I. International

International Peace Coalition, Week 136

How To Bring the World Back from the Brink

by *EIR* Staff

Jan. 9—The 136th consecutive weekly meeting of the International Peace Coalition opened with remarks by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Schiller Institute founder and International Peace Coalition (IPC) initiator. She warned that, in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's attack on Venezuela, "there is no more international law, and it has been replaced by 'might makes right' and the law of the jungle." She then introduced Dennis Kucinich, former U.S. Congressman from Ohio and former U.S. presidential candidate. Kucinich said that we are at an inflection point, where we will either stand for peace or watch the world disintegrate around us. He said that, in addition to the war on Venezuela, the murder of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) officer demonstrates the lawlessness of the Trump administration. This breakdown of order is leading us ever closer to another world war. "We are tiptoeing through the graveyard of history, pretending that a nuclear war can't happen," Kucinich said.

Zepp-LaRouche then delivered further remarks, beginning by noting Trump's announcement that he wants to increase the military budget by 50% to $1.5 trillion, which should be seen in conjunction with the rearmament of Germany and Japan. Both Trump and Vice President JD Vance have stated that they want to take Greenland, and the spokeswoman for the Trump administration has stated plainly that a military option is on the table.

Zepp-LaRouche said it is important not to forget the attempted drone attack on the residence of Russian President Vladimir Putin on Dec. 29. Europe's "Coalition of the Willing" wants to station troops in Ukraine after a peace deal, which is "ludicrous," because the potential stationing of NATO troops in Ukraine is what started the war in the first place. She said that the killing of Renee Nicole Good was bad enough, but what was worse was Trump and Vance taking the side of the ICE agent who killed her. "The only tiny element of positive news," Zepp-LaRouche acknowledged, was the unprecedented public reaction against the EU sanctions on Swiss Col. (ret.) Jacques Baud.

Geopolitics vs. International Law

Richard Falk is professor emeritus of international law at Princeton University, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor's chairman of the Board of Trustees, and former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories (2008-14). He analyzed the failure of the postwar framework established in 1945, which allowed the five nations that were the winners of the war a privileged position, an unrestricted veto that was not contingent upon international law. There was one rule of law for the winners, and a different one for everyone else, which was "woven into the normative order," he said. "The Nuremberg and Tokyo trials only held the losers accountable for their crimes." Trump's vision for the world is dominated by geopolitics, not the rule of law. The attack on Putin's residence and the Venezuela intervention were designed to be immune from the restrictions of international law.

Zepp-LaRouche reiterated her view that geopolitics has been the cause of two world wars, and thanked Falk for shedding new light on the problem.

Col. (ret.) Alain Corvez (France), international consultant and former advisor to the French Defense and Interior Ministries, said that there are certain states, particularly the U.S. and Israel, which do not respect the UN Charter, and that the Charter is therefore finished. He had just returned from Iran, where he saw the unabashed lies of the international media. Life is difficult for the Iranians after 45 years of sanctions, and there are legitimate demonstrations, which the U.S. hopes to harness to make a "color revolution," which will not succeed.

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Prof. Fernando Garzón (Ecuador) is director of Solidarity with Palestine and a former consultant on defense policy strategies. He agreed with Corvez that there are developments in Iran which, as in Venezuela, are being misrepresented by the international media.

He described two models: The military operational model, which has been increasing, as in Gaza, and includes the use of AI for military purposes, typified by Palantir programs. In Gaza there was a kind of experimentation which is now being applied in Venezuela, not solely by the U.S. but in coordination with Britain and France.

War Is a Racket

The second model is governance, under which military campaigns are associated with investments. The oil companies had begun to negotiate well in advance of the kidnapping of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The "Gaza Riviera" scheme, promoted by Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and special envoy Steve Witkoff, applies a method in which violent military actions are used to impose a business arrangement. An extremely important counterweight to all of this is the BRICS, which is trying to return to a civilized approach.

A snippet was aired of an interview with Diego Sequera, who said that Americans are suffering economically and fed up with the endless wars. Trump's oil grab will be financed by taxpayers, not Exxon. Sequera is a researcher and columnist for *Misión Verdad* in Venezuela.

Former Guyanese President (2011-2015) Donald Ramotar observed that the Trump administration is trying to destroy the rule of law inside the U.S. itself, using the military domestically under various pretexts. The murder of Renee Nicole Good is one indication. This is contributing to the deterioration in the international situation.

IPC co-moderator Dennis Small said that the last ten days have seen a phase-change, including three major developments: the drone attacks on the President of Russia; the attack on Venezuela and the threats against other nations; and the "cold-blooded assassination" of Renee Good. Small described this as the "era of shock and awe," the idea that by using sheer terror, you can change the way the world functions. Its promoters are turning Venezuela, Cuba, and others into "Gaza West," the approach of "complete strangulation."

U.S. presidential candidate Diane Sare had announced her candidacy earlier than planned, in response to the Jan. 3 attack on Venezuela. She said that the CIA was probably involved in the drone attack on Russia's President, and that this was directed at Russia's ability to respond to a nuclear attack. Russia provided the physical evidence to the U.S. military. Did Trump fire anyone? No, he went ahead with an attack on Venezuela and seized a Russian tanker.

Small announced that *EIR* would be convening an emergency round table discussion on Monday, Jan. 12, on "How To Bring the World Back from the Brink."

Discussion

Humanitarian activist Rafed Aljoboury pointed out that the attack on Venezuela was executed immediately following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's U.S. visit, and asked about regional tensions between Iran and Iraq that may also be at play. Colonel Corvez replied that the U.S. has always been against Iran. The Iranians did not associate themselves with the U.S. in Iraq.

Small also responded to Aljoboury: If we try to go back and relitigate each dispute among nations, we will lose. We must use the approach of the Treaty of Westphalia. It has always been British geopolitics that has manipulated very real grievances to play divide and rule.

John Steinbach, co-founder of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area, noted that Israel has a long history of acting as a U.S. proxy, collaborating with the worst right-wing regimes and suppressing independence movements all over the world, so this should be understood when we look at Israeli involvement in Venezuela. He asked Professor Falk to compare international law to the so-called "rules-based order." Falk replied that there is a "geopolitical de facto veto" when we speak of international law.

Zepp-LaRouche said that the previously existing order, the attempt to impose a unipolar world, provoked a backlash, and now we have chaos. President Putin has called for a new Eurasian Security Architecture, but if you have an order which does not include everyone, it won't work. She has carefully studied Chinese President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative, she said, and approves of it as a starting point for discussion. Her Schiller Institute proposal and the Chinese proposal are the only two universal plans on the table. Either we learn to think of the One Humanity first, or humanity will not extricate itself from its current crisis.