

The Fuse Is Lit For World War III!

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Nov. 26—“Gentlemen, this may turn into a Seven Years, or even a Thirty Years War—and woe to him who would be the first to throw his spark into the powderkeg!” So warned the 90-year-old Chief of Staff General Count von Moltke the Elder in his last speech before the German Parliament, on May 14, 1890, shortly after the expulsion of Otto von Bismarck from the Chancellorship. And von Moltke was vindicated: A new World War broke out, like the Seven Years War: the so-called First World War. Were Von Moltke alive today, he would, in view of the build-up in Southwest Asia, probably issue a variant upon his earlier warning: “Woe to us all, if this powderkeg blows!”

The preparations for a military intervention against Syria and a preventive strike against Iran are at this point so far advanced, that they may already have happened before these words reach the reader. The U.S. Administration has called upon all U.S. citizens to leave Syria, has recalled its ambassador, and has re-positioned the aircraft carrier *USS George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) from the Hormuz Strait, close to Syria in the Eastern Mediterranean. Officially, the U.S. Navy has said the carrier is merely “stopping for a break on its way back to the USA.”

The United States and Great Britain have officially declared that they will no longer adhere to the confidence-building measures that were part of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), ar-

guing that Russia hasn’t kept its part. This means that the U.S.A. and the U.K. will no longer inform Russia on their plans for troop deployments in Europe. After first signing the CFE in 1990, and renewing it in 1999, Russia had suspended the Treaty in 2007, when the U.S. announced that it was setting up a missile defense system in Eastern Europe, along the Russian border.

The director of the Center for Military Prognoses, Anatoly Zyganok, told Pravda.ru that this means that from now on, the U.S. could station troops wherever it wished, without ever notifying Russia—i.e., in the Baltic States, Poland, the Czech Republic, or Hungary. Already, a treaty dating back to the era of German reunification, stating that NATO forces would not cross the Oder River, has been totally ignored. According to Zyganok, the recent decision on the violation of the CFE Treaty is connected to the developments in the Mediterranean, as well as NATO’s intention to build up a military capability south of the Russian border, with which to execute a military strike against Syria.

‘A New War Is Almost Inevitable’

What is really behind this dramatic escalation? Is it really only about the apparent repression of the “rebels” by “dictator” Bashir al-Assad?

The prominent Russian TV journalist Maxim

Shevchenko wrote an article Nov. 25 with the title, “A New War Is Almost Inevitable,” published by the news service Novy Region. Shevchenko belongs to the government-sponsored “Public Chamber.” In Shevchenko’s view, the announcement by President Dmitri Medvedev—that Russia will point its Iskander-Class ground-to-ground rockets stationed in Kaliningrad at the planned U.S. missile defense systems in Eastern Europe if no agreement is reached [see *Documentation*—as well as the ultimatum that the Arab League has given to Syria, are “the rumblings of the oncoming thunder of a Third World War.” The seriousness of the orders given by the commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces, Shevchenko says, show without doubt, that a war is as good as inevitable, and we “have the duty to be prepared for it.”

Shevchenko continues that the deployment of three Russian warships to Syrian waters must be seen in this context, and, although it wouldn’t prevent a NATO strike against Syria, could make it less probable. It’s one thing to attack a defenseless Syria, he wrote, but it’s quite another, to deal with Russian ships equipped with radar systems, that can pass on data about incoming NATO jets and rockets. It has been realized, that the threat is directed towards the Russian Federation, and that this threat comes from NATO, and not from Iran or North Korea.

Anti-War Mobilization

Since the debate on an Israeli preventive strike against Iranian nuclear facilities and the controversial International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on an ostensible nuclear weapons program broke out into the public, and Lyndon LaRouche placed these developments in the context of a threatened World War III, strong reactions against this have erupted in many countries. Within the United States itself, active and retired military have made clear that such a war is seen as unwinnable and against the fundamental interests of the United States.

The military leaders of Russia and China, who reacted strongly against President Obama’s assertion of leadership in Asia, are determined to make clear to all that they will not sit idly by while Syria and Iran are attacked, but rather, have begun a very serious mobilization to block such attacks. Both Russia and China have realized that the real targets are not Syria and Iran, but they themselves. Therefore, any capitulation to American, British, or NATO attacks on these two states would



The Presidential Press and Information Office
Russian President Dmitri Medvedev’s Nov. 23 televised address to the nation, shown here, was also a solemn warning to the West that Russia will not accept the current drive for war in Southwest Asia.

lead to such an escalation of warfare, that nuclear weapons would be deployed and would lead to their own destruction.

It was exactly in the interest of blocking this insane dynamic that President Medvedev made his statement, and Russian Army Chief of Staff Nikolai Makarov warned that Russia could be pulled into regional wars, which could expand into a great war, and that the real threat is a global, thermonuclear war [see *Documentation*].

During his recent trip to Moldavia, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Russian leaders see the escalation in Southwest Asia as an attempt on the part of certain circles in the West, to undermine the new centers of strong economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, and to compensate for their own loss of influence by means of such “irresponsible and provocative” actions.

It could not be more clear: Russia, China and many others have come to the conclusion, that the failed system of globalization is reacting to its collapsing power just as empires have always reacted in the past: by starting wars.

The Seven Years War

The model for the Third World War that threatens us now, is the Seven Years War (1756-63), which was fought out in Europe, North America, India, the Carib-

bean, and all the oceans of the world, and was thus the first real World War. It ended with the consolidation of the British Empire as the largest colonial power in history.

The method by which the British Empire has maintained its position since then, has been its special repertoire: to create conflicts amongst nations to one's own advantage, to allow them to grind each other down; to rule by the maxim of "divide and conquer," by inciting potential enemies using irregular warfare, and by long-term placement of agents of influence to orchestrate seemingly objective events; to control the financial markets; and the financing of rebels, who must be saved from destruction by use of mercenary armies in "humanitarian interventions." Contrary to the views of the ignoramuses of current affairs, this British Empire actually never ceased to exist, but lives on in the guise of what is generally referred to as "globalization."

This is the context, which the prophetic General von Moltke recognized, when he spelled out the dynamic that came to be known as the pre-history of World War I, and which also led to World War II, as it was the mutual grinding-down of Germany and Russia that the financiers of Adolf Hitler intended. And it is the context for today, in which there apparently are forces that would rather risk extinguishing all human civilization, than to accept the dynamic development of powerful nations in Asia, while the trans-Atlantic region sinks into chaos.

The Last Option: Money-Printing?

The only thing left for the United States, within the currently collapsing system, is nothing but so-called "quantitative easing," that is, money-printing. And that is exactly the same recipe, literally in green, which the proponents of a supranational Europe, Barroso, van Rompuy, and Monti, as well as Schäuble and Fischer, want to put on the table as the last option. The European Central Bank is supposed to become the lender of last resort, therefore a "Bad Bank," and to print money; and Eurobonds should convert the EU completely into a transfer union, whereby the savings of the Germans will be liberally transferred to save the banks and speculators. If things proceed this way, hyperinflation and a collapse into chaos are pre-programmed. Therefore, the



The Presidential Press and Information Office

On Nov. 29, Medvedev visited Russia's Kaliningrad outpost, located between NATO members Poland and Lithuania. Here he is meeting with a military unit there, where the Voronezh-DM missile attack early warning radar station is deployed. He issued an order to assign the station to the Space Forces.

advocates of empire conclude, better to stage a war, bringing the coalition of the willing, and not so willing, under control.

The United States had better take care that the Nobel Peace Prize recipient who currently sits in the White House is removed from office by impeachment proceedings for his violations of the Constitution, before it is too late.

In Europe, it is high time to concede that the euro experiment has failed—because it had to fail. Certainly what is looming now—a strongly integrated core Europe with a loosely knit second-class Europe, altered EU treaties, which again will be fudged only through tricks behind the backs of the population—all that will not prevent the catastrophe.

There is only one straightforward and viable way out: to decisively eliminate the idea that an empire shall rule the world into the endless future, in the form of globalization, which only serves to maximize the profits and power of a small oligarchical elite, in the form of an EU dictatorship, which functions as sort of a regional branch of this empire.

Perhaps there is still a very small interval for realizing, in time, a global, two-tiered banking system [on the Glass-Steagall model], and achieving a real alliance of sovereign republics for a peaceful order in the 21st Century. We hope that this interval has not elapsed by the time you read these lines.

Medvedev Addresses Global War Threat

Nov. 28—Russian President Dmitri Medvedev gave a special televised address to his nation on Nov. 23, conveying the stark reality that the Russian leadership anticipates the outbreak of global nuclear war, and is determined both to defend Russia under those circumstances and, by warning of this, to try to deter it. Medvedev spoke standing, and with great solemnity, from his Presidential office, flanked by the Russian tricolor flag in its version for the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, with the Russian double-headed eagle crest.

Reported by wire services was Medvedev's threat to deploy the Iskander missile system in Russia's westernmost district of Kaliningrad, in response to the U.S./NATO emplacement of anti-ballistic missile systems in Europe. Such reportage amounts to disinformation. In fact, the address to the nation contained his announcement of other crucial actions already underway. The ten-minute address, available with English subtitles on the Kremlin site,¹ is extremely valuable to watch, for an appreciation of current strategic reality.

Medvedev underscored that Russia has continued to offer cooperation with the United States and NATO on anti-missile defense. "At the NATO-Russia Council summit in Lisbon a year ago," he said, "I proposed developing a joint sector-based missile defense system in Europe, where every country would be responsible for a particular sector. Furthermore, we were ready to discuss additional modifications to the system, taking into account our NATO partners' views. Our only goal was to preserve the basic principle that Europe does not need new dividing lines, but rather, a common security perimeter with Russia's equal and legally enshrined participation. It is my conviction that this approach would create unique opportunities for Russia and NATO to build a genuine strategic partnership. We are to replace the friction and confrontation in our relations with the principles of equality, indivisible security, mutual trust, and predictability."

1. <http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/video/1034>

Expressing regret over the lack of a positive response, Medvedev continued: "We will not agree to take part in a program that in a short while, in some five, six, or eight years' time, could weaken our nuclear deterrent capability. The European missile defense program is already underway, and work on it is, regrettably, moving rapidly in Poland, Turkey, Romania, and Spain. We find ourselves facing a *fait accompli*." He said that he had stated Russia's concerns to U.S. President Obama during their recent meeting, on the sidelines of the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in Hawaii.

Medvedev then announced the following orders, which he has already issued:

"First, I am instructing the Defense Ministry to immediately put the missile attack early warning radar station in Kaliningrad on combat alert.

"Second, protective coverage of Russia's strategic nuclear weapons will be reinforced as a priority measure under the program to develop our air and space defenses.

"Third, the new strategic ballistic missiles commissioned by the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy will be equipped with advanced missile defense penetration systems and new highly-effective warheads.

"Fourth, I have instructed the Armed Forces to draw up measures for disabling missile defense system data and guidance systems if need be. These measures will be adequate, effective, and low-cost.

"Fifth, if the above measures prove insufficient, the Russian Federation will deploy modern offensive weapon systems in the west and south of the country, ensuring our ability to take out any part of the U.S. missile defense system in Europe. One step in this process will be to deploy Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad Region."

Medvedev went on to raise the prospect of Russia's withdrawing from the new START treaty and other disarmament agreements. He concluded: "But let me stress the point that we are not closing the door on continued dialogue with the U.S.A. and NATO on missile defense and on practical cooperation in this area. We are ready for that. However, this can be achieved only through establishing a clear legal base for cooperation that would guarantee that our legitimate interests and concerns are taken into account. We are open to a dialogue and we hope for a reasonable and constructive approach from our Western partners."

Russian Navy Deploys For War Avoidance

Nov. 27—Senior retired officers of the Russian Navy have confirmed that some of its ships have recently visited their repair and support facility at Tartus, Syria, while two battleships from Russia's Northern Fleet are about to embark on a long-range cruise that will also take them to Tartus. The Russian naval moves are a phased and measured action, signalling Moscow's determination not to stand idly by, in the face of attempts to overthrow the Syrian government.

The Tartus facility dates from an agreement between the Soviet Union and Syria in the 1970s, when the port served as a supply and maintenance base for the Soviet 5th Mediterranean Squadron, a special unit that established a permanent Soviet presence in the Mediterranean, staffed out of the Black Sea Fleet (Sevastopol) and the Northern Fleet (Murmansk) of the Soviet Navy. That unit went out of existence in 1991, but Tartus is still staffed by Russian naval personnel.

According to Adm. Valentin Selivanov (ret.), former commander of the Mediterranean Squadron and former Chief of Staff of the Russian Navy, who was interviewed by *Svobodnaya Pressa* Nov. 23, "the three Russian ships" reported to have been off the Syrian coast recently, were two warehouse and repair vessels, and the patrol ship *Smetlivy* (Russia's only remaining Kashin-class destroyer), which made a call at Tartus en route to base in the Crimea after deploying with Italian naval forces in joint exercises this Summer.

Selivanov also confirmed widespread reports that two ships from Russia's strategic Northern Fleet will soon leave Murmansk for the Mediterranean. The government daily *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* announced Nov. 24 that the *Admiral Kuznetsov* and the *Admiral Chabanenko* have just completed preparations in the Barents Sea for a long-distance cruise. They carried out firing practice, and Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky

visited them Nov. 24-26 to check their readiness for the long-distance cruise. The *Kuznetsov*, an aircraft carrier, took on board an aircraft group consisting of Su-33 and Su-25 fighters (the Su-25UTG is a special carrier-compatible model of this versatile fighter aircraft), and Ka-27 ASW/anti-ship helicopters.

These ships belong to the "strategic" Northern Fleet, which periodically conducts exercises in the North Atlantic, coordinated with long-range bomber and strategic missile tests. The *Kuznetsov-Chabanenko* deployment will not be a sailing of the Northern Fleet as a whole, but the *Kuznetsov* is Russia's only remaining aircraft carrier, formally classified as a "heavy, aircraft-carrying cruiser," with anti-ship missile batteries. The *Chabanenko* is a destroyer, an Udaloy-II-class "large anti-ship (and anti-submarine) ship."

Selivanov said of the vessels' cruise into the Mediterranean: "If somebody's ships are located somewhere, of course it's not possible to simply fly over them and bomb someplace. Even the Americans will not be able to ignore the arrival of our ships off the coast of Syria. Although, probably, our only aircraft carrier plus the *Chabanenko* do not have the ability to stop an entire war. . . . But their appearance in the Eastern Mediterranean will be a signal to the whole world, that Russia has its interests here, and you can't just crush, destroy, and kill everybody without taking them into account."

Today's *Izvestia* interviewed another former Russian Navy chief of staff, Adm. Victor Kravchenko (ret.), who said that, even if the *Kuznetsov* and the *Chabanenko* take some time to arrive in the Mediterranean, "The appearance there of any naval force besides NATO's is very useful for the region, since it represents an obstacle to unleashing armed conflict."



U.S. Navy

Two ships from Russia's strategic Northern Fleet, the *Kuznetsov* (shown here) and the *Chabanenko* will soon leave Murmansk for the Mediterranean.