
International Intelligence

McFaul Goes Nuts After EIR Exposé of Russia Ops

Oxford University regime-change operative Michael McFaul, currently masquerading as U.S. Ambassador to Russia, has been performing a circus geek act on Twitter since the publication of *EIR*'s exposés of his National Endowment for Democracy (NED) platform and his Oxford roots, in a dossier on the destabilization of Russia published in the Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 issues. Our Jan. 20 article, focussing on the role of the NED in cultivating Internet celebrity Alexei Navalny, was paraphrased (without being mentioned) in a commentary by Prof. Igor Panarin of Russia's Diplomatic Academy, posted on the site of the official Russia Today (RT) TV channel earlier this week.

McFaul tweeted to RT editor-in-chief Margarita Simonyan on Feb. 7: "@M_Simonyan when we met at White House you asked me tell you when RT ran something untrue. On RT today, @McFaul sent @Navalny to Yale. Lie." Simonyan replied, essentially: What on Earth are you talking about? She told McFaul her staff had searched every broadcast on RT's five channels, finding nothing of the kind. "Got a link?" she asked. The apparently hysterical McFaul replied, "I have to prove that I did NOT send Navalny to Yale? Wierd [sic] idea of reporting. Isnt [sic] it your job to show link that I did?" Russian Twitterers had to intervene to explain to McFaul that by "link," Simonyan meant a URL. She later pointed out that Professor Panarin's guest commentary had appeared with a disclaimer, saying that his views were not necessarily shared by the RT editors.

In the meantime, Panarin discussed the matter on his website: "Of course M. McFaul did not personally finance the training of A. Navalny. M. McFaul is a theoretician, the author of the concept of 'democracy promotion' using specially trained talented individuals. Furthermore, M. McFaul sincerely believes that this

needs to be done for Russia." Panarin went on to elaborate McFaul's role in the NED [actually its subsidiary, the National Democratic Institute—ed.] in the 1990s, from which time his acquaintance with Russian liberal recipients of NED money dates. Panarin wrote about McFaul's own enthusiasm for Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, and identified the NED funding of Navalny and Maria Gaidar, in 2006, as part of an NED search for potential "Orange" leaders in Russia.

Pakistan Aligning Itself Closer to Russia

Since President Obama has fossilized U.S. relations with Pakistan following the killing of Osama bin Laden, and at least 24 Pakistani soldiers on Pakistani soil last November, Islamabad has moved quickly to build bridges with Russia. Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said, during her ongoing visit to Moscow, that Pakistan wants long-term and better economic relations with Russia. Talking to media along with her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, in Moscow Feb. 8, Khar said that Pakistan needed Russian cooperation in its energy sector. She said that she had discussed various trade options with Lavrov.

Speaking on regional cooperation, Khar said that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was an exceptionally important forum, and that Pakistan had been actively participating as an observer in the its deliberations, and was seeking permanent membership; she thanked Russia for extending support in this matter.

Answering a question on Afghanistan at a joint press conference after her meeting with the Lavrov, Khar said that Pakistan had a clear policy on extending full help and cooperation to any Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace initiative, and that this was the only solution to the problem.

Khar said the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline

and the Central Asia South Asia Regional Energy & Trade (CASA-1000) project were also discussed during the meeting, and that she had extended an invitation to the Russian leadership on behalf of President Asif Ali Zardari.

Indian Foreign Minister Is Welcomed in Beijing

India's news daily *The Hindu* reported a warmer-than-usual welcome being extended by Beijing to the visiting Indian External Affairs Minister, S.M. Krishna. During Krishna's Feb. 8 meeting with Communist Party Politburo member Zhou Yongkang at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, it reported, Zhou, China's ninth-highest-ranked politician and the security czar, told the Indian foreign minister at the start of the talks that bilateral relations, as well as regional cooperation between the countries, had made new progress since the beginning of the 21st Century.

Recalling his visit to India in 2010, during which he held talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairwoman Sonia Gandhi, and other political leaders, Zhou said: "There is enough opportunity and space for the development for the 2.5 billion people of China and India combined."

At a later meeting between Krishna and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, the two discussed Russia and China's veto of a UN Security Council resolution demanding that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step down. A U.S.-sponsored resolution to restrict oil trade with Iran was also discussed, as well as the situation in Afghanistan.

Krishna later met with Wang Jiarui, a senior official of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, followed by a meeting with top diplomat and State Counsellor Dai Bingguo, who visited New Delhi last month to take part in the 15th round of India-China border talks.