

War Provocations in Southwest, East Asia

Dec. 30—In addition to the potentially direct confrontation between NATO and Russia in the European theater—currently threatened with the Ukraine crisis—the British imperial forces continue to stoke the potential for conflict in both Southwest Asia, particularly around Iran, and in the Far East, around China. To that must be added irregular warfare through terrorism against Russia and China, as the last two days' developments emphasize. We summarize the status of these situations here:

Iran

Despite the agreements reached by Iran and the P5+1 (UN permanent five Security Council members plus Germany) on the Iranian nuclear program, which provided for six months of Iranian concessions in exchange for very limited sanction relief, and a pattern of broad support for this process—even officially from Saudi Arabia—there is by no means a clear path to implementation of the deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies are the loudest mouths against the agreement, but the most immediate threat to its implementation comes from a grouping of U.S. Senators, both Democratic and Republican, who have sponsored legislation that calls for imposing more sanctions should Iran violate the interim agreement or fail to reach a final agreement within six months. The so-called Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013, introduced on Dec. 19, 2013, is sponsored by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), along with 23 other Senators. It also demands additional reductions in purchases of Iranian petroleum and creates more penalties for sec-

tors of the Iranian economy, including engineering, mining, and construction.

Notable is the split within the Democratic Party. While Menendez and Schumer are threatening the deal, ten other Senators, the Democratic Committee chairman, and of course Secretary of State John Kerry, are campaigning against the introduction of such a bill. It has been made clear by Iranian government spokesmen, as well knowledgeable foreign policy experts in the United States, that the passage of such sanctions—even if “delayed” in implementation—would sabotage the buildup of trust between the sides, which has been painstakingly put together over months.

EIR's top Washington sources consider the likelihood of passage of this new sanctions bill small, but there remains the anomalous fact that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), generally a direct instrument for the President, has declared his intention to invoke a rule that would allow him to bring the bill to the floor without going through Committee hearings. A Republican Party decision to sabotage the deal could throw it off track.

China

Beijing's unilateral declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea, a move apparently taken out of an abundance of caution with respect to potential military threats, has been the occasion for a huge ramp-up of tensions in the Pacific. Despite the fact that Japan, South Korea, the United



The bombing in Volgograd, Russia, Dec. 29, 2013.

States, and many other nations have similar air defense zones, the Chinese move was branded by these powers as aggressive.

Over the several weeks since the Chinese announcement, there have been increasing signs of accommodation by civilian airlines flying through the airspace. The notable exception has been Japan, where the Abe government has been proclaiming increasingly strident rhetoric against China, although it failed to get a vote of condemnation which it sought at Japan's meeting with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in early December. Heating up the situation even more was Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Dec. 26 visit to his nation's shrine for the war dead, which includes some of Japan's most heinous war criminals from World War II.

Coming in the context of both the ADIZ tensions, and the ongoing controversy between Japan and China over the disputed Senkaku or Diaoyu islands, Abe's visit drew angry responses not only from China and Korea, its victims in previous wars, but even from the United States. More serious was the announcement by the Chinese government Dec. 30, that Abe's visit to the Yasukuni shrine had seriously hurt relations between the countries. "Abe's hypocrisy in his claims of prioritizing relations with China and hopes for dialogue with the Chinese leaders has been fully revealed," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said. "The Chinese people do not welcome him. Now, Abe needs to admit his mistakes to the government and people of China, cut loose from the past and make a new start."

Terrorism

Two terrorist bombings in the city of Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad) over the last 48 hours underscore the danger that the British-Saudi terrorist apparatus, active in the Dagestan and Chechnya regions, is determined to escalate its irregular warfare against Russia. While details of the authorship of the terrorist incidents have not yet been released, the attacks are coherent with the *modus operandi* and stated intentions of the radical Islamist network, whose ultimate point of control lies in the City of London.

On Dec. 30, a terrorist bomb exploded on a bus, killing at least 10 people, near the center of Volgograd. This followed an apparent suicide bombing at the main railway station of Volgograd in southern Russia at

12:45 p.m. Moscow time on Dec. 29, which left 16 dead and about 40 injured, some critically, according to English-language Russian media.

The pattern is getting increasingly dense. In October, a suicide bombing killed six in the city. And a car bomb killed three people in the city of Pyatigorsk on Dec. 27. Pyatigorsk is 530 kilometers south of Volgograd and 270 kilometers east of Sochi, where the Olympic Games will open Feb. 7. (The games are subject to a boycott from some Western leaders.)

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for either explosion, which came several months after Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov called for attacks against civilian targets in Russia, including the Sochi games.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "has instructed both the ministers and the department heads to take all the necessary measures to find out what were the reasons for committing a terrorist attack, to spot the organizers, and to bring to trial all those who are behind them," said his press spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Dec. 29.

The pattern of bombings is widely being linked to the threats which have been made against the Olympics. Saudi Intelligence head Prince Bandar bin-Sultan, an organizer of the 9/11/2001 attack on the United States, reportedly delivered a threat to President Putin during a visit in July.¹

The guerrillas operating in Russia's North Caucasus have a known profile of sponsorship by British intelligence sources, including collaboration with the Saudi Wahhabite sect, and have been repeatedly exposed as such by *EIR*. For the most recent article, see "Central Asia, Kashmir Face New Jihadi Threat; Concerns in Russia," *EIR*, Oct. 18, 2013.

1. At a July 31, 2013 meeting in Moscow, Bandar reportedly told Putin: "I can give you a guarantee to protect the Winter Olympics in the city of Sochi on the Black Sea next year. The Chechen groups that threaten the security of the games are controlled by us, and they will not move in the Syrian territory's direction without coordinating with us. These groups do not scare us. We use them in the face of the Syrian regime but they will have no role or influence in Syria's political future." Putin replied, "We know that you have supported the Chechen terrorist groups for a decade. And that support, which you have frankly talked about just now, is completely incompatible with the common objectives of fighting global terrorism that you mentioned." The sources are the Beirut-based news agency As-Safir and the website [Al-Monitor](#), citing a "diplomatic report."