

(Civil Rights Movement Solidarity), and the party Die Linke. We are in the process of organizing a rally for Nov. 26, under the slogan “Peace Negotiations NOW.” This is currently the most urgent demand: to end the war in Ukraine. Diplomacy must once again do justice to its task.

For good reason, it was standard practice in past years, not to send weapons to crisis and war zones. The NATO states have completely abandoned this principle. They want us to believe that weapons shorten the war. Does NATO want to shorten the war from one year to half a year? That hasn’t happened. To how many years do they want to shorten it? What will the country look like then? Where’s this policy heading?

In reality, the war is being *prolonged*. More and more people are dying on both sides, more weapons increase the risk of further escalation. We demand that our governments be consistent and forceful in their commitment to peace negotiations. Not to do so is reckless, also toward the Ukrainian people and, at best, it only serves the arms industry and interests of U.S. geopolitics, which want to maintain their unipolar world order.

The training of Ukrainian military personnel in Western Europe also makes us, *de facto*, participants in the war. The consequences are incalculable. The impact of a Ukrainian missile in Poland, a few days ago, showed how quickly false accusations can lead to the brink of a world war. But the war has already

reached us as an economic war. In several waves of sanctions, which began even before Feb. 24, the prosperity of European countries is being put at risk, and peoples in the Third World are being driven into hunger, because of the lack of grain and fertilizer supplies from Russia and Ukraine. It is said that the sanctions are intended to force Russia to end the war. Indeed, the German government admitted on Nov. 8, that it has no knowledge of any concrete impact of the sanctions on the Russian government’s decisions regarding warfare in Ukraine.

The EU states apparently have no plan for whether and to what extent sanctions will be lifted once the war is over. In fact, the sanctions are aimed at *ruining* Russia, but here, in our home countries, they are fueling inflation. Many are protesting massive increases in energy prices. A report on the economy in the Saxony region says:

The mood in commerce is at rock bottom. Companies have their backs to the wall. Some companies are plagued by existential fears.

That’s why we demand a stop to all sanctions, economic and financial blockades, from which people around the world are suffering. Sanctions do not end wars.

Thank you very much.

Scott Ritter

Germany’s Policies Can Only Lead to War with Russia

This is the edited transcript of the presentation by Scott Ritter to Panel 1, “Stopping the Doomsday Clock—The Common Good of the One Humanity,” of the Schiller Institute’s Nov. 22 conference, “For World Peace—Stop the Danger of Nuclear War: Third Seminar of Political and Social Leaders of the World.”

Mr. Ritter is a former U.S. Marine Corps intelligence officer. He served in the former Soviet Union, implementing arms control treaties. He is also a former United Nations weapons inspector.

Before Mr. Ritter spoke, panel moderator Stephan



Schiller Institute

Scott Ritter

*Ossenkopp directed the audience to an [interview](#) that Ritter gave on Nov. 18 to a German media platform, *Gegenpol*. In English with German subtitles, the interview is titled, “German Politics on Course for Destruction.” In it, Ritter does not mince words about the German economy and the danger of war. Ossenkopp urged everyone to watch this interview, as it is exactly the wake-up call needed not only by Germany, but for all nations.*

The full proceedings of the conference are [available](#) at the Schil-

ler Institute website.

Thank you very much for asking me to speak. It's a privilege.

We'll just start off talking about Germany and the current situation as it involves the recent missile attack against Polish territory. If you listen to the German government, they've said, "We have not overreacted; we aren't looking for a conflict with Russia. We're seeking to avoid an escalation of tensions between Russia and NATO. The last thing we want is a NATO-Russia conflict."

I have to say, that this is absurd in the extreme, when you take a look at what Germany has done. Yes, Germany did not invoke or at least support, the invocation of NATO Article 4, [which would involve] a gathering by NATO in response to this attack, rightfully noting that this wasn't a Russian attack on Poland, but what they call an "errant Ukrainian missile."

But they continue to blame Russia. They say that this war would not have happened, if it weren't for Russia invading Ukraine to begin with—as if Germany didn't play a role in setting up the conditions that led to the Russian decision to invade; as if Germany wasn't part of what was called the "Normandy Format"—Germany and France, who together with Ukraine negotiated the Minsk 2 Accords, which were supposed to find a diplomatic off-ramp from conflict, if only Ukraine would have implemented these accords.

What did Germany *do* from 2015 to 2022, to see that these accords were implemented? It appears that Germany was actually working with Ukraine to *prevent* the implementation of these accords. That's according to former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who said that the Minsk Accords was a sham. That all it was designed to do was to buy time, so that the Ukrainian military could be trained by NATO, to be able—through use of force—to resolve the Donbass question.

The Donbass question, of course, being Lugansk, Donetsk, and what their status would be. The Minsk Accords were supposed to keep them as part of Ukraine, respect the territorial integrity, but provide some sort of political autonomy for the ethnic Russian population of that territory, so that they could speak their language, embrace their religion, and pursue their culture without fear of prosecution or persecution.

Where was Germany, while the Ukrainians were using the Minsk Accords as a shield? Germany was training Ukrainian troops. So, Germany apparently knew exactly what it was doing.

Now, we take a look at today, now that the conflict has started.

It's not a conflict that Russia started. NATO start-

ed it, expanding their border up to Ukraine. Where was Germany in every discussion about NATO expansion? Where was Germany when they were saying—everybody knew that to try and strip Ukraine away from the Russian sphere of influence—that this could lead to a Russian military action. Germany can't claim to be ignorant on this; they're a member of NATO, they sat with the 2008 Bucharest convention that invited Ukraine, and they understand the response that Russia gave that was articulated by none other than the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, William Burns, who in February 2009 published a memorandum called, "*Nyet Means Nyet*," which means, "No Means No": Russia will not tolerate losing Ukraine. Burns warned that if they continued to pursue the policy of NATO expansion into Ukraine, that the end result would be a Russian military response that will cause Ukraine to lose Crimea and Donbass. This was written in February 2009! So Germany can't claim they didn't know what the consequences of their actions were. They knew, everybody knew, and they did it nonetheless.

And now we take a look at what happened in Poland.

Germany says, "We don't want to create a conflict." Then why is Germany sending two Patriot batteries to the Ukrainian border? Why? First of all, the idea of German troops going into Poland to confront Russia should send anybody, with any common sense and any understanding of history, into panic! Germany should *never* send troops into Poland! Germany should have no interest in Poland. Germany has lost the *right* to be interested in Poland, because of their history!

I'm sorry, but now you're sending missile batteries to the Polish-Ukrainian border? For what purpose? You say you don't want a no-fly zone, then why are you putting missile batteries on the border, whose umbrella of coverage extends into Ukraine? You're creating the conditions for a *de facto* no-fly zone, creating the very conflict that you say you don't want to embrace, that you don't want to go down that path.

I have trouble with Germany today. Germany is literally engaged in policies that have no other outcome other than conflict with Russia, while ignoring the fact that Russia has not attacked them. You know who has attacked them? The United States!

Ask yourselves, Germans, who attacked Nord Stream 1? Who attacked Nord Stream 2? Who is strangling the German economy, by preventing you from buying cheap, affordable, sustainable Russian gas, and insisting that instead, you buy expensive U.S. li-

quefied natural gas, that is bankrupting your society, bankrupting your economy? It's not Russia's fault that Germany is facing the problems that they're facing today! It's America's fault, and it's Germany's fault for

not recognizing this.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. If there are any questions, I'd be more than happy to take them.

Mayors Patrick Kindt and Patrick Gombault French Mayors Support the Stralsund Call for Peace

In October, the city of Stralsund, Germany, and its mayor launched an [initiative](#) to urge peace talks in the Ukraine war. The mayor addressed an open letter titled, "A New Stralsund Peace," to the Federal government in Berlin. The letter and initiative made reference to an important peace treaty signed in Stralsund in 1370, which brought an end to a long series of wars in the Baltic Sea region, and offered Stralsund as a venue for negotiations to end the Ukraine war.

Unfortunately, representatives of Stralsund could not participate in this Schiller Institute conference, but said they will do so in a future one. Their initiative made international headlines, and five municipal officials of French towns, including four mayors, became signatories of that appeal and sent their greetings and support. The representatives of Stralsund said they feel equally represented at the Schiller Institute conference by the two French mayors who are speaking today. They are Patrick Kindt, Mayor of Chidrac, a town in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes region, with a population of 535, and Patrick Gombault, Mayor of Viâpres-le-Petit, in the northeast of France, with 126 inhabitants. They may be small places, but they're about to write history. They have been mobilizing to find more who will sign, and now 19 French mayors are signatories to the appeal by the city of Stralsund.

This is the edited transcript of the presentations by these two French mayors, to Panel 1, "Stopping the Doomsday Clock—The Common Good of the One Humanity," of the Schiller Institute's Nov. 22 conference, "For World Peace—Stop the Danger of Nuclear War: Third Seminar of Political and Social Leaders of the World."

They spoke in French with simultaneous English translation and closed captioning. The full proceedings of the conference are [available](#) at the Schiller Institute website.



Schiller Institute

Patrick Kindt



Schiller Institute

Patrick Gombault

Mayor Patrick Kindt

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you!

Following the call by the Mayor of Stralsund, which I find necessary to have peace and avoid all the problems, I would like to add why I am responding entirely to this call from Stralsund with my following positions.

Even if one does not accept the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, it is necessary to analyze how this state of affairs came about. It seems obvious that the United States has long been pursuing two objectives in Europe: to weaken Europe and make it dependent on the United States, and to put Europe on the front line in order to prevent Russia, among others, from becoming a competing power. The position of Europe and of France in particular, with its alignment with the American war machine called NATO, does not allow us to act for peace with other countries. It is therefore urgent for the interest of the Ukrainian and Russian populations, and for the interest of the world, that this war stops.

Negotiation remains the only way to stop the spiral of war, both present and future, where the people are always the losers.

Mayor Patrick Gombault

It is always difficult to express oneself on a subject that one does not master perfectly. However, one thing