

EDITORIAL

Putin-Trump Summit Yields Syria Progress; War Party Escalates Against Trump!

by Harley Schlanger

July 14—In an action which demonstrated true leadership and courage, U.S. President Donald Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin for more than two hours on July 7, during the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. While the two addressed a broad range of strategic issues facing the two great powers, perhaps the most important immediate result was an agreement to jointly enforce a ceasefire in an area of southwestern Syria, as a step towards ending that horrific civil war, and defeating the Al-Qaeda/Al-Nusra and ISIS jihadist forces, which have inflicted such suffering on the Syrian people.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said this agreement demonstrates that the United States and Russia can collaborate: “This is our first indication of the United States and Russia being able to work together in Syria.” Putin and Trump, he said, had a “lengthy discussion of other areas in Syria where we can work together.” Tillerson commented on the “positive chemistry” which developed between the two, as key to the progress made.

This view was seconded by White House National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, who said the creation of these “de-escalation zones” is a U.S. priority, “and we’re encouraged by the progress made to reach this agreement.” He added, “The United States remains committed to defeating ISIS, helping to end the conflict in Syria, reducing suffering, and enabling people to return to their homes. This agreement is an important step toward these common goals.”

President Trump’s initial reaction to this develop-

ment was to tweet out, “Syrian ceasefire seems to be holding. Many lives can be saved. Came out of meeting [with Putin]. Good!” This view was shared by the UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, who described this as “a positive development.”

Six days later, the ceasefire continues, with Russian military police coordinating efforts with U.S. and Jordanian military forces around the de-escalation zone. A joint Russian-U.S.-Jordan monitoring station is now operational in Amman, Jordan. As this is occurring, momentum is building to expel ISIS from Raqqa, its remaining stronghold in Syria, following their defeat at the hands of Iraqi forces in Mosul.

Since a military victory alone is not enough—given the damage done to the cities, villages, and infrastructure in Syria—it was highly significant that Imad Mustafa, Syrian Ambassador to China, met with Chinese officials in Beijing on July 9 to discuss what role China could play in reconstructing Syria. A delegation of Chinese business leaders will visit Syria in mid-August, to discuss projects in Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. Among them will be executives of the state-owned China Energy Engineering Corporation, and several major construction and engineering firms. Among the projects under consideration is building a Chinese-Syrian industrial park for 150 companies, which would create 40,000 jobs.

War Party Reacts

Instead of celebrating this progress, or at least grudgingly acknowledging some benefit from the

Trump-Putin summit, the anti-Trump/anti-Putin imperial war party has launched a frenzied escalation to either remove Trump from office, or cripple his efforts to break the United States out of the old geopolitical, unipolar world order which shaped the policies of Presidents Bush and Obama.

Donald Trump campaigned against this world order, attacking Hillary Clinton's support for Bush's Iraq War, and the regime-change wars in Libya and Syria. He warned that Obama's provocations against Russia and China risked the possibility of a World War, saying that he believed it possible to collaborate with both Russia and China on matters of common interest, such as fighting terrorism, and increasing mutually beneficial trade and investment. Trump was clear on his commitment to reversing U.S. policy: "Cooperation with Russia is a good thing," he said, "not a bad thing; we both have huge nuclear arsenals; we can fight terrorism, we can end the constant wars."

Trump was elected because voters agreed that the endless wars were not successful in preventing terrorism—in fact, Bush's Iraq war, and Obama's commitment to regime change in Libya and Syria, increased the danger of terrorism, while piling up debt, and providing the excuse to expand the powers of the "surveillance state" against the American people. There was a war-weariness in the United States, which Trump recognized. Since shortly after the attack on the United States by British-Saudi terrorists on 9/11/2001, the United States has been at war. Every day during the Obama presidency, America was in a war. Had Hillary Clinton been elected, there likely would already have been tragic consequences by now, by mid-July or earlier, as from her stated commitments to challenge the Russians in Syria, and the Chinese in the South China Sea.

Make no mistake about this: Those now attacking the Trump-Putin summit are the ones responsible for the death and destruction in the war-zones throughout the world. As Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche has been emphasizing, all the persistent and ugly noise about "Russiagate" has nothing to do with Russian "meddling" in the U.S. election, but is a reaction against the prospect that strategic collaboration between the United States, Russia and China—as favored by Trump—represents the end of the era of imperial wars and looting, based on dividing nations between East and West, and North and South—done on behalf of a collapsing financial system. The New Paradigm of peaceful cooperation and development which is emerg-



Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson

President Barack Obama, with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, delivers a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House, Sept. 12, 2012, regarding the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

ing and becoming unstoppable, will not be allowed—if they can possibly prevent it—by the merchants of death whose tight control over world affairs for the last decades is slipping from their grasp.

With Trump's victory, the "globalist" neo-cons who ran both the Bush and Obama Administrations, moved to prevent this challenge to their control over policy. The narrative of "Russian meddling," fed by networks in British intelligence, became the weapon they wielded against Trump. This story, concocted by British GCHQ and MI6 officials, was then spun by Bush-Obama networks in the intelligence community, spearheaded by former FBI Director James Comey, former CIA Director John Brennan, and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper—and it has dominated Trump's presidency from Day One.

The Democratic Party, reeling from the defeat of Hillary Clinton, has also mindlessly latched onto this, joined by Republicans such as Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham. As we have documented, there has been no evidence to prove these claims, only "anonymous" source reports and leaks from intelligence officials, featured by mainstream media outlets determined to bring down Trump. Yet the story continues to evolve, with the latest chapter being what appears to be a sting operation, to entrap Donald Trump, Jr. into meeting with an alleged Russian official, Natalia Veselnitskaya, with dirt on Hillary Clinton—naturally, initiated by a British tabloid journalist, with Russian "connections"! While

some are proclaiming this to be the elusive “smoking gun,” it is unlikely to go anywhere, because, like the “dodgy dossier” of Trump’s alleged sexual escapades in Moscow, it is too preposterous to gain traction.

However, as a result of this ubiquitous narrative that the Russians were responsible for Trump’s victory, that Putin “owns” Trump, and that Trump has been “obstructing justice” to cover for his crimes, the meeting between Putin and Trump, which should have taken place shortly after Trump’s inauguration on January 20 of this year, was put on hold. It is to Trump’s credit, that in spite of the vicious and dirty operations against him, he proceeded with the summit in Hamburg anyway.

Freakout over the Summit

The breaking by the *New York Times* of the Trump, Jr.-Veselnitskaya story, which coincided with the Trump-Putin summit, is a transparent effort to derail the results of their meeting. But it is the sheer volume of hysterical attacks on Trump and Putin which demonstrates the heightened delusional state of the collapsing establishment.

Former CIA Director John Brennan, for example, one of the architects of Obama’s support for anti-Assad jihadists in Syria, expressed open contempt for President Trump in a July 9 interview on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” Brennan said that Trump “ceded” ground to Putin by meeting with him, and by constantly raising “questions about the integrity and capabilities of the U.S. intelligence community.” Brennan, who has stated that the Russians are permanent adversaries, took offense at Trump’s statement that it was “an honor” to meet Putin, whom Brennan called “the individual who carried out the assault on our election. To me, it’s a dishonorable thing to say.”

Among Republicans, the anti-Trump tag team of Senators McCain and Graham, as usual, led the way. McCain scornfully characterized Trump’s effort to work with Putin on cyber-security as absurd, and sneered that he’s sure Putin could be of assistance in Trump’s effort to prevent election hacking, “since he’s doing the hacking.” Graham accused Trump of having a “blind spot” when it comes to Russia, and added that not punishing Russia for interfering in the election “is undercutting his presidency.”

The Democrats are even worse! While Senate Mi-



Courtesy Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper (center) testifies on worldwide threats to the U.S., before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Feb. 9, 2016. Clapper was accompanied by FBI Director James Comey (left), CIA Director John Brennan (right) and other top intelligence and security officials.

nority Leader Chuck Schumer smeared the summit as “disgraceful,” Hillary Clinton running mate in 2016, Virginia Senator Tim Kaine, went completely unhinged. “We are now beyond obstruction of justice,” he sputtered. “This is moving into perjury, false statements, and even potentially treason.” Many Republicans and Democrats echo Schumer’s nonsense that there is no doubt that the Russians “deliberately interfered in our elections and sought to undermine and destabilize our democracy.” As Schumer put it, Trump “seemed to acquiesce to Putin’s denial” of Russian involvement, “almost certainly paving the way for future Russian interference in our elections.”

On July 12, Rep. Brad Sherman, a California Democrat, became the first to introduce articles of impeachment against Trump, arguing Trump’s alleged “obstruction of justice” in the case of former national security adviser Michael Flynn is enough to lead to his removal.

To combat this dangerous idiocy, which threatens not only to derail a serious potential for peace in the Middle East, but also an emergence of a New Paradigm of peace, based on realizing economic justice, Trump must continue to move in collaboration with Presidents Putin and China’s Xi Jinping. A new era of mankind is on the horizon, as Helga Zepp LaRouche has been emphasizing. The promise of a victory over the terrorists and their British-U.S.-NATO supporters is within reach, as the first step to a global Renaissance. For this to be realized, Trump must join with the LaRouche movement in mobilizing the people of the United States into full support of this effort.