in light of the Spanish debt explosion of the previous 48 hours, LaRouche pinpointed its significance, and laid out the only solution, which starts with a revival of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 Glass-Steagall Act. Either immediate action is taken to enact it—Rep. Marcy Kaptur's H.R. 1489, "The Return to Prudent Banking Act," is before the U.S. Congress and ready to go—or the situation will be hopeless.

The Hyperinflationary Trap

LaRouche laid out the situation as follows:

"The rate of collapse now exceeds the rate of the attempts to overtake the collapse. That means that, essentially, the entire European system, in its present form, is in the process of a hopeless degeneration. Now, this is something comparable to what happened in Germany

in 1923, and they've caught themselves in a trap, where the rate of collapse exceeds the rate of their attempt to overtake it yesterday.

"So therefore, we're in a new situation, and the only solution in Europe, in particular, is Glass-Steagall, or the Glass-Steagall equivalent, with no fooling around. Straight Glass-Steagall! No bailouts! None! In other words, you have to collapse the entire euro system. The *entirety* of the euro system has to collapse. But it has to collapse in the right way; it has to be a voluntary collapse, which is like a Glass-Steagall process. This means the end of the euro, really. The euro system is about to end, because you can't sustain it.

"Everything is disintegrating now in Europe. It can be rescued very simply, by a Glass-Steagall type of operation, and then going back to the currencies which existed before. In other words, you need a stable system of currencies, or you can't have a recovery at all. If the rate of inflation is higher than the rate of your bailout, then what happens when you try to increase the bailout, is you increase the hysteria. You increase the rate of collapse. The rate of collapse exceeds the rate of bailout.

"And now, you have Spain, and Portugal implicitly, and the situation in Greece. Italy's going to go in the same direction. So the present system, which Obama's trying to sustain, in his own peculiar way, is not going to work. There's no hope for the system. Nor is there any hope for the U.S. system in its present form. The remedies and the problems are somewhat different between Europe and the United States, but the nature of the disease is the same. They both have the same disease: It's called the British disease. It's hyperinflation.

"So, now you're in a situation where the only way you can avoid a rate of hyperinflation beyond the rate of hyper-collapse is Glass-Steagall, or the equivalent. You have to save something; you have to save the essentials. You take all the things that go into the bailout category, and you cancel them. How do you cancel them? Very simple: Glass-Steagall. Anything that is not fungible in terms of Glass-Steagall categories doesn't get paid! It doesn't get *unpaid* either; it just doesn't get paid. Because you remove these things from the categories of things that you're responsible to pay. You're not responsible to bail out gambling, you're not responsible to pay out gambling debts.

"Now, the gambling debts are the hyperinflation. So now, we might as well say it: The United States, among other nations, is hopelessly bankrupt."

Get Rid of the Bad Debt

“But this is the situation. *This is what reality is!* And what happens, is the entire U.S. government operation is beyond reckoning. It is collapsing, and there’s only one thing you can do: the equivalent of Glass-Steagall. You take those accounts, which are accounts which are worthy, which are essential to society; you freeze the currencies, their prices; and no bailout. And you don’t pay anything that does not correspond to a real credit. It’s the only solution. The point has been reached—it’s here! You’re in a bottomless pit, very much like Germany 1923, Weimar.

“In any kind of hyperinflation, this is something you come to. And there’s only one way to do it: Get rid of the bad debt! It’s going to have to happen.

“The entire world system is in a crisis. It’s a general breakdown crisis which is centered in the trans-Atlantic community. That’s where the center of the crisis is. So, in the United States, we’re on the verge of a breakdown, a blowout; it can happen at any time.

When will it happen, we don’t know, but we’ve seen this kind of thing before, as in 1923 Germany, November-December 1923, this was the situation, and it went on after that. But it’s a breakdown crisis. And *that’s it*.

“Those who thought there could be a bailout, or they had some recipe that things were going to be fine, that things would be manageable, that’s all gone! You’re now relieved of that great burden. You need have no anxiety about the U.S. dollar. Why worry about it? Either it’s dead or it’s not! And the only way it’s not going to be dead, is by an end of bailouts. That’s the situation.

“We don’t know exactly where the breakdown point comes, but it’s coming, because we’re already in a system in which the rate of breakdown is greater than the rate of any bailout possible. And there’s only one way you can do that: Cancel a whole category of obligations. Those that don’t fit the Glass-Steagall standard, or the equivalent of the Glass-Steagall standard: Cancel them immediately! We don’t pay anything on gambling debts. Present us something that’s not a gambling debt, and we may be able to deal with that.”



Creative Commons/Lucia García (Zaqarbal)

Bankia is collapsing, but it's not the architect's fault. Shown is the bank's operational headquarters in Madrid. The figure for the government's bailout, which was first estimated at EU5 billion, had reached EU24 billion by the end of the week.



Creative Commons/Iker Parriza

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is scrambling from one day to the next to come up with a “solution” within the confines of the existing system. He offers a “plan” one day, and repudiates it the next.

A Stark Warning

“If you think that this system is going to continue, and you can find some way to get out of this

problem, you can not get out of this problem, because you *are* the problem. Your failure to do Glass-Steagall, is the problem. And it’s *your failure!* Don’t blame somebody else: If you didn’t force through Glass-Steagall, it’s your fault, and it continues to be your fault. It’s your mistake, which is continuing.

“That’s the situation we have in Europe, and that, really, is also the situation in the United States.

“But that’s where we are! It’s exactly the situation we face now, and there’s no other discussion that really means much, until we can decide *to end the bailouts*, and to absolutely cancel all illegitimate debt—that is, bailout debt.

There’s only one solution: *Get rid of the illegitimate disease, the hyperinflation! Get rid of the hyperinflationary factor. Cancel the hyperinflation.* Don’t pay those debts! Don’t cancel them, just don’t pay them! You declare them outside the economy, outside the responsibility of government: We can no longer afford to sustain you; therefore, you’ll have to find other remedies of your own. That’s where you are. It had to come, it has been coming.”

Banks Need Gigantic Global Bailout

by Paul Gallagher

May 28—A figure more instrumental than any other in accomplishing the complete deregulation of banking across Europe during the past 20 years, has admitted that those banks are in the midst of a huge crash, and immediately threatened by “unstoppable runs.”

Former British Treasurer and Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s op-ed in the May 22 *New York Times*, “Crafting a Global Rescue for Europe,” was more frank than the *Times* editor who headlined it. Brown made clear he means bailing out, not “Europe,” but the Eurozone’s big banks. European megabanks are a subject Brown knows something about, having labored as Tony Blair’s Chancellor of the Exchequer to deregulate them and blow them up to as big a bubble-size as possible. And he made no bones in the *Times* op-ed that the situation of those big banks is now desperate.

It was estimated in the most recent IMF report on Europe’s financial system, in April, that the Eurozone banks were harboring bad debts totalling over EU4 trillion, or \$5.5 trillion—worst case. And the only thing worth considering now is everyone’s “worst case,” which still may understate the reality. This is also indicated by the lengthy pleading of Mr. Brown, now a British MP, for the biggest “global bailout” anyone has yet dreamed of.

Forget the antithesis of “growth” and “austerity” being rhetorically beaten to death by elected leaders and media, says Brown: “Europe faces a crisis in the fundamentals of its banking sector, and another crisis in the failure of economic growth.” Spain’s banks alone have EU260-280 billion in bad loans on their books. The crisis is “on a par with the crash of 2008,” Brown warns. “Indeed, Spain’s banks now require upwards of £100 billion (\$160 billion) of recapitalization [only one part of bailing them out—pbg] even before we deal with similar pressures on banks in Italy and even in France.” Since “the banks are now unable to provide good collateral for their loans, the 2012 life raft—1 tril-



swiss-image.ch/Monika Flückiger

The current banking crisis is “on a par with the crash of 2008,” Gordon Brown admits. His solution? Hyperinflation.

lion euros of European Central Bank support—may have to be scuttled.”

And finally: “The specter of unstoppable runs on banks will hang over everything until there is decisive action.”

This decisive action, Brown said, will have to be a global bailout on an immense scale. “Europe’s 1 trillion-euro rescue fund is nowhere near large enough.” The whole world, Brown cried, must contribute to a much larger bailout “firewall.”

Tying this to the U.S. taxpayer, the May 22 London *Financial Times* reported that behind the scenes, “the Bank of England, the [British] Financial Service Authority (FSA) and the American Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) are studying a ‘top-down bail-in’ mechanism, in which combined authorities take control of a bank in difficulties.” Estimates of bank runs waiting to happen in “peripheral” countries go up to EU350 billion in mass withdrawals.

When Brown was prime minister, in April 2009, he and British puppet President Barack Obama got the G20 nations to put \$1 trillion in new reserves into the IMF, and create bailout funds of their own for the banks as well. Does Brown believe that trick can now be repeated, but with \$4 or \$5 trillion for the banks? Or is the ECB—despite the banks having no more good collateral, as Brown admits—going to be backed up by the Federal Reserve and central banks of England, Japan, and Switzerland, and just *print* EU4 trillion?

In his 1,000 words in the *Times*, Brown didn’t spell that out. Either way means the fire of hyperinflation.

Euro Debt Collectors Deny Medical Payments

May 24—Greek pharmacists staged a one-day strike yesterday in Athens, protesting the fact that the government has failed to reimburse them upwards of EU1 billion from the national health service, thereby creating a grave shortage of medicines, and threatening the lives of the people who depend on them. The pharmacists say they face an “emergency situation,” in which cancer and cardiac patients, among others, cannot get their life-saving medications, either because they can no longer afford them, or because they simply are not available. Reportedly, 163 essential medicines are now unavailable from pharmacies in Greece,

“I give it 15 days. If the European Union doesn’t release the loans it has promised by then, there will be scenes of utter chaos here,” said Dimitris Karageorgiou, secretary general of the Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association. “The situation will become dramatic. Already we have cancer sufferers going from hospital to hospital to try and find drugs, because no one can afford to stock them,” he said. “If the shortages get worse, God knows what we will see.” Since the crisis started, he said, “120 pharmacies have closed in Athens alone, because of pressures from delays in payments for prescriptions from social security funds. Whatever you read about shortages is little. There are about 300 medicines that are no longer readily available. It’s tragic.”

“The situation with anti-cancer drugs is out of control, but what can we do?” one pharmacist said. “Because we’re not being reimbursed, we can’t pay suppliers, who can’t pay the companies. It’s a chain effect.”

Under orders from the EU-ECB-IMF Troika, Athens combined 13 social security funds into one, the National Organization for Healthcare Provision (EOPYY), which has had the

effect of allowing the government to centrally control the disbursement—in reality, non-disbursement—of funds.

“Record unemployment and mass emigration have meant that there is very little money coming into the funds,” Karageorgiou said. “You tell me: How can a pensioner, surviving on little more than 400 euros a month, afford cancer medications that cost 380 euros?”

There is great fear that if Greece is forced out of the euro, it will not be able to pay for medicines, and pharmaceutical companies are preparing emergency measures, according to *Athens News*.

With suicides among desperate ill and elderly people becoming almost commonplace, a 90-year-old woman and her 60-year-old son committed suicide together by jumping off a high building, holding hands as they jumped. The son, a musician, had left a note on a blog, saying he could not afford care for his mother, or even provide food. Last month, the nation was outraged when 77-year-old pensioner Dimitris Christoulas took his life in Syntagma Square, leaving a note saying he could no longer afford to live, and was committing suicide as an act of resistance.

On May 21, it was reported that, since the EU Memorandum imposing killing austerity in Greece was adopted, nearly 20% of the national budget now goes to debt service. Were it not for the debt payments, which are literally taking food and medical care from the population, the Greek budget would have a surplus.



A strike by Greek pharmacists highlighted the murderous effects of the Euro-dictated austerity. Here, a man looks into a pharmacy closed by the strike May 23.

Gerry Adams Calls for 'No' Vote on Treaty

May 28—*In a speech to the National Convention (Ard Fheis) of the Irish party Sinn Féin on May 26, five days before the May 31 Irish referendum on the killer EU Austerity Pact, Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams presented a searing indictment of the policies of the ruling parties, and called for a resounding “No” vote in the referendum. So far, polls tend to show the “Yes” ahead, but many voters are undecided—and the Irish have a way of springing surprises.*

Here are excerpts from Adams’ speech (subheads have been added):

Yesterday was Africa Day, when that continent celebrated its freedom from colonialism. But today Western powers haggle while 20 million people in the Sahel region of North Africa face a severe famine. Thus far the international community has not provided the money urgently needed.

This Ard Fheis extends solidarity to the suffering people of Africa. We urge our government to do its best to encourage the international community to help the people of the Sahel...

Everything is relative, but in Ireland we also have our difficulties. Over half a million are unemployed—almost 450,000 in this state. Many citizens cannot pay their bills or mortgages.

Youth unemployment is especially high, North and South.

I recently spoke to one woman who told me that three of her brothers, all married, left two weeks ago for Australia. Her distress was plain and is shared by tens of thousands of other families.

The policies of Fianna Fáil, and now Fine Gael and

Labour, are responsible.

Forced emigration is one of the huge damning failures of this state.

Citizens are angry. Angry at the political and banking elite and the developers—the golden circle—that enriched itself through corruption, greed, and bad policies.

Angry at the government for failing to hold these elites to account. Angry at broken promises by Fine Gael and Labour not to pay one more red cent to bad banks and then handing over EU24 billion.

Many citizens thought they were voting for change in last year’s General Election. But what happened? Tweedle dum has been replaced by Tweedle dee and Tweedle dumber.

Fine Gael and Labour were elected to change the disastrous policies of Fianna Fáil leaderships. Instead they embraced these policies.

They have cut public services and wages; attacked the rights of the most vulnerable; and introduced new stealth taxes. The household charge, water charges, septic tank charges, VAT and fuel increases.

What is the point of the Labour Party in this government?...

My commitment to you this evening is that Sinn Féin will not make any promises we will not keep. When Sinn Féin makes a commitment—as we demonstrated often during the peace process—we keep our commitments....

Breaking the Cycle of Austerity and Inequality

We have to break the cycle of austerity and inequality. We need to get citizens back to work. We need fair taxation. We need to eliminate wasteful public spending. And yes, it is crucial that we deal with the banking debt.

But these policies must be accompanied by a plan to get citizens back to work. And austerity won’t do it.

In the North, the absence of fiscal powers and cuts by the British Tory government, have made the Executive’s task more difficult. In this state the government gives fiscal powers away!



Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams

This state needs a government-led job creation strategy....

All citizens, throughout their lives, should have access to education at all levels based on their ability, but the cost of educating their children is increasingly a challenge for many parents. Education must give children, all our children, the best start possible. That also is good economics.

A public health service, free at the point of delivery, which provides for citizens from the cradle to the grave, and also funded by direct taxation, is good economics....

After one year of this government, the health service is worse, now because this government is doing exactly the same thing as Fianna Fáil. And patients and their families are paying the price, while those at the top award themselves obscene salaries and huge bonuses.

Citizens need to stand together against this. It is wrong. It must be stopped....

Unemployment is driving young people to far-off foreign shores. In Leitrim I was told that half of those between the ages of 22 and 26 have left. The heart is being torn from communities, as a whole GAA [Gaelic Athletic Association] generation leaves for Canada and Australia.

In this state around 70,000 people are emigrating each year. *That's nine citizens every hour* [emphasis added]....

Rural Ireland, and especially the West, is being devastated. Forced emigration is not a life-style choice. But it is an indictment of the two men from the west who lead this bad government....

The Austerity Treaty

I want to turn now to the Austerity Treaty.

When considering what way to vote, people need to ask themselves if the austerity of recent budgets led to jobs and growth?

The answer is obvious. The answer is no. If you accept that, you should vote No.

Austerity isn't working now and won't start working on 1st June. Neither will it bring stability or certainty.

Austerity means more cuts. And increased charges.

Right now, if you do not like the policies of the government, you can sack them or re-elect them. You won't be able to do that with unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in Frankfurt and Brussels. That is undemocratic.

Don't give up your power.

Don't give your democratic rights away.

And don't write austerity into the constitution.

Fine Gael, Labour, and Fianna Fáil have not offered any positive arguments in favour of this Treaty. The Taoiseach [prime minister] won't even debate the issue! That's not leadership! That's not showing citizens the respect they deserve!

Instead Mr. Kenny, Mr. Gilmore, and Mr. Martin are trying to scare people into voting Yes.

Whether it was British rule or a domineering church hierarchy, Irish citizens have had enough of being ruled by fear. We are done with that.

The Irish government is also out of step with the rest of Europe. Other EU states are delaying ratification because they know the mood in Europe is changing. But not our government.

They settled for much less than anyone else, despite Sinn Féin's clear warning about the foolishness of accepting this bad Treaty. When the Taoiseach endorsed it in the Dáil, he never mentioned growth or jobs. Not once! Or a writedown of Bank debt.

The truth is Mr. Kenny and Mr. Gilmore are out of their depth. This Government simply cannot be trusted on this Treaty. It claims we will be locked out of funds if citizens vote NO. That's not true! The legal mandate of the ESM is very clear. Funding will be provided, and I quote, where it is "indispensable to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area as a whole and of its Member States."

So don't be fooled. Remember what Fine Gael and Labour said during the election. Remember all Fianna Fáil's promises. Don't be fooled. Be wise.

Join with the millions across Europe who are demanding an end to austerity.

It is a good and patriotic and positive action to say NO to a Treaty that is bad for you, bad for your family and community, bad for society, and entirely without any social or economic merit.

Next Thursday, vote No.

Irish people have the genius and the right to demand it.

In our time.

For all citizens, for all our communities.

So, now is the time for courage.

For commitment and patriotism.

For hope.

For all our children.

For our great country.

For Ireland.

BLAIR VS. PUTIN DOCTRINES

NATO's Syria Ploy Could Start Thermonuclear War

by Jeffrey Steinberg

May 29—Days before the May 25 massacre in the Syrian village of Houla, NATO leaders huddled in Chicago, and planned out a new escalation in the regime-change drive targeted against President Bashar al-Assad. That escalation, and the sharp Russian and Chinese responses, have once again put the world on the brink of a potential thermonuclear confrontation.

Up until this moment, the precise details of what happened in the village in Homs province remain unclear. What is certain, however, is that the incident has been seized on by Britain, France, the Obama Administration, and others, to push for the military overthrow of the Syrian government. Ultimately, the targets of the Syria campaign are Russia and China, who have so far refused to cave into the demands from London and Washington that the entire system of national sovereignty be surrendered, in favor of a post-Westphalian feudal order, under the banner of “humanitarian intervention” and “Responsibility To Protect (R2P).”

Within moments of the first news accounts of the mass killings in Houla, British Foreign Secretary William Hague produced a draft United Nations Security Council document, denouncing the Assad government, and calling for a Chapter 7 authorization for use of force. The move had the instant backing of both the French and U.S. governments. At that point, Russia stepped in to demand the convening of an emergency UN Security Council session, which occurred late on

the afternoon of Sunday, May 27. Gen. Robert Mood, the commander of the UN/Arab League observer mission in Syria, was asked to deliver a closed-door briefing to the Security Council members on the findings up to that point about the massacre.

According to accounts from participants in that Security Council session, General Mood confirmed that there had been over 100 people killed, including many women and children, and that the majority had been killed at close range, not as the consequence of shelling by Syrian Army or rebel fire.

Mood refused to conclude that the Syrian government was responsible for the killings, and reported that the Syrian government was going to conduct a full inquiry and share the results with the UN team.

Despite this, the UN representatives from Germany, France, and Britain emerged from the special Security Council session, and lied to reporters that the Council had concluded that the Assad government was guilty of the massacres, and demanded immediate action. Then, Russian UN Deputy Ambassador Alexander Pankin stepped to the microphone to correct the lies that had just been told. He emphasized that there was no evidence yet implicating the Assad government in the incident, and that the Security Council would await a full report from General Mood.

After the Russian diplomat spoke, Dr. Bashar Jaafari, the longstanding Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, gave a detailed report on what was known of

the incident, after issuing a harsh condemnation of the “tsunami of lies” by the German, French, and British diplomats. Dr. Jaafari reported that, following the May 25 Friday prayers, 200-300 heavily armed men launched an assault on five separate law enforcement posts in Houla. The assault lasted nine hours, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m., and extended to two other villages within several kilometers of Houla. He described the attacks as “full-fledged military operations” that were thoroughly premeditated. In the nearby village of Shumeria, a National Hospital was burned to the ground, crops set on fire, and villagers killed.

Dr. Jaafari went on to complain that “some permanent members” of the Security Council would “spare no effort to provide the Syrian opposition with weapons.” He cited the pattern of suicide bombings and al-Qaeda deployments into Syria, warning his fellow UN ambassadors, “You cannot be arsonists and firemen at the same time.”

The Deeper Significance

The flagrant attempt to create the pretext for a full-scale Libya-modeled military intervention to overthrow the Assad government in Syria, must be understood in the context of the onrushing collapse of the entire trans-Atlantic financial and monetary system, and the desperation of London and its pawn, President Barack Obama, to force the Putin government to cave in to the post-nation-state scheme.

Not only has Russian President Vladimir Putin refused to cave in. At every opportunity top Russian officials, from Putin to Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev, to Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov, have flaunted the fact that Russia maintains an overkill arsenal of thermonuclear weapons that can obliterate mankind. This has driven the British crazy, as reflected in a recent *Financial Times* rant against what they termed Russian “Dr. Strangelove” antics.

The reality is that, with both the United States and Russia maintaining massive stockpiles of thermonuclear weapons and delivery systems, general war is unthinkable. For London, this poses an intractable dilemma. Whereas, in the past, the British and earlier empires, could launch general wars to impose dictatorship at the moment of financial collapse, as was the case



UN video

Gen. Robert Mood, commander of the UN/Arab League observer mission in Syria, according to accounts from participants in the UN Security Council discussion, reported that the killings in Houla were not the consequence of shelling by Syrian Army or rebel fire.

with the outbreaks of two world wars during the previous century, now the price of general war is mass extinction of all of humanity. That reality even gives the genocidalists in and around the British monarchy reason to pause.

For the past year, London and Obama have been attempting to get Moscow to back down and accept post-Westphalian¹ dictatorship as an alternative to thermonuclear Armageddon. And Moscow has adamantly refused to capitulate, with the backing of the leadership of China as well.

A Clash of Doctrines

The drive for a post-Westphalian global dictatorship under the guise of humanitarian interventionism was first put forward by then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair in April 1999, in a speech in Chicago during the Kosovo War. Blair insisted that sovereignty was no longer sacrosanct, and that any time a ruler turned against his own population, it was the obligation of the international community to intervene.

While the Kosovo War provided a limited prece-

1. The 1648 Treaty of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years War in Europe, and established the principle of national sovereignty, based on the concept of nations acting on behalf of the “benefit of the other.”

dent for this “Blair Doctrine,” then-President Bill Clinton broke with Blair over the issue of sending NATO troops into Serbia to bring down the Milosevic regime. That split between Blair and Clinton has never been repaired.

In the intervening decade, the doctrine of humanitarian intervention and R2P has been repeatedly peddled from London, with limited success—until the 2011 overthrow and assassination of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi—and the ascent of a group of fanatical “humanitarian interventionists” in the Obama Administration, led by UN Ambassador Susan Rice and White House aide Samantha Power. Last month, President Obama named Power as the head of an Executive branch Atrocities Prevention Board.

Obama’s wholehearted embrace of the Blair Doctrine and the creation of an Executive branch interagency board to implement this post-nation-state horror show, puts the United States on a collision course with President Putin’s Russia. At the beginning of May, Prime Minister Medvedev told an international law forum in St. Petersburg that Russia would resist any at-

tempt to challenge the system of national sovereignty enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the role of the UN Security Council. Russian ambassadors all over the world had been instructed to brief host governments on this new “Putin Doctrine,” according to *EIR*’s sources.

The conflict between the Blair and Putin doctrines is fundamental. It is the conflict between the nation-state system and that of oligarchical feudal dictatorship. Behind the Blair Doctrine is a commitment, most recently spelled out by the Club of Rome, that world population must be reduced from 7 billion people down to around 1 billion—in order to preserve the imperial system.

There is no middle ground between these two positions. Russia has made it clear that the attempt to violate the system of sovereign nation-states can lead directly to thermonuclear war—and they are not bluffing.

The question now, as the British system of monetarism comes crashing down on both sides of the Atlantic, is what the next move from London and Obama will be.

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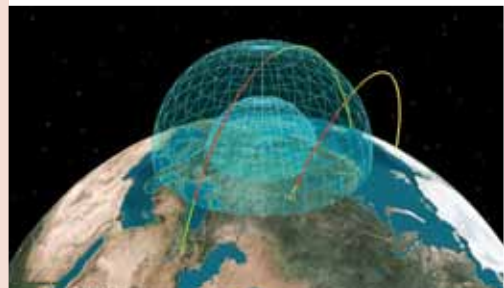
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The British Empire’s Global Showdown, and How To Overcome It



June 2012

Obama's Afghan Exit Plan Coming Unhinged

by Ramtanu Maitra

The much-ballyhooed Afghan exit strategy of President Barack Obama is coming unhinged, and there is speculation on how messy that could turn out to be. Obama and his coterie's lack of insight and endless arrogance has further eroded all hopes that the U.S./NATO troops will be able to leave Afghanistan in an orderly manner, leaving the country with even a modicum of order and stability.

Obama's "performance" at the NATO summit in Chicago on May 20 presents a clear picture of how muddled the situation is regarding the scheduled withdrawal of U.S. troops, and official acknowledgement that the U.S./NATO war in Afghanistan is over. At the summit, France's newly-elected President François Hollande, upholding his election pledge, announced that France will withdraw its forces by the end of 2012, about two years earlier than the original timetable. Along with Britain, Germany, and Italy, France is among the top five nations with troops in Afghanistan, with about 3,600 soldiers.

Less than a week later, on May 24, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Allen, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that 68,000 troops was a good starting number for 2013, as he was pressed by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) about reports that the Obama Administration is considering a earlier withdrawal. "My opinion is that we will need 'significant combat power' in 2013," Allen said. "Sixty-eight thousand is a good going-in number, but I owe the President some analysis on that." The current number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is 90,000-plus, and if Obama plans, as he has promised, to withdraw 33,000 troops by this Summer to facilitate his reelection bid, Allen will be left at least 10,000 troops short. In other words, that number, 33,000, is seemingly not etched

in granite, and could be significantly less. Why is this happening at this late stage, after more than 10 years of U.S. and NATO engagement in Afghanistan?

The Shifting Sands of Objectives

The clear answer to that is the gross failure of leadership in Washington. It was evident at the very outset of the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 that Washington had no clue about what it was doing and why the action was needed. The invasion began with the mantra of dismantling al-Qaeda and capturing the "master-terrorist" Osama bin Laden. That objective changed later to a new objective of ushering in democracy in Afghanistan. Further down the road, with all previous objectives found to be unattainable and mere reverie, new objectives were set in place—the objectives of eradication of the Taliban and "straightening out" Pakistan. Now, Obama's objective, besides straightening out Pakistan, is to wriggle out of the combat situation in Afghanistan without a total withdrawal, and without accepting a strategic defeat.

Ikram Sehgal, a Pakistani defense and security analyst, in his article "The Afghanistan Endgame" in the News International of Pakistan on May 24, discussed the muddled U.S./NATO troop-withdrawal plan. He pointed out that the final transition phase, involving the handing over of responsibility for provinces and dis-



U.S. Army/Master Sgt. Kap Kim

President Obama has ignored the lessons of history in Afghanistan. Here, top Afghanistan commander Gen. John Allen testifies before members of the Senate Armed Service Committee, holding hearings in Kabul, Feb. 18.

tricts to Afghan authorities, will start from “mid-2013,” NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

A number of areas and towns have been handed over since the transition started a year ago. Incidents of Afghan soldiers turning on NATO troops are causing apprehension about increased Taliban infiltration of the police and army. NATO had initially planned to expand the Afghan Security Forces to over 350,000. At the Chicago summit, the number was re-set at roughly 230,000, by the time the war is declared over.

Papering Over History

If President Obama, or any of his coterie, had any accurate reading of history, they would know that war in Afghanistan really begins when the foreign occupiers leave the country. For ten years, Kabul, under foreign occupation, has had a single head of state, President Hamid Karzai, a Pushtun. In order to counter the Afghan insurgents, who were mostly Pushtuns, Karzai had to bring in non-Pushtun ethnic warlords, who did not trust him, and provided their support for a price. That was considered a necessary choice at the outset. But during the interim ten years, Washington did little to establish Karzai as a political force. In fact, it did the very opposite.

The Obama Administration, in particular, heaped abuse upon Karzai, the same way Pakistan has been abused in recent months by the same crowd in Washington. The purpose of this abuse is to cover up Washington’s lack of policy, its all ’round failures, and its resort to blaming others. All their arrogance and duplicitous policies vis-à-vis Kabul and Islamabad have haunted the U.S. and NATO throughout this long war. These insane policies have brought about death and injury to thousands of Americans, Europeans, and countless Afghans; the final toll comes at the time of exit.

The weakening of Karzai and the turning of Pakistan from a collaborator into a dangerous enemy stem from the policymakers’ abject failure to understand Afghan history. They are busy beating up both Karzai and Islamabad, while conveying to the American people that that the problems lie with Kabul and Islamabad.

On the other hand, the pages of history are open for all to see. Thomas Barfield, in his article “Afghans Look at 2014” in the April 2012 issue of *Current History: South Asia*, pointed out the following: “The aftermath of all foreign invasions of Afghanistan, not just the Soviet one, followed this pattern. Former insurgent leaders found that success on the battlefield or rallying opposition against foreigners could not be transmuted

into political authority once those forces departed. None of the insurgent leaders who drove the British from the country in the nineteenth century succeeded either in taking power for themselves or in playing a prominent role in the governments of the royal British-backed emirs who invariably came to rule Afghanistan at the expense of their less well-known rivals.”

In other words, the fate of President Karzai, who was kept weak by a spiteful Obama Administration, is pretty much determined in advance, no matter what the promoters of Obama’s Afghan exit policy tell us. Barfield opened the history pages to inform us that Dost Mohammad (1843-63) and Abdur Rahman (1880-1903), purged popular former insurgent leaders the instant they became troublesome. For instance, in 1842, Shuja, who was put on the Afghan throne by the British and kept there for three years, was assassinated as soon as the British planned to withdraw in 1842, ending the First Anglo-Afghan War. Dost Mohammad, who was languishing in a prison in British India, came to take over and stayed in power for 20 years.

The same pattern followed the end of the Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1879. The British picked Mohammad Yaqub, a son of a deceased emir. Under pressure from the Afghan people, Yaqub abdicated in 1880 and Abdur Rahman took power, and held it for 23 years.

A similar development was in the process with the Afghan Taliban as well. The Afghan Taliban were brought to power by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia at a time when Afghanistan was torn apart by civil war. The Taliban never had a popular support base, but the uncertainties caused by the civil war led many Afghans to accept them as rulers. However, the Taliban had no real legitimacy and were propped up by foreign powers. Within five years, the Taliban had lost all credibility. In 2001, when the Americans came to dislodge the Taliban with the help of the Northern Alliance, it was virtually a cakewalk. Other than the militia, and some Pakistani soldiers dressed as Taliban militants, no Afghans came out to help the Taliban.

It is likely that a similar fate awaits President Karzai as well. Remaining a foreign occupier’s puppet to stay on the throne is almost a guarantee in Afghanistan to get dethroned once the foreign occupiers put away their guns.

Regional Solution Barred by Obama Administration

But the situation did not have to come to this state, had the Obama Administration wanted things to be dif-



DoD/Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Clayton Weis, U.S. Navy

A workable U.S. exit from Afghanistan would require a regional solution to the conflict, but the Obama Administration has rejected that option. Shown: a U.S. special forces member fires a mortar during a fight in Kunar Province, March 7.

ferent. The appropriate Afghan exit policy would have been a regional solution to the ten-year-old conflict. But, that would have required strong leadership from four nations—the U.S., China, Russia, and India. While it is still not clear what kind of resolution of the Afghan conflict China, India, or Russia would consider at this point, it is likely that there is a realization that U.S. efforts have little chance to succeed. What is known at this point is that the Afghan situation is very worrisome to Russia, China, and Iran, in particular.

The possibility of Washington beginning a process leading to a regional solution to Afghanistan appeared fleetingly. But the British-Saudi-influenced Obama Administration quashed it quickly, using Iran as the “bogyman.” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s June 23, 2011 prepared testimony at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings stated that the Core Group, of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the United States, had met twice and would convene again the following week. “At the same time, we are engaging the region

around a common vision of an independent, stable Afghanistan, and a region free of al-Qaeda. And this effort is paying off. India, Russia, and even Iran, are now on board.” In response to questions from Committee members, Clinton was forthright about the importance of bringing Iran to the table, discussing the approach to put an end to the Afghan conflict.

Not only did the Obama Administration ignore Secretary Clinton’s initiative, it began to make moves that eventually isolated Pakistan. A series of events, which culminated with the killing of at least 24 Pakistani soldiers along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border by U.S./NATO helicopter gunships, Obama’s arrogant refusal to apologize to Islamabad for the killings, and Islamabad’s retaliation—closing the NATO supply line that snakes through Pakistan to bring in almost 75% of the goods used by the 130,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan—effectively broke the tenuous trust that existed between the two.

Although it is likely that the ongoing arm-twisting by Washington will force Pakistan to open the supply lines, that will not mend their relations. The daily drone attacks inside Pakistan’s tribal areas to “kill off” the anti-American Pakistani Taliban is a policy which has created a visible level of anti-Americanism within Pakistan. Should the supply line be reopened, there will be emotional ramifications in Pakistan among a population that is no longer patient with the arbitrary and unilateral policies of the United States.

However, this strategic blunder committed by the White House has gone virtually unnoticed in the United States. It is evident that in order to exit from Afghanistan with its baggage, guns, and tanks, an access through Pakistan is a necessity. It is also evident that after what happened in the recent past, Islamabad is no longer willing to play second fiddle in the U.S./NATO’s foolish Afghan war, but it is of great importance to the U.S. and NATO that Pakistan does not become an obstacle during the messy exit process. This was pointed out by none other than President Karzai, who told the NATO heads of state in Chicago: “We believe Afghanistan and Pakistan have strong mutual security interests to work together to defeat terrorists intent on killing our people, undermining the sovereignty of our countries, and destabilizing our region. . . . Over the past few years, we have closely engaged Pakistan to assist us with the peace process, and I am hopeful that the weeks and months ahead will witness more tangible measures in this regard.”

Obama, British Create Failed States, As Bases for Assaults on Sovereignty

by Douglas DeGroot

May 28—The northern part of Mali, an area in the Sahara that is bigger than France, has become a new Afghanistan-style ungoverned zone in the Sahel region of West Africa, that has been turned into a base for attacks on governments in the region by the British-created al-Qaeda apparatus. Mali's President Amadou Toumani Touré was toppled by army rebels in a coup in March.

This transformation of Mali from a sovereign state into an al-Qaeda base for operations against African nations is a direct consequence of the overthrow of the Libyan government last year, which was carried out by the Obama Administration, in tandem with the British, the al-Qaeda apparatus, and other NATO members. That operation deliberately turned Libya into a failed state.

Libya today has no functioning government institutions, and is dominated by internecine conflict among local militias, score-settling between pro- and anti-Qaddafi groups, and attacks on settlements of black refugees. This chaotic situation provides the perfect conditions for the al-Qaeda networks that were deployed into Libya to overthrow Muammar Qaddafi, to now operate from there, to set up northern Mali as a forward base for secure, well-protected desert training camps for terror groups to come for training and prepare for operations to break up nation-states.

The intervention into Mali by Libyan al-Qaeda networks is not the first time after the murder of Qaddafi that Libya has been charged with exporting terrorism. On March 7, Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, at a UN Security Council meeting, accused Libya of running a training center for Syrian rebels and arming the anti-government fighters.

According to West African observers, the first group that will be trained will be Boko Haram, which is targeting Africa's most populous country, Nigeria. Later,

al-Shabab, the Somalia-based cell of al-Qaeda, is expected to follow, for operations in the Horn of Africa, and then, groups targetting Algeria and other nations in the Sahel region.

Taking advantage of the disappearance of the government in much of Mali, well-equipped members of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) are already recruiting youth who are facing economic destitution, by offering them money to become part of their apparatus.

Scores of armed fighters from Maghreb countries are now in northern Mali, a Malian Defense Ministry official told AFP on May 6. "About 100 north Africans, essentially from Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, have joined the ranks of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb," the official said.

One of the benefits desired by the British financial empire that will result from the destruction of sovereignty in Africa, is to drive out the Chinese, who won't be able to do business and aid development in Africa if there are ultimately no sovereign nations to deal with.

A Warning from Africa

African leaders are well aware of the international nature of the al-Qaeda deployment into Mali, and are very concerned about the dangerous implications.

In a public statement in Washington May 21, Niger Foreign Minister Mohamed Bazoum reported that:

- When AQIM had been more confined, before the developments in Mali this year, it had already been able to mount operations elsewhere in the Sahel, giving as an example, Boko Haram in Nigeria.

- AQIM's capacities have expanded, now that it controls 800,000 square kilometers [over half the country's territory], including towns, which gives



The West African nation of Mali has become a base for insurgent operations targeting other nations on the continent. Shown: rebels from the radical Islamist sect Ansar al-Dine, is allied with al-Qaeda in Mali.

them better access to basic supplies, such as food, water, and fuel.

- AQIM now has access to thousands of youth who suffer under unprecedented economic distress.
- A large amount of weapons and ammunition has been seized, which had been abandoned by the national army when it fell apart in March.
- AQIM has looted all the banks in the territory they now occupy.
- Under the conditions of complete anarchy throughout the vast territory following the disappearance of the state, the economy has been completely criminalized, and the only winners are those who commit violence.
- A second Afghanistan is being put in place, conforming to its profile of international Islamic terrorism.
- AQIM and two other closely allied groups, Ansar al-Dine [a faction allied with AQIM which wants to implement Sharia law in Mali] and MUJAO (Unity Movement for Jihad in West Africa, a splinter faction from AQIM) are basically in charge of the area
- There were Pakistani operatives active in the area, and the coordination between AQIM and al-Qaeda was carried out by Libyan Salafist networks.

Poverty Aids al-Qaeda

Bazoum concluded that this international operation could only be dealt with by an international re-

sponse in defense of sovereignty. Niger has already had to divert resources from social needs to support security operations, which will create more of the poverty that al-Qaeda feeds on. He emphasized that this would only worsen.

Already there are reports in Burkina Faso, across the Niger River from Mali, of people being reduced to eating tree leaves to stay alive. The World Health Organization reports that over 1 million children in the region are “severely malnourished. In Burkina Faso, peasants lucky enough to have a few animals, are selling them off to buy a few pounds of rice, after which they will be destitute.

As a result of the operation carried out in Libya by NATO and al-Qaeda, and the subsequent establishment of an al-Qaeda base of operations in Mali, the stage is now set for prolonged conflicts throughout Africa, ranging from the Horn and eastern Africa, across to the western and northern regions of the continent. Growing numbers of youth, with no sense of a future because of the worsening economic desperation, will be easily lured into joining the al-Qaeda insurgencies and related criminal activities, such as illegal drug trafficking.

As the world economy implodes, ensuring no economic development in Africa, the insurgencies will increase. Outside military interventions will not resolve these conflicts. The Obama Administration’s plan to move U.S. special operations forces and counterinsurgency specialists returning from Iraq and Afghanistan into Africa, which is part of Obama’s new national security strategy that was released last month, will only play into the perpetual war scenarios. As long as Obama keeps the U.S.A. on the track of carrying his advisor Tony Blair’s mission to eliminate the sovereignty of nations, as opposed to defending their sovereignty through efforts to set up conditions for a continent-wide industrial development program, this transfer of U.S. military forces to Africa will only promote perpetual Afghanistan-style conflict, pitting weakened governments against the British-supplied and -run al-Qaeda operation.

International Intelligence

Argentina To Take Lead Vs. Rio+20 Green Fascism

May 21—At the June 20-22 “Rio+20” environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro, Argentina “will say ‘No’ to the Green economy,” said Silvia Revora, Undersecretary of Planning for Environmental Affairs of Argentina’s Environment Ministry, speaking May 18 following a conference of “Youth for a Sustainable Environment” in Buenos Aires.

At the conference, many youth groups, legislators, and government officials discussed Argentina’s anti-Malthusian position going into the Rio summit. Among the sponsors of the conference was the Office of the President.

Two days before this conference, environment ministers of the Mercosur nations (Common Market of the South) met in Buenos Aires and issued a document with a similar focus, expressing their unified stance for the summit. The youth conference’s final document will be incorporated into Argentina’s official position for the Rio summit.

The document’s first point unequivocally asserts: “We conceive of the environment not just as protection of our natural patrimony, or the result of the relationship between society and nature, but rather, fundamentally, as the right of all Argentine men and women to a quality of life that can only be attained if the State is the guarantor of the public interest, through measures that achieve a greater social and environmental equality.”

Brits To Deploy Nuclear Submarine to Argentina

May 22—With the approach of June 14, the 30th anniversary of Argentina’s surrender to the British in the 1982 Malvinas War, the British Empire is launching one provocation after the other against Argentina, flaunting its colonialist control over the South Atlantic islands.

First, the *Sun on Sunday* tabloid reported May 20 that Britain will be deploying the *HMS Talent* nuclear submarine to the islands, scheduled to arrive in time for the June 14 anniversary. The “hunter killer” sub, armed with Tomahawk missiles, will “stop by the Falklands,” according to Defense Ministry sources cited by the *Sun*, to “defend British interests,” and carry out surveillance, supposedly to dissuade the Argentines from attempting any “foolhardy” military aggression against the islands (which are 300 miles off Argentina’s coast and 8,000 miles from the United Kingdom).

The British Defense Ministry told Argentina’s Telam news agency that reports of the sub’s deployment are purely “press speculation,” but added that “we can’t make comments about our military operations.”

The imperialists are targetting the June 14 date, not only because of the anniversary of Argentina’s 1982 surrender, but also because Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner plans to address the UN Colonization Committee on that day, to demand that the United Kingdom finally show respect for the ten UN General Assembly resolutions passed over the past decade, and sit down to talk to Argentina about the sovereignty of the Malvinas.

As an additional insult, the British Foreign Affairs Secretary for Latin America, Jeremy Browne, has announced his intention to be present at the June 14 celebration of “Liberation Day” on the Malvinas, which the British call the Falklands.

Bundestag Scraps Vote for ESM; No New Date Set

May 25—An emergency meeting at the German Chancellor’s Office between government and opposition leaders on the European Union Fiscal Pact last night failed to bring an agreement on conditionalities of the Pact. Therefore, the originally planned vote in the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) today on the

Pact and the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) was called off, since the government wants both votes taken together.

The real reason for the postponement may be, however, that the government wants to wait until after the Irish referendum on May 31, the EU summit in mid-June, and the outcome of the early elections in Greece on June 17.

The government may also want to wait for the June 19 ruling of the Constitutional Court on a Green party complaint that requests better information for the Bundestag from the government on the Fiscal Pact and the ESM. The ruling is expected to contain mandates that the government grant more rights to the Bundestag.

According to the Bundestag Protocol Office, a new vote has not even been arranged for the first Bundestag sessions which begin on June 11. That means that a vote could come in late June at the earliest—a bit late, if one wants the ESM to start up on July 1, as the government does.

Russia Backs China in South China Sea Disputes

May 21—Russian Ambassador to the Philippines Nikolay Kudashev told yesterday’s *Manila Bulletin* that the Russian Federation is against any meddling by nations other than the claimant countries in the South China Sea dispute. This has been the consistent demand from China—that the territorial issues must be solved by the claimants without outside interests aggravating things by intervening.

“This is our official position,” Kudashev said, adding that Russia is “mindful” of the fact that, like the United States, it is not a party to the dispute between China and the Philippines. “Otherwise it will sound like we are interfering in the internal affairs” of the claimant countries.

This is the first time that a Russian government official has spoken directly about the conflict in the South China Sea.

MARRIAGE MADE IN HELL

Tony Blair Deployed To Secure Obama Re-election

by Nancy Spannaus

May 25—Apparently it's not just the \$250,000 a pop speaking fees that have been bringing former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to the United States over the past year. According to reports in the May 21 *Mail Online* and the *Daily Telegraph*, confirmed by *EIR*'s own sources, Blair has signed up as a key advisor to help Barack Obama's win re-election—as a stepping-stone to his own planned return to power in Great Britain.

In typical understated fashion, the British press revealed that six months ago Blair privately advised Obama on “renewal in office and re-election.” For the past two months or so, Blair has pretty much camped out in the United States, and has plans to continue to do so.

This is not surprising, given that Blair was an advisor to British puppet Obama in his first election, and has had his signature on every evil policy Obama has implemented—health care, pre-emptive war, environmentalism—as *EIR* has fully documented. The kicker, according to the British press accounts, is that Blair then intends to launch a comeback in British politics, hoping, as the *Mail* notes, that “enough time has passed for people to have forgotten the disastrous effect of the Iraq war on his image and how he was humiliatingly forced from office by Gordon Brown.”

But will the American population tolerate this blatant British imperial hand manipulating the U.S. election result? Already, Obama and putative Republican

nominee Mitt Romney are vying for unpopularity, even among the party faithful who participate in the primaries, not to mention the population as a whole, who have rushed en masse to identify themselves as “independent.” Given the reckless international confrontation course which British puppet Obama is taking, the impending blowout of the bankrupt world financial system, and Obama's increasingly blatant dictatorial measures, it is not to be excluded that he will create the political circumstances in which the Presidential elections would be cancelled.

As Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized, there is only one safe way to secure the future of the nation, and that is to remove Obama from the Presidency *now*, preferably through Section 4 of the 25th Amendment, thereby overturning the chessboard and creating the opportunity for the nation to survive.

Obama in Trouble

There is no question but that Obama's British controllers have reason to be worried about his re-election. Despite having intimidated all potential challengers out of the field, the Obama re-election campaign is finding it increasingly difficult to assemble the machine required to win. And this is despite the fact that the pack of Republican contenders have done their very best to serve as a “committee to re-elect the President,” by competing to present policies even more lunatic and murderous than his.

Yet, recent polls show the equally disastrous Mitt Romney, now the all-but-assured Republican nominee, to be gaining enough ground to pose a threat of winning. Informed intelligence sources in Washington evaluate the election outcome as “too close to call.”

Meanwhile, the American electorate is exhibiting signs of terminal disgust with both candidates, and the election process itself.

For example, recent Republican primary results, in the period since all his opponents have dropped out, have given frontrunner Romney no more than 70% of the vote. And on the Democratic side, in three states—West Virginia, Kentucky, and Arkansas—Obama has won only 60% of the vote. Perhaps most stunning was the West Virginia vote, where an incarcerated felon from Texas, the only other person on the ballot with Obama, won a full 40% against Obama. In Arkansas, it was challenger John Wolfe who garnered 42% of the vote, and in Kentucky, Obama’s opponent was “undecided,” which took 40%. Twenty-nine percent of North Carolina Democrats also went for “none-of-the-above” against the hated president.

Even more alarming, from the standpoint of the state of the American population, is the *abstention* rate in the primary election process. In contrast to the surge of involvement in Obama’s 2008 campaign, and even 2010—much of which was based on wishful thinking and abreaction to the Bush reign—the turnout in primary elections this spring is remarkably low, in some cases hitting record lows. This has been particularly noticeable in Texas.

Such depoliticization is nothing less than suicidal. It reflects not only distrust of the incumbents in the current government—well-deserved, of course—but in the sense of responsibility by the citizens themselves, who still have before them, despite many lost opportunities, the option of mobilizing for the good of the nation: the removal of Obama, and the program of the LaRouche National Slate of congressional candidates.

Inaction leaves the fate of the United States, and the



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world, in the hands of the British controllers of Obama *and* Romney—and, very possibly, that evil servant of Queen Elizabeth, Tony Blair.

Blair’s Bag of Horrors...

Just as many Democrats are now shocked to see how Barack Obama’s policies of war, austerity, and dictatorship have become indistinguishable, or worse, than those of his predecessor George W. Bush, so the British population had reason to be shocked by the way “New Labour” spokesman Tony Blair’s followed in the footsteps of his conservative predecessor, Margaret Thatcher.

Blair came into prominence in the 1990s, first as the leader of the parliamentary Opposition, and then Prime Minister between 1997 and 2007. He immediately set about to implement policies of economic austerity against the very constituency which elected him, Labour. One of his signature policies, of which he has often bragged, is the establishment of the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) within the National Health Service, which has set the pace for implementing Nazi medical practices of denying medical care deemed “too expensive” for those with lives “not worthy to be lived,” internationally. It is precisely this policy, with much of its personnel, that President Barack Obama has taken over

as a model for his health-care “reform.”

On foreign policy Blair, also broke with the traditional Labour mold, setting forth a policy in 1999, in a speech at the Chicago World Affairs Council, for abrogating national sovereignty, whenever supranational institutions, or even groups of powerful nations, thought it appropriate. The test case was the NATO out-of-area deployment against Serbia in 1999, the first instance of what became known as the Blair Doctrine of limited sovereignty in the name of the “Responsibility to Protect.”

During the Clinton-Gore Presidency, Blair’s closest relationship was clearly to Gore, who echoed his British *de facto* mentor on questions of privatization, austerity, green fascism, and war-mongering. With George W. Bush’s election, however, Blair immediately latched on to the new President, to form a partnership which produced one bloody war after the other now, for more than 10 years. It was Blair who laundered the “sexed-up” intelligence on Saddam Hussein’s “weapons of mass destruction,” which served to justify the U.S. war against Iraq in 2003. He also stood by Bush’s, and now Obama’s, side in the debilitating, worthless war in Afghanistan—and is promoting the next war, against Iran.

No sooner was Bush gone, however, than Blair was in Washington hobnobbing with his “great friend” Barack Obama, and pushing his fascist policies domestically and internationally. They have all been pushed through, with no effective resistance being mounted.

And Some Liabilities

But will Blair be an asset for Obama’s flailing reelection campaign? Not if people actually understand who he is. For example, Blair’s appearances at a couple of college campuses this Spring, one in Los Angeles and the other in Maine, have brought forth vociferous demonstrations, where he was condemned, rightly, for being a war-monger with blood on his hands.

Blair’s filthy, and unrepentant, lies in instigating the 2003 Iraq War have created an issue that will not go away. Internationally, he was condemned in 2011, along with Bush, as guilty of crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, and genocide by an international tribunal convened in Malaysia, the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission, which reviewed his role in the Iraq War. Domestically, he has been

confronted with the repercussions of that war in two ways.

First, there was the sensational July 2003 death of David Kelly, a British scientist who had spoken out against the Blair government’s lies about Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction. Kelly’s death, while ruled a suicide, exhibited many characteristics casting that judgment into doubt; it occurred shortly after he had been subjected to a public pressure campaign by the Blair government for speaking out against the unjustified war.

Second, there is an ongoing British government inquiry, called the Chilcot Inquiry, into the “lessons to be learned from the Iraq conflict.” That Inquiry, established in January 2009, has taken testimony from all the major policy players in the run-up to the war, including Blair himself, and in the course of this, cast a long shadow over the truthfulness, not to mention the ethics, of the Prime Minister and his underlings. The Inquiry has had to carry out many repeat interviews, and is not scheduled to release its results until July 2012, at the earliest—with potentially devastating results on what’s left of Blair’s reputation.

Especially Corruption

War-monger is not the only charge which threatens to stick on Blair; there is also the charge of extraordinary corruption. For a politician who claims the right to invade and overthrow heads of state because of their alleged human rights abuses and ethical lapses, he has had a particularly stunning array of business dealings with such designated dictators.

Start with Qaddafi. Blair’s first big pact with the Libyan leader occurred in February 2004, when he went to Tripoli and signed a deal that would lead to extensive oil-drilling rights for BP in Libya. In 2007, Blair and Qaddafi met again in the Libyan town of Sirte, where Blair agreed to supply military hardware and expertise to the Libyan government, including British Special Air Services (SAS) training for Libyan special forces.

According to British press reports, Blair also secured a consultancy role with the Libyan Investment Authority, a fund which manages the country’s oil wealth. While Blair denied the charge, his position on the board of JPMorgan, which was a member of the Libyan British Business Council, may well point to the means of his involvement.

During 2011, and the run-up to the assassination of Muammar Qaddafi in October of that year, the British press provided one scandal after another on the involvement between Blair and the Qaddafi family, not only including the above arrangements, but other special favors for family members. These deals, of course, did not deter Blair from turning against Qaddafi when higher-ups decided the Libyan leader had to be eliminated, as an object-lesson against national sovereignty in the illegal Libya “liberation.”

Then there’s the case of Kazakstan, the former Soviet republic ruled by the reputed autocrat President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Blair is a paid advisor to the Kazakstan President, and, according to the *Financial Times*, has already been paid at least \$13 million for his services. “Anti-totalitarian” Blair is apparently not concerned about reports that Nazarbayev runs roughshod over his opposition, as long as he gets his checks.

Blair’s access to money after his resignation as prime minister in 2007, is amazingly broad. His Tony Blair Associates provides the vehicle for lucrative international contracts, which some suspect are not unrelated to his

trading on his position as Envoy for the Middle East Quartet. Since 2008, Blair has been on the board of JPMorgan Chase. And then there’s his Faith Foundation, which provides a platform for giving him speaking engagements, for which he charges significant sums—on the condition that the amount remain secret!

Think Like an American!

Forget the gay marriage “issue” for a minute; what we’re talking about here is a marriage made in the bowels of Hell called the British empire. Blair and Obama are both instruments of a British Fabian fascism which seeks to rule a world that has been stripped of nation-states, and population. In such a world, whether it be by economic disintegration, or nuclear confrontation, human life as we know it will not survive.

For now, think like an American. The British monarchy, against which we made our revolution, has deployed one of its key agents to try to determine who should be our next President. Do American citizens have the guts to resist such treason? Will a sufficient number of leaders emerge to stop the Blair-Obama combo in its tracks?

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Top Military Figures Reject Conflict with Russia and China

by Carl Osgood

May 24—Two top military leaders, former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. James Cartwright (USMC-ret.) and current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, in response to questions from *EIR*, broke with anyone promoting conflict with Russia and China. Their remarks, made at the Joint Warfighting Conference in Virginia Beach, Va., May 15-17, show the level of resistance to such British-inspired conflict from within the highest levels of the U.S. military.

Dempsey has been warning for some time against falling into the trap of conflict with China, simply out of fear of China's rise as a global power.

Cartwright's pushback against conflict came during the keynote address to the conference on May 15, in which he was sharply critical of the process within both the Congress and the Executive branch whereby resources are being matched to the strategy of the Obama Administration.

He mentioned the AirSea Battle concept, which is being jointly developed by the Air Force and the Navy against anti-access/area denial measures being taken by certain countries to keep U.S. forces out of range in case of a conflict. While the Pentagon refuses to say the concept is aimed at China (it is also aimed to a lesser extent at Iran), its proponents outside the Pentagon have no such restraints. Cartwright said some see AirSea Battle as the "Holy Grail" of how we're going to do business in the future, but the problem is, "AirSea Battle is demonizing China. That's not in anybody's best interests." Furthermore, the so-called Asia pivot is being interpreted as the United States leaving the rest of the world behind, when, in fact, we're not. "How do we explain ourselves with AirSea Battle and pivoting?" he asked. "We have to start to think about what the strategy is."

EIR asked Cartwright whether, given the issues around AirSea Battle and China, and the concerns that

the Russians have expressed about U.S. missile defense policy in Europe, we should reconsider our strategy towards both countries before we get into a strategic conflict with them.

Cartwright replied by describing the two concerns that have been expressed to him by Russians he has been in dialogue with. One, they're concerned about the possibility of U.S. missile defenses being able to "reach out and touch" their ICBMs and therefore upsetting the balance of power. Secondly, "there's the potential that you could, in fact, generate a scenario where, in a bolt from the blue, we launch a pre-emptive attack and then use missile defense to weed out their residual fires [that is, retaliatory launch of their remaining ICBMs—cjo]. . . . We're going to have to think our way out of this. We're going to have to figure out how we're going to do this."

Another concern, Cartwright said, comes from the Block IIB Standard missiles that are to be installed in Poland and Romania in a couple of years, as part of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). "The question is, should we do that? Maybe we shouldn't. I don't know yet. There's more dialogue that must occur between now and then, but that's a very good question, and we have to find a solution."

The 'Thucydides Trap'

The following morning, *EIR* had the opportunity to ask Dempsey to respond to Cartwright's remarks. He denied that AirSea Battle is demonizing China: "AirSea Battle is absolutely not a tactic oriented on any particular adversary. There are any number of countries that are developing anti-access strategies, and, if we hope to maintain our freedom of action, we've got to address them."

With respect to China, however, Dempsey repeated his warning against the "Thucydides Trap," that is, going to war simply because we fear the rising power of China.¹ "There's a huge history, here, of the existing superpower dealing with a rising power," he said. "We ought to be the superpower that breaks that paradigm." He said that there are terrific military relations with China at the service level, and "we're trying to ratchet that up a notch or two."

"I'm one of those who believes that we can manage

1. Thucydides wrote, in his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, "What made war inevitable was the growth of Athenian power and the fear which this caused in Sparta."



DoD Photo/Cherie Cullen



DoD Photo/Tech. Sgt. Jacob Bailey, USAF

Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. James Cartwright (left) and current JCS Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey are trying to cool off the hotheads whose policies are stoking the flames of war.

this relationship in a way that brings greater stability, not greater instability,” he added.

On Russia, he noted that his Russian counterpart, Gen. Nikolai Makarov, is coming to Washington in July, and that “there are more things that we agree about than disagree,” though prominent among the disagreements is missile defense. “This is a conversation we need to have,” he said. “There are more opportunities in both relationships than there is liability,” although as great powers, they also both have to understand the more complex and competitive strategic environment of the coming period. “There are lots of opportunities for us to work together on things like international terrorism, transnational organized crime, border issues, piracy, and were doing a lot of that already.”

What Is AirSea Battle?

The debate on AirSea Battle reached a fever pitch during the week of the conference. Not only was there a panel discussion on it at the conference, featuring a retired Air Force general and a retired Navy admiral, but the chiefs of the Air Force and the Navy were defending it during a presentation at the Brookings Institution in Washington at virtually the same time. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert went to great lengths to try to explain what AirSea Battle is, and to deny that it is aimed at any particular potential adversary.

The AirLand Battle doctrine of the 1980s, in which the Army and the Air Force developed a battle plan against massed Soviet tank formations in Europe, has been cited as a precedent for AirSea Battle. But whereas AirLand Battle was incorporated into the Army’s FM 100-5 Operations manual, no intention to do anything similar with AirSea Battle has yet emerged.

What did emerge from Schwartz’s and Greenert’s discussion at Brookings was a mélange of ideas as

to how the Air Force and the Navy can do things differently, all justified by the “need” to maintain the U.S. military’s freedom of action anywhere around the globe. “It’s a mistake to apply it to any particular campaign,” Greenert said. “Access is an important strategic aim for the U.S.,” Schwartz added. “It’s what we’re responsible for.”

The assumption of the discussion around access, however, is that the U.S. military presence in the Pacific is largely responsible for the economic growth and stability in that region over the past few decades. Therefore, in order to maintain that stability, the United States has to develop countermeasures against actions taken by other powers to limit that U.S. freedom of action. In the Pacific, it is hard to see how the description of such countermeasures applies to any country other than China; but a look at the map of the western Pacific easily shows that China, with its heavily export-oriented economy, has a great deal to fear from a lack of access to the so-called “global commons.” The East and South China Seas, which are China’s access to the Pacific, are ringed by island chains from Japan to the Malay Peninsula, and some of the world’s famous “chokepoints” are among these islands. It is in the neighborhood of some of these chokepoints, such as Singapore and Darwin, Australia, that U.S. forces are being re-postured under Obama’s “Asia pivot” strategy.

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Russia Lays Out Plans for A Permanent Lunar Presence

by Marsha Freeman

May 26—Russia will be focusing its space exploration efforts toward a permanent presence on the Moon, Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) head Vladimir Popovkin stated on May 22, at the Global Space Exploration conference in Washington. This will not be a “replication” of the American Apollo program of the 1960s, or of the unmanned lunar exploration probes of the Soviet Union, but will entail “establishing laboratories on the surface of the Moon, which would be bases, of a certain kind, for doing lunar research.” The near-term Russian program will be vectored toward developing the human capacities and the technologies required to meet that goal.

The magnitude of this effort will require international cooperation, Popovkin said. “We understand that this kind of global research is possible only, of course, in the framework of international cooperation. And here we need to remember our cooperation on the International Space Station (ISS) project, which has displayed such enormous capabilities for international cooperation.”

Popovkin’s clear statement of purpose was in stark contrast to the presentations by other heads of space agencies at the conference. All lamented the impact on space exploration projects of the global financial crisis. In fact, Popovkin said that such financial limitations force you to determine your priorities.

The string of launch failures suffered by Roscosmos last year, capped by the embarrassing loss in Earth orbit of the Phobos-Grunt Mars mission in November, cata-

lyzed a reexamination of the state of Russia’s space industry and the goals of the program. Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin tasked the Russian Academy of Sciences with developing a long-range plan, to the year 2030. The draft plan, presented to the government in March, outlined a series of scientific probes to the inner and outer planets, and a modified exploration campaign to study the Moon, culminating in a manned presence.

On April 11, the head of the Academy’s Space Research Institute, Lev Zelyony, proposed that Russia’s Luna-Glob mission will practice soft landing techniques in 2015, and the Luna-Resurs orbital mission will include a rover supplied by India. By 2017, he proposed, a large unmanned research station could touch down on the Moon. The focus will be on the lunar poles, where there are caches of ice.

Also included in the Academy’s recommendations is a 2020 unmanned mission to the near-Earth asteroid Apophis, to study how much of a threat this body is to the Earth. A probe would place sensors on the small body to carefully monitor its irregular orbit, and help determine how close it will come to Earth.

Underscoring the need for such a Strategic Defense of Earth, as the Russians have called it, NASA on May 16 announced that the assessment of observations made by its Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) indicate that potentially hazardous asteroids, coming within 5 million miles of our planet and large enough to pass through the atmosphere, number about 4,700.



LPAC-TV

At the Global Space Exploration Conference, Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin (inset) laid out Russia's ambitious plans for space exploration, which, he emphasized, require international cooperation. His presentation was in stark contrast to the doom and gloom of other speakers.



NASA/Carla Cioffi

Laying the Foundation

"In our view, the continued exploitation of the ISS should have somewhat changed priorities, becoming a technological platform for the development of various technological operation for the exploration of other planets," Popovkin explained. The long, and sometimes bumpy, road of cooperation over the past 20 years, to build and operate the ISS, is, nonetheless, the precedent for how international partners will embark on deep space exploration, all of the heads of the space agencies agreed.

Alexey Krasnov, the head of manned space flight at Roscosmos, described the ISS as having "exceptional capacities." Although "we have been flying to the same destination for half a century [in Earth orbit], medical science is telling us we're not there yet" when it comes to deep space exploration. The ISS should be "utilized for exploration, and be technology-driven, to be able to implement missions beyond low Earth orbit."

In a discussion with *EIR*, Krasnov reported that to complete the Russian segment of the ISS, a multi-purpose research module will be launched to the station by the end of 2013. However, he added, "we are thinking about an additional capability, contingent upon the decision of the partners, to operate the space station further on, beyond 2020." This would be critical in order to continue the scientific research on the station, he explained, which is a prerequisite to lunar and Mars exploration.

A challenging proposal by Roscosmos is to build upon the research that has been done on the ground through their Mars 500 program, where a small "crew" of volunteers lives for about 500 days in a space-like closed environment. In addition to studying the sociological and psychological interactions of the relatively isolated ground "crew"—under conditions which simulate those on the space station—Krasnov stressed that new technologies for closed-cycle life-support systems, which should be "efficient and autonomous to the maximum [extent] possible," should be tested on the ISS. Closing the cycle means that consumable resources, such as water, are recycled, rather than being supplied from Earth, which capability is critical for deep space missions.

Roscosmos is also considering an experiment that

In parallel with the Russian lunar program, unmanned missions to Mars should become increasingly sophisticated, through international collaboration, the Academy proposes, starting with joint execution of the European ExoMars missions, to culminate in manned expeditions to the Red Planet. Popovkin reported that while Roscosmos has had a number of future programs under consideration, it has reached the conclusion that the Moon is the best target.

Every other space agency represented at the conference—Europe, Japan, India, Canada—agreed with the Russian perspective on lunar exploration—except the United States. NASA is suffering under the now three-year frontal assault on manned space exploration by the Obama Administration. Some astute observers noted that the Russian lunar development plan sounds a lot like the U.S. Constellation program, which Obama cancelled.

Although the much more difficult, and likely infeasible, manned mission to an asteroid in the 2020s has been put forward as the U.S. goal, it was evident from the conference presentations that saner heads at NASA continue work on lunar exploration missions, perhaps in the hope that political change will bring rationality back to space policy.

would simulate a mission to Mars. Half of the six-man crew “would be launched to orbit, perform their activities [in the microgravity of the ISS], similar to a gravity-free transit to Mars, then return to the Earth.” They would have a period of about a month or two, re-adjusting to Earth’s gravity, similar to what they would face when landing on the surface of Mars, “and then fly again” to orbit, as if they were taking off from Mars, to head back to Earth after their mission. Russia is also pursuing more advanced propulsion technologies, such as nuclear fission (see interview with Popovkin, below) to minimize the trip time and the time a crew spends in microgravity.

There was recognition by Popovkin at the conference that the “liberal” economic policies of the 1990s

that nearly totally destroyed the Russian economy, also nearly destroyed the Russian space program. And steps are being taken to rebuild.

On May 5, Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin announced that a new aerospace university would be created to produce a “broad range of specialists, for aviation, and also the rocket and space industries.” A new class of cosmonauts is being chosen for training. On Cosmonautics Day, April 12, in celebration of Yuri Gagarin’s first human space flight, then President-Elect Vladimir Putin announced that \$1 billion would be spent this year to build the new Cosmodrome Vostochny (“East”), with manned rocket launches to begin toward the end of this decade.

Europe/U.S. BMD: ‘The Worst of Both Worlds’

Every review carried out recently by respected and competent U.S. military, scientific, and strategic analysts of the Obama Administration’s Europe-based “Phased Adaptive Approach” (PAA) missile defense program has confirmed what critics have been warning for years: that it will not work, and that it will be a strategic threat to Russia.

The highly respected Defense Science Board completed a report during the second half of last year, concluding that critical technology problems and cost overruns make the goal of intercepting ballistic missiles early in flight unrealistic. The Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) office has never demonstrated that its sensor and radar systems can distinguish between decoys, missile parts, and real warheads, the report states. In wartime, if the system fired its limited number of interceptors at debris or decoys, when the real missiles hit, the result would be “dramatic and devastating.”

On April 20, the U.S. General Accountability Office, tasked by Congress to produce an annual evaluation of the BMD office’s progress, concluded that under the political pressure to deploy something quickly, the office is deploying systems before they are tested and ready. The manufacturing and production of interceptors already has had to be suspended, while failure review boards figure out why they don’t

work. The program is behind schedule, over budget, and flawed.

And on May 8, Associated Press obtained a letter concerning a nearly completed study of the PAA approach by the National Academy of Sciences, again pointing to the inability of the system to discriminate between warheads and decoys. The Academy recommends *entirely scrapping* Phase IV of the proposed system—which is based on interceptors at velocities that physicists have shown *could* threaten Russia’s ICBMs—because it won’t work.

The danger is that the proposed system will not protect the United States and its allies, while, at the same time, it poses a potential threat to Russia. Dr. Ted Postol from MIT pointed out on May 19, just before the NATO summit in Chicago, that the paradox of the situation “is that even when they don’t work, potential adversaries will treat them as if they do. Thus producing the worst of both worlds—no defense, but build-ups of offensive weapons to deal with those defenses.”

As if to underscore that point, less than a week later, Russia carried out a test of what *Russia Today* described as a “top secret advanced intercontinental ballistic missile. It is designed to counter the American anti-missile shield currently being deployed...” The missile uses a new, improved solid propellant, for a faster boost. This provides little time for it to be intercepted before it releases multiple warheads. Each warhead will have improved maneuvering and targeting capabilities, so rather than following a simple ballistic trajectory, it will be unpredictable.

—Marsha Freeman

In the United States: Privatization

And what is the U.S. doing, while Russia prepares to set up bases on the Moon? The biggest news from the U.S. at the Global Space Exploration conference was that, that morning, a private company, SpaceX, had successfully launched a rocket to low Earth orbit—50 years after it had been done by the Soviet Union and United States.

This privatized policy, which is supposed to lead to putting American astronauts in the hands of space amateurs, has been roundly and passionately denounced by former NASA managers, Apollo astronauts, and Congressional representatives. At the Global Space Exploration conference, former NASA Administrator Mike Griffin, who now heads the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics—a co-sponsor of the conference—took the point.

Delivering commercial cargo to the space station is not a space policy, Griffin stressed. Decade-long, strategic space enterprise will only be done “with government and societal commitment.” Asked what the “strategic enterprise” should be, Griffin responded, “personally, I think General Popovkin’s comments are on target.” We are going to make mistakes, Griffin said; better “to make them closer to home,” on the Moon. “No matter how attractive an asteroid mission would be,” the policy should be based on “engineering and operational reality, and common sense.”

The central purpose of the exploration program, Griffin stressed, is to “move human activity off the surface of the Earth. This is a human goal . . . not a Democratic or Republican goal, and it is not short term. It has to transcend leaders who are in charge of the enterprise for the moment.” Griffin made clear that getting this President out of the White House is a prerequisite to pursuing that goal.

U.S.-Russia Cooperation: The Elephant in the Room

Even were the United States to make a U-turn, and join the rest of the spacefaring nations of the world in a return to the Moon, the critical issue that is wrecking international cooperation between the planet’s two major space and strategic powers, lurked in the background at the conference: Will the U.S. continue to



NASA

The speakers at the Washington conference all stressed that the International Space Station is the model for future missions. In this Dec. 6, 2011 photo, Roscosmos head Vladimir Popovkin (center), and the head of manned space flight for Roscosmos, Alexei Krasnov (third from right), pose with the prime and back-up crews for the 30th expedition to the station. From the left are Don Petit (U.S.), André Kuipers (European Space Agency), Oleg Kononenko (Russia), Yuri Malenchenko (Russia), Suni Williams (NASA), and Aki Hoshide (Japan).

threaten Russia with its non-negotiable and unworkable European Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) or will it take up the Russian offer to jointly develop and deploy a Strategic Defense of Earth, against both extraterrestrial and terrestrial planetary threats? All nations’ space capabilities will be required for such a global project.

Before the NATO summit in Chicago last month, it was reported that NATO would declare that the first phase of the provocative missile defense system had reached operational “interim capability.” And although NATO presented a public united front supporting the program, there was not unanimity. On May 17, Wolfgang Ischinger, former German Ambassador to the U.S. and Britain, and since 2008, chairman of the Munich Security Conference, urged that the U.S. and NATO take “a brief pause.” The original agreement from Europe for the BMDS, he recalled, was a cooperative system with Russia. Until that aspect is settled, the program should be put on hold.

As if to underscore how insane the British/Obama policy can be, the following day the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Department of Defense spending bill, which includes \$100 million for a missile interceptor site on the East Coast, with a system in place by 2016. Military leaders quickly pushed back: “Today’s threats do not require an East Coast” site, countered the

North American Aerospace Defense Command leadership. We don't need it, added the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

From the start, with documentation provided by both Russian and American physicists and strategic analysts, the Russian leadership has insisted that the European-based BMDS threatens Russian strategic capabilities. Obama Administration representatives have bent over backwards to repeatedly insist that this is not so—that the system will protect the U.S. and its allies from Iranian and North Korean attack, and could not possibly be used against Russia.

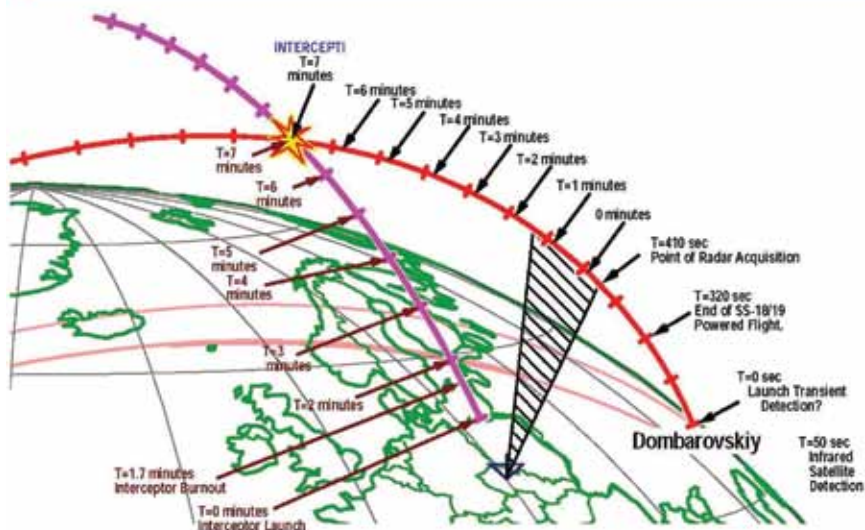
In an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* on May 14, Sen. John Kyl (R-Ariz.) let the cat out of the bag. Arguing against providing Moscow the written guarantee it has insisted upon, that the BMDS are not aimed at Russia, Kyl asks: Why “must the United States and NATO justify missile-defense deployments that pose no offensive threat and are intended chiefly against Iran but—depending on future development—might be effective against Russian missiles as well?” (emphasis added). Considering that the Russian response to this provocation is to prepare itself for such a possibility, Senator Kyl and his ilk are skating toward the brink of nuclear war.

A Step Back from the Brink

In an article on May 11 in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, titled “Dream Deterred,” Kennette Benedict reviews the issues on the agenda for what was then the upcoming NATO summit. “Just to be perfectly clear,” she writes: NATO is trying to cram down the throats of the Russians an imaginary ballistic missile system that, if it worked—which it doesn't—could be used against Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles. Since NATO is treating the system as if it were a reality, Russia must as well....”

But, Benedict reports, informal discussions have been taking place among engineers and missile defense experts from the United States and Russia, the first held last year between Stanford University's Center for In-

Engagement Event Timeline for Engagement of SS-18/19 from Dombarovskiy with 2-Stage Missile Defense Interceptor



Courtesy of Dr. Theodore Postol

MIT physicist Ted Postol, in a presentation on Capitol Hill in September 2007, demonstrated how the U.S.-designed Ballistic Missile Defense System could intercept Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles. Yet the Obama Administration continues to falsely insist that the system is not aimed at Russia.

ternational Security and Cooperation and the Russian Academy of Sciences' Committee of Sciences for Global Security.

In September 2011, a joint statement was issued setting out four principles for cooperation. These include the need for NATO to take account of the possible impact of missile deployments on Russia, and that cooperation should be founded on transparency and openness. A meeting this past March led to a proposal for American and Russian missile experts to collaborate on research and development that would replace the current, unworkable, phased adaptive approach.

In fact, in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense on April 18, Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, who directs the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense Agency, outlined specific areas, such as sensors and radar systems, where the U.S. would benefit from cooperation with Russia.

The Russian proposal for a Strategic Defense of Earth, to prepare to counter the global threats that face mankind, from wayward asteroids, to missile launches, to extreme Earth and space weather, is on the table, as Lyndon LaRouche has emphasized.

The question is whether we will be on the road to war or on the way to the stars.

Space Exploration and Physics Breakthroughs

Benjamin Deniston and Peter Martinson of La-RouchePAC TV interviewed Gen. Vladimir Popovkin (ret.), head of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) on May 22, 2012 at the Global Space Exploration conference in Washington, D.C. General Popovkin's remarks were translated from Russian by EIR.

Deniston: In late April, RIA Novosti reported that the deputy head of Roscosmos had spoken of a proposal to create a new Russian federal program to deal with the threats of potentially hazardous asteroids and comets. Could you speak to that proposal? It was also that the Russian Academy of Sciences would help coordinate that effort. What's the status of the current discussion?

Popovkin: There are such plans, that is true. But at this time we are not so much preparing to combat the threats; rather, at this stage, we want to evaluate these threats and establish a system of monitoring objects in space. We are drawing not only on the resources which Roscosmos itself is developing today, but also those of the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Academy of Sciences. And the purpose is precisely to begin to monitor outer space, and space objects.

Such a monitoring system will then enable us, to the extent possible, to combat, or counteract, some threats from space. But first we need to collect the statistics and make an assessment of the objective situation. Does something present a threat to us? If it does threaten us, then how great is the threat? If there is some degree of a threat, then when and with what probability? And after that, a decision can be made. This is what my deputy, Mr. Davydov, was talking about, and this is what has been supported by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Deniston: Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin has also spoken about the idea of cooperation with the United States

on this issue. If we had the optimal level of international cooperation, the optimal level of interaction between the United States and Russia, what would you like to see in terms of cooperation to address this?

Popovkin: When Dmitri Olegovich Rogozin spoke about this, he said that cooperation in this area would be a lot more useful and effective than building the European Ballistic Missile Defense System, the intended purpose of which Russia still doesn't accept, particularly when it comes to the deployment of surveillance and strike systems. And precisely from this standpoint, if this can be organized, it would be much more effective and better to do it. To speak more specifically, what was proposed was to involve all the available optics—regardless of where they are located or what agency they belong to—that are being used to study and investigate space, and have them operate under some kind of single plan or concept, in order to achieve the best possible monitoring of all objects in space.

Deniston: Mankind has not set foot on another planetary body since the early 1970s. Earlier you spoke to Russia's vision to change that, to get mankind to the Moon. I'm hoping you can speak to that further and lay out what Russia's perspective is for returning mankind to the Moon.

Popovkin: Well, human feet have already taken steps on the Moon, and there is no point in just repeating what was done 40 years ago. Therefore I was talking about something a bit different. I said that human knowledge about the Moon today is considerably greater than 40 years ago. The possibilities for lunar research are now



LPAC-TV

LPAC's Ben Deniston interviews Roscosmos Director Gen. Vladimir Popovkin (right) at the Global Space Exploration Conference on May 22, 2012.

completely different, using the technologies produced through scientific and technological progress during those 40 years. And the first area, as I already mentioned, is research on the Moon itself, and on what there is on the Moon: including the areas where water has been detected, in the south and north polar regions of the Moon.

Secondly, if we take into account the particular features of the Moon, first and foremost the fact that it does not have an atmosphere, the Moon could become an ideal platform on which to position various telescopes, both optical and radio telescopes, for astronomical research, research on distant stars. What the participation of people looks like will be determined by whether we can now design such technologies to be completely automated, or if they will need to be serviced by human beings. Whether or not man needs to walk on the Moon or not will depend on that. That's what I was trying to say in my speech.

Deniston: Certain visionaries, such as the German space pioneer Krafft Ehrlicke or the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, have spoken of the colonization of space as a new era for the human species, one in which mankind can move beyond certain kinds of imperial conflict over resources, over military competition. So if we were to acquire the optimal level of international collaboration to actually commit to this mission for mankind, what do you see as the possibility for mankind's future as a truly space-faring species?

[Question as misinterpreted to General Popovkin by the simultaneous interpreter: There a lot of various specialists, people who at various times have stated the idea that sooner or later mankind will have to abandon the Earth, and relocate to some other planets because of scarcities of natural resources, food, water, energy sources. Some have gone even further, and described phantasmagorical pictures of showdowns, military conflicts, the mutual annihilation of people, and so forth. And that the only way out of that situation, in the opinion of a number of people—and the question included specific names—would be to leave this planet and relocate the entirety of mankind to some other platforms in space. What do you think about that?]

Popovkin: I think that for my lifetime and maybe 50 generations into the future, the Earth will suffice! As for various possible directions things might take, let the science fiction writers talk about that, and the unscientific fiction writers, too. Our goal today is to obtain as objective a picture as possible of our galaxy, or, say,

neighboring galaxies, so that our descendants, in some hundreds of generations, will be able to make objective and correct decisions, if necessity arises, in the event of some cataclysms occurring on our planet.

But it is premature to talk about Noah's Ark yet.

Martinson: In the United States we had a program called NERVA, which was a nuclear thermal rocket program back in the 1970s. Are there any programs being carried out now in Russia for specifically using nuclear reactors to propel thrust, for fission, nuclear fusion rocket propulsion, or even matter/anti-matter rockets?

[The interpreter omitted the aspect of matter/anti-matter propulsion.]

Popovkin: Yes, we are moving into work on a gigawatt-class nuclear-powered engine. And the development of such an engine is dictated by the requirements of exploring the remote planets. It's too early to report on any results. But it is my deep conviction that if we want to explore deep space, then, first of all, theoretical physics needs to advance quite a bit, because based on the laws of motion we know today, and of course the power units we have now, we won't get very far.

And if you can understand such things as the physics of black holes, or the compression of stars, or movement through worm holes—there are a great many of these theoretical things that theoretical physics today is investigating—I think that there ought to be some discoveries there which will allow us to travel based on completely different principles. These are all still profoundly theoretical matters, but at some point there should be demand for them.

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Russians Conduct Inspired Discussions of Space Exploration

by Rachel Douglas

May 26—Coincident with Vladimir Putin's return to the Russian Presidency and the naming of a new government, there is currently a high density of public discussion in Russia about the future of the real economy, the possibility of reviving science, and the space program, in particular. These discussions, on TV and elsewhere, have involved government officials, as well as some members of the self-identified "patriotic opposition."

The latter have expressed some optimism about the continuation of Dmitri Rogozin, who called for the Strategic Defense of Earth effort, as Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Russian defense sector, as well as appointments such as defense industry specialist Denis Manturov to the position of minister of industry and Putin's naming of a tank factory shop steward as his Presidential Envoy to the Urals Federal District. Their enthusiasm is tempered by dismay at the naming of hardcore neoliberal monetarist Arkadi Dvorkovich as Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy as a whole, including the energy sector.

Thus it is fitting that the most dramatic televised Russian discussions of space policy have also featured strong attacks against monetarism—on Channel One Russia national television, no less.

One of the *de facto* keynotes of the latest public discussions on space was the April 13 interview with Lyndon LaRouche, published on the Terra America website, on the subject of the Strategic Defense of Earth, and mankind's mastery of the Solar System and the Cosmos. (See *EIR*, April 20, 2012.)

On May 22 the Den web TV channel, which is associated with the weekly *Zavtra*, carried a discussion titled "Space Exploration Against the New Barbarism." The participants were anti-free trade economist Mikhail Delyagin, journalist Maxim Kalashnikov, and historian Andrei Fursov—all of them regular *Zavtra* contributors and "patriotic opposition" figures. Fursov also partici-



Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin (1934-68), the first human being in space. His pioneering flight on April 12, 1961 inspired a generation.

pated in the Terra America series on LaRouche, giving an interview on the accuracy of LaRouche's analysis of the British Empire in history and today. Reflecting such discussions, Kalashnikov also recently conducted a web TV discussion with Yuri Krupnov, head of the Development Movement, on prospects for Russia's proposed new Far East Development Corporation: would it become "a new Tennessee Valley Authority" on a vast scale, or get hijacked as "a new British East India Company" to loot Siberia for the benefit of oligarchical interests?

The Den TV roundtable on space exploration vs. a New Dark Age was held on the premises of the giant rocket manufacturer, Energomash, whose executives took part in the discussion. Opening the dialogue, Fursov noted that only on two occasions in the 20th Century did Muscovites spontaneously pour into Red Square: on May 9, 1945, Victory Day over the Nazis, and on April 12, 1961, when Yuri Gagarin made mankind's first space flight. Fursov (born in 1951) recalled that as a 10-year-old he had read in *Tekhnika molodyozhi* (*Technology for Youth*) magazine an outline of future space plans: reaching the Moon by 1971, Mars by 1991,

and by around 2020 we were supposed to be setting out for the more remote planets. What happened, he said, was that a paradigm shift occurred in the 1970s: the victory of neoliberalism, first in the West, and then, after 1991, in Russia. This is what bogged down the space program.

Kalashnikov, according to a summary published in *Zavtra*, went on to call for “Russian space exploration to become the assembly point for a new future for Earth, a powerful magnet for geniuses and breakthrough technologies on a planetary scale.”

Den TV is an online venue, but on May 15, equally inspired ideas were voiced on the popular “Citizen Gordon” talk show on Russia’s biggest nationwide TV station, [Channel One Russia](#). This round table took up the topic “Does Russia Need a Space Program?” Against the backdrop of host Alexander Gordon’s “devil’s advocate” protests that “it costs too much,” serious advocacy for expanded efforts in space came from current and past leaders of Russia’s space program, as well as other experts and activists in the field. The excerpts provided below as documentation of these lively Russian discussions about the future of mankind have been translated by *EIR* from the Russian transcript.

Documentation

Does Russia Need A Space Program?

Alexander Gordon (host): Russian efforts in space are directly connected with the concept of Russian Cosmism; there was a kind of pragmatic-romantic fusion. We may recall that the founder of Russian space exploration, Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovsky, was a committed and principled follower of the great [Nikolai] Fyodorov. And



Channel One Russia
“Citizen Gordon” talk show
host Alexander Gordon

he believed that space flights had one purpose. On the day when, in the view of the philosopher Fyodorov, the dead will rise again, they will rise not metaphysically, but in the flesh. And these bodies, appearing all of a sudden on Mother Earth, will need to be accommodated somewhere. In order to have somewhere to put these bodies, Konstantin Eduardovich proposed to colonize other planets....

So, does a country that has an estimated 40 to 60 million wooden outhouses need a space program we can be proud of, or not? Is this where we should be investing huge amounts of government funds, i.e., your money? Or, is it time to revise the paradigm?...

The latest sociological survey shows that 81% of the population of Russia can’t name a single current cosmonaut.... In the 21st Century, in today’s Russia, in a rapidly changing world—how do we view space exploration?

Gen. Vladimir Popovkin, head of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos): Mankind will always be posing the question of where life on Earth came from, what awaits us and our posterity in the future, and how the Earth will develop. Where will an end come to this life on Earth? Or, will it go on forever? For that to happen, we need to master other planets, see how life arose there, and look for what is in common with Earth. Ultimately, life on Earth is not eternal, and at some point mankind will be forced to think about where to go, if we leave Earth, or how to save the Earth. To do this, we have to look at what cataclysms have occurred in cosmic space in the history of the development of the Universe. We need to know this.

Gordon: ... We have lost the habit of asking “Why?” we do things.... If only some smart people would think up a specific threat, and say: “Why, guys? What do you mean? In 274 years an asteroid is guaranteed to destroy Earth. So let’s have a full mobilization.” They can even just make it up, but then any person looking up at the sky would be able to say, “Our guys are working on it. They’re going to save us. We know what the purpose is. We, the Earthlings, will save ourselves by the power of our minds and technologies.”

Fifteen years ago I visited the Lavochnik Science and Production Center. The people I knew there said, “We have a delivery system. We need an idea.” Literally, I’m telling you: we have a rocket, but no idea....

Popovkin: First of all, there are ideas and there have been ideas. The problem is that for the past fifteen years there has been no money for acting on these ideas.

That was the problem even with Phobos: that was an idea born in the last century. But for fifteen years it was not implemented. And the same thing at the Lavochkin Center, which you mentioned. If you go there today, the people who were there at that time aren't there any more. Do you see? A new generation has come, and it has to start over, largely from scratch, and learn the practice of scientific research in space, and conquering other planets. That's why...

Yuri Koptev, former director of Rosaviacosmos (the former name of Roscosmos), chairman of the scientific and technical board of the state corporation Rostekhnologii:

We keep avoiding the applied side of the space program. But this has become the basis for much in our life, civilization, and conditions of existence. There are 1,100 satellites in orbit, from different countries, today. They are performing a huge number of tasks, which we are quite far from achieving; so, should we stop working on these things?



Channel One Russia

Yuri N. Koptev, former general director of Roscosmos, is credited with saving the space program after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Terraforming Mars

Gordon: No, but you haven't mentioned a single program that would awaken in my soul, and the soul of the Russian population, the least desire to help you in whatever way we can. That would make us go collect a kopeck from everybody, you know? And say: "Go ahead, guys, just get flying!" "Where to?" There's no answer.

Yuri Krupnov,¹ chairman of the supervisory board of the Institute of Demography, Migration, and Regional Development, founder of the Development Movement: The first thing is the colonization of

Mars. Not just flying to Mars, but colonization. This is the program—and it is not just a Russian program, or just from the Russian budget—that could get space exploration moving all over the world, since it has stalled out everywhere.

Gordon: Why be so modest? Why just colonization of Mars and not, say, terra-ization? Couldn't it be turned into a new Earth?

Krupnov: Colonization based on the principle of terraforming, Alexander. There is such a term: "terraforming," which means transforming Mars into a likeness of the Earth. This is a key program. And it should take a thousand years.

Gordon: The question of space definitely addles your brain! A thousand years?

Krupnov: Yes. But it has to be started today. Until there are programs like that, as well as programs on a slightly lesser scale, slightly more modest, space programs will have no prospects, neither in Russia or in the rest of the world.

Gordon: So you see a missionary aspect to space research?

Krupnov: Absolutely. And it is an absolutely false construct, to counterpose what we do on Earth and what we do in space. It's a false dichotomy.

Gordon: Wait a moment, you know what's false? When you have some guy, paying for this out of his pocket. Here in the audience you have ladies and gentlemen, who are playing for the space program. They won't be around in a thousand years.

Krupnov: That's a false question, because the money comes from the mission-related efforts. First, the mission activity; then some experimental programs; and then the technologies and money follow. Communications satellites would never have appeared, if [rocket designer Sergei] Korolyov and Gagarin had not existed.

Gordon: The space technology breakthrough in the Soviet Union was based on the fact, besides Tsiolkovsky's romanticism and religious beliefs, that the Soviet Union had a certain mission in the world, opposite to the mission of the U.S.A. And the space program



Courtesy of Yuri Krupnov

Yuri Krupnov, founder of the Development Movement and an impassioned advocate of space colonization

1. Yuri Krupnov's paper on the potential for a space industry development corridor around Russia's Far East cosmodrome was presented at the September 2007 Kiedrich Conference of the Schiller Institute. It was published in *EIR* of Sept. 28, 2007. The perspective has been only partially implemented in connection with plans for the new Cosmodrome Vostochny in the Amur Region.

arose and succeeded strictly because of the arms race....

Krupnov: That's important, but it's not the main thing. Alexander, if Sergei Pavlovich Korolyov in 1931 had not come to work and announced, "Tomorrow we're going to fly to Mars, we are creating a Mars program," there would have been no 1961.

Gordon: If there had been no [Russian Revolution in] 1917, there would have been no Korolyov to go to work and say, "Tomorrow we're going to fly to Mars." And there would have been no money to give Korolyov, to —

Krupnov: Money is not the point of departure.

Gordon: You're right, the point of departure is an idea, a vision, a charge of energy. And where is that today? I'll say it again: ... In a country where capitalism has triumphed, and which has not gotten out of a way of life with wooden outhouses, which a person has to visit two or three times a day when he's out in the countryside, or if he simply lives there. And you are proposing to this people, which right now is putting all its energy into trying to survive, that they should finally obtain an idea in the form of a space idea—to conquer Mars in a thousand years.

Krupnov: It's a false dichotomy. This people will not replace its outhouses, without taking up some real, strategic programs.

The Asteroid Apophis

Gordon: I hear you. [He then turns to Savinykh.] So today you have all the money you need in the world, and any technology you need, and any manpower. Where do you go?

Victor Savinykh, cosmonaut, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, President of MIIGAiK [the Moscow Engineering Institute for Geodesy, Aerophotography, and Cartography]: Apophis. It's doing a fly-by. It will be around the geostationary orbits. In 2036 all the astronomers think a collision is inevitable [sic]. There's a program. This program is being considered now. And this issue is being worked on.

Gordon: Now you're talking apocalypse, so this



Cosmonaut Victor Savinykh flew on three spaceflights in 1981, 1985, and 1988.

gets interesting. What is it that's going to hit us in 2036?

Savinykh: Apophis, it's an asteroid. Astronomers discovered it a while ago.

Gordon: I'm a fifth-grader, talk to me. A big meteorite, an asteroid.

Savinykh: A big meteorite, yes. 300 meters in diameter.

Gordon: 300 meters, that means comparable with the one that fell in the Yucatan, when the dinosaurs died out, right?

Savinykh: Yes.

Krupnov: Worse.

Gordon: Worse. And what are we going to do about it?

Savinykh: In 2028 it will fly by, and we can calculate its orbit with precision. Then we take our satellite—

Gordon: And we can deal with it in the space of eight years?

Savinykh: We can. Because the Japanese already have some experience.

Popovkin: No, in 2028, when it does the fly-by, we need to land a sensor on it, which will tell us where it is headed, and where it is flying at any given moment, so we can monitor it.

Gordon: Why didn't you start with that? This gets interesting. Do you see what I mean? You have just stated that you have a mission: to save the Earth.

Savinykh: Yes, yes. That is the mission.

Gordon: ...The Americans showed that psychology works the same in space, as on Earth.... Look at Apollo-13.... I'm not saying that there wasn't an accident, ... but to make that accident into a motivation for continued funding was something they could only do back then. Why? Because interest is declining.

Savinykh: Excuse me, but that's our media. You mentioned Apollo-13. I took part in the flight to the Salyut-7 space station, which our country was going to lose. And after Janibekov and I flew there, and after we repaired it — only then, a month later, were people told what had really happened. Why didn't we generate interest from that? And today, too, we're continuing to impede our own progress....

Gordon: Today I heard from you for the first time about this asteroid that threatens to wipe out all life in

2036. And you have some kind of plan to save the Earth, squirrelled away somewhere; you're hanging on to it so the bastards won't get their hands on it. And after that, you want the media to help you out? ... You guys have no drive! Why don't you take this to, I don't know, the President or, God forbid, the prime minister, and say: "Listen up! We are a mighty and flourishing nation with a thousand-year history. We had people like Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and others. But, despite that, we're goners. As of 2036. And nobody except for Roscosmos can do anything about it!" What is this about 3 billion? Or 5 billion? What are you talking about. Every day people would tune in and look: where is it now, that asteroid? Did they reach it? Get going! What are they doing there? Why aren't they working on it? Did they take a smoking break? Come on, save us!"

Savinykh: The Association of Veterans of Space Flights, we have a forum every year. For ten years we've been telling everybody about this idea. It was reported to the UN, and everywhere else. ...

Oleg Dobrocheyev, director of the Forecasting Center of the Institute of Economic Strategies: May I say something about 2036? It's a rare event, of course, for such a large body to fly by, but it happens periodically in the history of the Earth. There are specialists in paleontology who study the climate changes that have occurred on Earth. And Roscosmos may not be familiar with these details, but around the 2030s it's actually forecast that cooling will occur, possibly (I don't know) from a meteorite strike and a decline of the solar albedo. It is forecast for this period of time. And they're talking about estimated global cooling by several degrees for the Earth. ... Because many cosmic processes are amazingly harmonic.

Popovkin: What you're saying is quite right. There's a meteorological institute that says that the temperature will constantly rise, as a result of various effects.

Dobrocheyev: Fortunately we have more than one meteorological institute.

Popovkin: There is the Solar Institute, which says that the Sun is cooling, so therefore the Earth's temperature will decline. So here we have a need for scientific research in space. In order to test all these hypotheses that the scientists are coming up with.

Gordon: This is not what I mean. We started at the highest level, and now we're having a debate down in the caves. Look, space exploration began in the soul, the minds of men, as an desire to break through the boundaries of that microcosm we inhabit, because of its

imperfection and finite character, right? In other words, there was a vision, an idea: to go somewhere, *per aspera ad astra*,² the striving for eternal life. But life on Earth has been so ordered, that that aspiration has disappeared. It has vanished from cosmonautics.

Krupnov: No, wait a minute. Who says it has?

Gordon: There's no competition.

Savinykh: The implication of your words is that we have become degraded, as mankind.

Gordon: So, maybe there's a paradigm shift? Maybe the place where we were going to find refuge turns out to represent a mortal danger to us, and we need to save ourselves from it? I keep thinking about how to give an impulse to that impassioned space exploration, which we had. Mars? You won't get anybody to fly to Mars. We don't even have people who want to go to Siberia, and you want to go to Mars.

Krupnov: Alexander, first of all, tremendous thanks, because you really have posed the key question. Nobody has an answer to the question "Why?"—an answer that is clear for themselves and also to millions of people. Not the Americans, not the Russians, not the professionals or the non-professionals. ... But! We have a unique situation, because, as Yuri Nikolayevich [Koptev] already said—and he is the man who saved the space program and assured continuity with what we had in the Soviet period (as much as it was possible to do that, in those years, with that level of financing)—

Gordon: That is indisputable.

Krupnov: Vladimir Alexandrovich [Popovkin] is just starting now. So I am certain that programs will emerge, in the near future; the kind of program that will be clear for everybody. But, on the colonization of Mars, what you say is not right. Because precisely this, is the question of saving humanity. Why? Yes, let's take a thousand-year period, with terraforming. But we can't even study climatic and atmospheric processes on Earth, from Earth. ... All these problems: climate change, the environment, systemic equilibrium or disequilibrium, warming, cooling, where it's going in a million years—we are absolute ignoramuses on all these things. In colonizing Mars, besides continuing manned space flight, we can approach two things. First, to experiment on a completely different planet. It's a completely different plaything, but not as dangerous from the standpoint that—

Gordon: You mean we've almost killed this one, so let's go after another? OK.

2. Lat. "Through adversity to the stars."

Krupnov: No, the problem is not that we have destroyed this planet, but that we can't experiment with setting it up in some different way. And the second thing is that space flight, the Cosmos, order, and beauty are a question of humanity's common life together. One way or another, in the years immediately ahead we shall reach the point where communities begin to carry out colonization. Communities. Our Soviet Russian Salyut-Mir space station was the first entry into a new phase of space flight. ... We will go there, we will colonize space, there's no way around it. But the question is what we do right now.

Gordon: I'll tell you why we won't. Because in 2036 it's game over for us.

Not a Question of Money

Krupnov: We'll do it, we will. ... In two years, you will be discussing the colonization of Mars on this program.

Anastasia Gacheva, philosopher (from the audience): I would like to say, first of all, that of course the Cosmos and space programs are not an area for rivalry. And when we talk about who will be first, that's the wrong way to pose the question. Space is a zone of cooperation.

Gordon: Space programs emerged as a zone of rivalry.

Gacheva: In reality, no. The Cosmos arose in the minds of people, of our philosophers, writers, poets, and people who worked on cosmonautics as a zone of breakthroughs and cooperation, as a zone of humanity's moving upward and forward. And man's first extraordinary capability, which distinguished him from a monkey, was when he stood up. That was an attempt to counteract natural necessity, so to speak, to resist gravity, which holds all living things to the Earth. Man stood up, and it was as if he raised himself into a prayerful vertical stance, turning his eyes to the heavens, to the Universe, and to God. ...

And civilization was born from that impulse. Now that mankind has gone into space, that is, if you will, a kind of new turn of the evolutionary spiral, which poses new tasks that we simply cannot evade. So what you're saying here about outhouses vs. a space program, excuse me—I see here two fundamental choices: to choose comfort, consumption, and pleasure, or to choose responsibility. The space program was born as a zone of responsibility, including, by the way, responsibility for Earth. Actually, the cosmists never talked about needing

to save ourselves somewhere or other. The Earth is a part of the Cosmos, and man is a cosmic being, if you will. Just as he is a religious being, who cannot exist without religion, without that which elevates him. Dostoevsky said that "Man is not simply a terrestrial creature, but is connected with other worlds and with eternity." And there is a summons from eternity, a call from the Universe, in which man and mankind

may be unique and unreplicable. And therefore we bear enormous responsibility. Why did life emerge exactly here, on this little planet Earth?

Gordon: Tell me, please, will 5 billion a year be enough for answering that summons?

Gacheva: I think that it is not a question of money. It is a question of action. And, by the way, a question of unifying ourselves. Excuse me, but GIRD [Korolyov's Group for the Study of Jet Propulsion] was called a "group of researchers, working without pay." And you had [Fridrikh] Tsander, who didn't leave the place even at night. Once Korolyov arrived in the morning and saw him sitting and typing on a typewriter. He came, and he said, "Onward to Mars!" These people were not thinking about how many millions they needed. Do you understand? And indeed, any genuine undertaking, any genuine discovery generally has nothing to do with the commercial side. Great strategic projects are projects that really are moved by dreams and enthusiasm.

Gordon: Thank you very much. You see what a great mass of emotion and passion is behind those words? Do you have it? I would not like for our officials—

Popovkin: I'll answer that question, if I may. It's easy to talk, when you are not responsible for this area of work. In general, I very much support, and from the standpoint of the content of what you said, I fully share that. But there's another side. There are the realities in which we live, and the condition of the [space] sector today. And of course we can talk about flying to Mars and we can talk about studying other universes. But



Channel One Russia

Philosopher Anastasia Gacheva spoke from the audience on the crucial importance of the space program.

today our space sector has one very real objective. It is in crisis, and we have to lift it out of crisis....

Gordon: We don't have very many space specialists, do we? Despite how advanced we are. There are almost none in the government; maybe none at all. You are preparing a Roscosmos development program. And let's say you bring it to an aide to the prime minister, or to the prime minister himself.

Koptev: No, there are many more filters; it's a long way before you get to the prime minister.

Gordon: Right. And these people who don't know beans about it start sequestering [the funds for] one thing, then two, then a third, a fifth, and a tenth.... It reaches the prime minister in a condition where—and then he probably makes his own amendments.

The Need for Vision

Popovkin: Not exactly. In the 11 months that I've been heading up Roscosmos, there has been support from the prime minister [i.e., from Putin]. When we were getting approval for the GLONASS³ program up to 2020 and when we were getting approval for the Vostochny program, his first question was, "They didn't cut anything on you, did they?" Officials from the other ministries tried not to make cuts....

Gordon: ...Still, the first thing is that the vision of space exploration has faded, and likely will never come back, for the masses. The worst thing is that there is no vision, and no dreamers, in the masses. Would Koryolov have said that he was being held back by some limitations? Would Tsiolkovsky have complained that he wasn't being paid enough? He published his books with his own money (the ones later used to stoke stoves in Kaluga).

Popovkin: You say, and everybody says "There is no vision"—but, there is. Look at the Spectre-R, launched last year, which has greater capabilities than the Hubble. It enables us to peer into cosmic "worm holes," where a quasar disappears, and then for some reason shows up somewhere else. We can study what dark matter is, and what bursts of energy are. And all the concepts, concerning which our current science is really limited.

Gordon: I understand that space exploration is needed for our fundamental science, cosmology, and astronomy, even on the pitiful, albeit advanced, as you said, scale of today. I have great confidence in the abil-

ities of our scientists, who had it just as hard in the 1990s as Roscosmos did, barely surviving by a miracle and continuing to exist.... But what I'm talking about is something different. We're talking about space today because on this TV program we always come back to the same thing. Somebody has let the air out of our lives. Today our life is nothing like the life my generation [b. 1964] grew up with and remembers. This is a fundamentally, qualitatively different life. Who is to blame? What should we do about it? How can we live without this? I don't know. And if, by this time, neither art, film, literature, or the space program will save us; if no politician will answer the question of what country we are living in and where we are going; then we need to seek an answer ourselves. And if what it takes to save our state (I mean the state within us), the country we live in, the land we want to live in, requires that the asteroid come four years sooner, I'll do what I can for that. On condition that you promise to destroy it, whack it away, so that Earth will—

Savinykh: Better make it four years later. Then we can promise for sure.

A Strategic Defense of Humanity



Were the United States to eject Obama, and reciprocate Russia's offer for an SDE (Strategic Defense of Earth), we would not only avert the danger of thermonuclear war in the short term, but we would eliminate the reason for humanity to ever go to war again. Peace, is not the negation of conflict; it's an active commitment among all peoples to "the common aims of mankind."

An LPAC video presented by Natalie Lovegren (12 minutes).

<http://www.larouchepac.com/node/20616>

3. GLONASS is the Russian satellite navigation system.

Kesha Wins Again!

When LaRouche Democrat Kesha Rogers won the Democratic primary election in the 22nd Congressional District of Texas in 2010, on a platform of impeaching Barack Obama and reviving the NASA space program, Democratic Party officialdom—from the White House on down—underwent a slow burn. They were determined that the national leadership shown by Rogers would never be permitted to win such a victory again.

Thus, in the course of the 2012 primary elections, when Rogers ran again as part of the LaRouche National Slate, the *entire* focus of the dwindling number of Democratic Party officials still loyal to Obama was to “Stop Kesha.” The local party leadership even admitted that their alternate candidate would not, and could not, beat the incumbent Republican, but that Rogers had to be defeated at all cost. With such antics, they did succeed in suppressing the vote in the May 29 Democratic primary to abysmal levels—but *Kesha won again*.

Whatever the ultimate electoral outcome of this victory, the shockwaves are going to be felt internationally. And if Americans and their compatriots around the world take the lesson of Rogers’ courageous leadership, they will seize the opportunity to forge a positive future for humanity.

The day after Rogers won in 2010, the London *Economist*, voice of the Empire, took notice of her declared war against London, in a sarcastic item titled “America on verge of war with British empire.” But clearly, the message had gotten across that there was a mood among the American people which made it responsive to LaRouche’s leadership—and that was reason for alarm. Similar alarm obviously spread through the London-aligned U.S. establishment, which has done its best to bully any

opposition to Obama that might have been encouraged by Rogers’ win.

It will be more difficult now. Two years later, the American population is increasingly disgusted by this President, as well as his anointed opponent, and is running away from politics as rapidly as possible. Rogers’ victory, as part of the LaRouche National Slate which is pursuing a unified campaign for Glass-Steagall, a national credit system, NAWAPA XXI, and ousting Obama, will potentially moralize them into action.

Get the lesson clearly: Rogers did not campaign on local issues or play on local prejudices. Her focus was to present a program of national leadership, a veritable Presidential platform, which would address the needs of the nation as a whole. She and her small campaign organization hit the street corners, and went house to house, to give out a message of hope and challenge for a *national* solution, if citizens would only take up their identity as patriotic fighters for the nation.

For lawful reasons, the people in Rogers’ district are among the most demoralized in the nation. Not only have they lived under the Bushes and their like for years, but the corruption that goes with a loser mentality has dominated the Democrats. It was clear throughout this campaign that many “regular” Democrats admired Kesha’s courage and her vision, but were intimidated into keeping silent. Yet, a sufficient number came forward on election day to give her a narrow, but decisive win.

Rogers, in her preliminary statement, pledged her continued commitment to fight for the Slate’s national program, which must be implemented long before the November election. Her leadership is proven. The question is whether enough citizens will join her to make that program a reality.

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