

UKRAINE CRISIS DEEPENS

Putin Pursues Diplomacy As Brits/Obama Push War

by Jeffrey Steinberg

May 4—Russian President Vladimir Putin has continued to defy pressure and threats from British puppet President Obama to sacrifice Russian strategic interests in the ongoing Ukraine crisis. That crisis was precipitated in February by an illegal coup d'état by neo-Nazi organizations enjoying the backing of Obama, the EU, and NATO. In the most recent provocation, at least 38 anti-Kiev protesters were killed in an arson attack by Kiev-sponsored Right Sector fascists in the Black Sea port city of Odessa. In response to the ongoing military operations in eastern Ukraine, Russia convened an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council on May 2. Just hours after the UN session, the Odessa attack took place, leaving Ukraine on the verge of civil war.

The next day, May 3, Putin, at the request of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, dispatched former Russian ambassador to the United States, and former Human Rights Commissioner Vladimir Lukin to eastern Ukraine to successfully negotiate the release of German and Scandinavian military observers, who had been detained a week earlier.

Merkel contacted Putin to make the request just hours before she met in Washington with President Obama. During the four-hour meeting between the German and American leaders, Merkel made clear that the Europeans are opposed to new “sectoral” sanctions against Russia. The fact is, that Western and Central Europe are dependent on Russian oil and gas deliveries, particularly in the wake of the German shutdown of its entire nuclear power program. Despite President Obama's grandiose claims

that the United States can export gas and oil to offset the Russian deliveries, no such capacity exists, and it would take a minimum of three years for the construction of liquid natural gas conversion plants in the United States and Europe, according to industry experts.

Merkel also clashed with Obama over his administration's refusal to turn over NSA spy files on the German Chancellor and sign a treaty agreement covering intelligence cooperation and sharing.

World War Threat

In his weekly international webcast on May 2, Lyndon LaRouche emphasized that, under the circumstances of U.S., Russian, and Chinese overkill arsenals of thermonuclear weapons, war is no longer feasible—unless you are prepared for the extinction of the human race.

Yet the danger remains, as long as British puppet Obama is in office, that the Ukraine confrontation, stirred up by the British Empire and the Furies who surround Obama, will be used to create the opportunity for thermonuclear warfare.

Fortunately, German strategic instincts and Russian strategists have worked to frustrate the ability of the Queen's Obama-puppet to deliver the *casus belli* which the current Witch of Windsor has directed for the intent of achieving a thermonuclear reduction of the human population in general: general thermonuclear extermination warfare.

This war-avoidance view is shared by top American and Russian military commanders, including Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

who has told President Obama that there are absolutely no U.S. military options in the unfolding Ukraine crisis. LaRouche also emphasized that there is no real danger of a new Cold War between Washington and Moscow—because the entire trans-Atlantic financial system is hopelessly bankrupt, and the plans to impose bail-in and bail-out will lead to disintegration of the entire financial in the very near future. Under those circumstances, the Obama bluffs and threats against Russia are being largely dismissed as hollow. Putin has made clear that he will not sacrifice Russian strategic interests.

As part of the Russian response to the continuing threats from Washington and NATO, economist Dr. Sergei Glazyev, a leading advisor to President Putin, is preparing a comprehensive plan for defeating the threatened new sanctions against Russia (see last week's issue). And Putin is preparing for a May 20 visit to China for a summit meeting with President Xi Jinping, by working overtime to complete a 30-year oil and gas deal with the People's Republic, a deal that will mark a major step towards Russia's own "Asia pivot" and distancing from the Euro-centric energy export policies that Moscow has pursued for decades.

Obama Going Down

Obama's mishandling of the U.S.-Russia relationship and his provocative actions around the Ukraine crisis are among the reasons that his approval ratings at home are plunging to an all-time low. In polls released last week by several news organizations, including CNN and the *Washington Post*, Obama's missteps on Ukraine have been ranked next to Obamacare as the worst administration failures. The polls showed that a war-weary American public has no stomach for getting into another crisis—especially a direct conflict with Russia.

In stark contrast, a recent Asian visitor to Moscow reported to *EIR* that there is growing patriotic support in Russia for Putin's stance. The prevailing assessment inside the Kremlin is that if there were to be fair and honest elections in Ukraine later this month, the extremists of the Right Sector, Svoboda, and other Banderist (neo-Nazi) networks would be crushed.

It is no secret that Obama's credibility at home and among allies is crumbling. The President's Asia trip was largely a fiasco. At a conference in Washington on April 30, sponsored by the Sasagawa Peace Foundation, speakers conceded that Obama failed to make any prog-



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In her meeting with President Obama in Washington, Chancellor Merkel made clear that the Europeans, who are dependent on Russian oil and gas, oppose new "sectoral" sanctions against Russia. Merkel is shown here with President Putin in Moscow, March 2008.

ress on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free-trade treaty. When Obama met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of an international disarmament conference in The Hague, Netherlands, last month, he emphasized that his Asia trip would rise or fall on the basis of progress on the TPP. Key Asian ally South Korea made clear that it is not interested in being drawn into any kind of conflict with China. And even Abe refused to succumb to U.S. pressure to join with the United States in imposing sanctions against Russia.

The *Economist*, the semi-official voice of the British Crown, carried a scathing cover-story attack on Obama in their latest issue, complaining bitterly that Obama was too weak to confront Putin and Russia.

As LaRouche emphasized in his May 2 webcast, now is the moment to take the war danger totally off the table by removing Obama from office. It is only so long as Obama remains President that the British-Wall Street forces will maintain the prospect of provoking war with Russia and China. On the basis of the proposals being developed by Dr. Glazyev, a true community of principle between Washington and Moscow could be developed, by wiping out the London-Wall Street unpayable gambling debt and launching an international program of state-directed credit for great projects, starting with an international crash effort to achieve a breakthrough in thermonuclear fusion power.

Obama's removal from office on Constitutional grounds will not solve all of the world's problems. But it will end the danger of global war, and set the stage for cooperation on what the late Dr. Edward Teller called the "common aims of mankind."