
International Intelligence

Former Russian Minister: Nuclear War Threat Rising

Jan. 26—Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister from 1998-2004 and chairman of the Russian International Affairs Council, warned in a *Moscow Times* article today that "the threat of a nuclear conflict is higher today than it was during the Cold War. In the absence of a political dialogue, with mutual mistrust reaching historical highs, the probability of unintended accidents, including those involving nuclear weapons, is getting more and more real."

In 2012-13, Ivanov was co-chair of the "Track II Dialogue" around "Building Mutual Security in the Euro-Atlantic Region," along with British Lord Des Browne, German diplomat and former Ambassador to the U.S. Wolfgang Ischinger, and former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.). On Jan. 25, Nunn issued his own warning of the danger of nuclear conflict.

Ivanov argued that it is just rhetoric to say that a new Cold War has begun. During the Cold War, despite its dangers, "international relations were confined by a certain order established after the end of World War II. All the shortcomings and liabilities of this order notwithstanding, it allowed humankind to avoid a new global disaster...."

"Today we live in a world where the old order has ceased to exist, and a new one that would suit all the major players has not yet been established. And this is what makes our times so different from the Cold War...."

"Formally, we all subscribe to the established norms of international law. However, as the Ukraine crisis has demonstrated once again, the old institutions are dramatically losing their efficiency, and international law is becoming a victim of political interests."

The presentiments of many that war could come in 2015 should "urge responsible politicians all over the world to put aside their ambitions and mutual insults,

in order to start a meaningful dialogue about the future world order that would allow all the nations to build their own futures. Otherwise, instead of a new Cold War, someday we could face a real, large-scale military conflict," Ivanov concluded.

German Media Expose Saudi Role in Jihadi Terror

Jan. 21—Theo Sommer, the former publisher and editor of the weekly *Die Zeit*, on Jan. 20 lashed out at the role of Saudi Arabia in promoting extremist Salafist versions of Islam, in a *Zeit Online* article headlined, "The Saudis Nurture the Jihad."

Sommer called for "drying up the intellectual breeding ground where [radical Islam] starts and prospers, and here is where the Saudis come into play. The Saudis have created the monster of Salafist terrorism.... Saudi Wahhabism has become the foster mother of Salafi terrorism."

"Now is the time for the West to speak another language with the Saudis," he wrote.

Other media are carrying similar analyses, in the aftermath of the terror attacks in France.

On Jan. 22, former government terror advisor Guido Steinberg of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, discussed on a TV talk show the "catastrophic impact" of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which began the process of unleashing jihadi recruitment, and which combined with the longstanding Saudi promotion of that ideology.

On Jan. 23 *Spiegel Online* ran an item proving that the laws proclaimed by the Islamic State (IS) are exactly the same as Saudi Arabia's.

A ZDF Heute TV news broadcast on Jan. 23 charged that it is Saudi Arabia and its spread of Wahhabism that is responsible for the jihadist terrorism.

"Saudi Arabia shows up again and again, when it comes to answer the un-

comfortable question: Where do Islamist terrorists get their money? Where are the sponsors of the jihadists? Money flows from Saudi Arabia to Germany," said the government-owned television station.

"Saudi Arabia spends billions of dollars to spread its state religion globally. Do not underestimate the influence of Wahhabi clerics, such as Mohammed al Arifi, who promotes not only the network's archaic Islam, but also several times, for example, was a guest at the Al-Nur mosque in Berlin.... The fact is: Most European jihadists are recruited from the Wahhabist-Salafist milieu."

The program quoted terror expert Guido Steinberg, "The ideological roots of what we now take for Islamist terrorism here in Germany are quite clearly in Saudi Arabia."

German Expert: Blackwater Deployed in Ukraine

Jan. 25—For the first time, a prominent German voice has come out against the pro-Nazi statements made in Berlin recently by Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Michael Luders, a long-time *Die Zeit* correspondent and advisor to German government agencies on Islamic extremism, told Phoenix TV on Jan. 20 that Yatsenyuk's statement in Berlin, that Germany and Ukraine were victims of Soviet aggression in World War II, is unacceptable.

Luders charged that there are 500 mercenaries from the former Blackwater firm (now called Academi) on the ground in Ukraine. "The Ukraine government is determined to solve the problem militarily ... and one must presume that it didn't make this decision alone," he said, because the government is bankrupt and has no financial or military resources of its own for an offensive. There have been contacts between the regime in Kiev with Washington, he said, and in Ukraine "there are 500 mercenaries of the Blackwater organization which has been renamed in the meantime."

Luders noted that governments in Europe are coming to realize that their interests are not the same as the regime in Washington. Germany has already lost around EU40 billion in trade with Russia. “The EU states and particularly Germany must speak openly,” telling the U.S. that they are “not willing to see a war happen in the middle of Europe.”

He said that Russia is reacting to the pressure coming from the West by strengthening cooperation with China, Turkey, Iran, and India, and “we in the West are going to pay the price.”

Chinese Security Strategy Calls for More Vigilance

Jan. 24—After a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China which concluded yesterday, a new national security strategy was issued. While the document itself has not been made public, a lengthy statement was issued by Xinhua News Agency, noting the heightened state of tension in the world and calling for increased vigilance. It points to a shifting international environment, with “unprecedented dangers impossible to predict,” profound economic and social changes, and the beginning of a “stormy” period for the economic reforms, with “social contradictions piling up.” This requires from the military cadre a “heightened sense of concern” and to “maintain a high degree of peace-time vigilance.”

The statement lays stress on the internal reforms within the People’s Liberation Army, calling for strict adherence to the requirements of the Communist Party, and alertness with regard to the “four winds” of corruption indicated in recent statements by President Xi Jinping. The “four winds” are formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism, and extravagance. The statement indicates that the party will establish 12 inspection groups which will travel to the different regions in order to make sure that the reforms laid out earlier this month to eliminate the “four winds” are being strictly carried out.

Egon Bahr: Europe Needs A ‘Treaty of Westphalia’

Jan. 23—The gray eminence of Germany’s *Ostpolitik*, Egon Bahr (Social Democrat), said yesterday that the Ukraine conflict can only be solved on the level of direct talks between the European Union and the Eurasian Union. Ukraine must never become a member of NATO; it has to stay neutral, like Sweden, Finland, and Switzerland; and the Ukrainians have to find a formula for coexistence and cooperation between the Western Latin Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. He spoke at a forum on security policy sponsored by the daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* in Berlin.

He told the Berlin forum said that the world needs a new system acceptable for all nations, to put an end to war: “What we need is something like the Treaty of Westphalia. It included the mutual recognition of the non-violability of each of the signatory states, and the obligation not to interfere in the affairs of either state. These were binding agreements. That Treaty was in effect for several hundred years; that is what we need today.”

Bahr said that, naturally, such an agreement implies accepting states and societies that do not have democracies of the kind that the West would like to see there. In any case, what kind of democracy would be desired: perhaps the Singaporean model, which is not quite a democratic system?

Bahr served West German Chancellor Willy Brandt as Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office from 1969 until 1972.

He said that when he and his Soviet counterparts negotiated the Eastern Treaties in 1970, the ideological divide never even came up; the Soviets did not try to turn Bahr into a communist, and he did not try to turn them into democrats, either. That made the treaties possible, and when the U.S.S.R. agreed to German reunification in 1990, these treaties were even transformed into a friendship treaty between Germany and Russia—which is still in effect today.

Briefly

● **DMITRY ROGOZIN**, the Russian deputy prime minister responsible for the defense industry, told Rossiya 1 TV on Jan. 26 that U.S. missile defenses cannot intercept Russian ballistic missiles. “Neither the current nor even prospective American missile defense system can stop or challenge Russian strategic missile potential,” he said.

● **THE BRITISH FLAG** flew at half-mast at Buckingham Palace and at government buildings to mourn the death of Saudi King Abdullah, on orders of Queen Elizabeth. This has not gone over too well with some Members of Parliament, such as the leader of the Scottish Conservatives, Ruth Davidson, who tweeted that the move was “a steaming pile of nonsense.”

● **VACLAV KLAUS**, former President of the Czech Republic, told the Austrian daily *Die Presse* that the Crimea was historically part of Russia. “Russia’s acting in the Crimea was just a reaction, not an action,” he said. “This was the reaction to the Maidan, the events in Kiev, the attacks on the Russian population there,” he said.

● **SOUTH KOREA** and China confirmed their “peace through development” approach to North Korea, during a visit by Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang to Seoul Jan. 23-25. Wang delivered a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping and met with Korean President Park Geun-hye. Park’s office said that Xi’s letter had “positively evaluated reciprocal offers” for dialogue that the two Koreas have recently made.

● **INDIAN PREMIER** Narendra Modi called relations with Russia “a pillar of strength for India,” after meeting with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in New Delhi on Jan. 21. He evoked the “time-tested special and privileged” strategic partnership between the two countries.