

Brits Stoke War Provocations From Ukraine to S. China Sea

by Nancy Spannaus

May 12—Any sane person should be shaking in his boots. Within the space of one week, *both* Russia and the United States have carried out military exercises in preparation for nuclear war. That doesn't mean that thermonuclear war is about to break out, but it *does* mean that both sides are pre-positioning for the potential that the thermonuclear war phase may be the next to come.

The cause for the thermonuclear war danger, however, as Lyndon LaRouche has stressed, does not lie with either Russia, or the United States, or even the European Union. Rather, the global British imperial forces, who use Obama as their pawn, and dominate the EU leadership, are seeking to set up the war conflict, as a means as saving themselves, and pressing forward their agenda of world empire and depopulation. The British financial empire is bankrupt and desperate to try to save itself by the tried-and-true method of provoking war; yet this time, such a war would almost inevitably be thermonuclear.

To outflank the British intention, there is no alternative to defanging the British imperial forces. That means both removing their power over the U.S. nuclear arsenal, by removing Obama from office—and bankrupting their financial power with Glass-Steagall.

Nuclear War Games

Russia's strategic nuclear forces, under the direct supervision of President Vladimir Putin, carried out what can only be described as a nuclear war exercise on

May 8. According to ITAR-Tass, the exercises had been planned last November. The Presidents of Belarus, Armenia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, in Moscow for the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) summit, were present to witness the exercise. Putin told the heads of state, reported RIA Novosti, "I will underline that our army is a secure guarantee of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country and plays a substantial role in enforcing global and regional security."

All three legs of Russia's strategic triad participated in the drills, as did elements of its conventional forces, to include missile troops, artillery, aircraft, and air defense forces against simulated enemy ground and air forces. That this exercise took place one day before the massive military parade celebrating victory over the Nazis in World War II probably won't be lost on anyone with any strategic sense.

According to Russian nuclear weapons expert Pavel Podvig, the exercise was devoted to "coordinating actions of various units in countering a large-scale missile and air attack." Also, the exercise checked the procedures for launching a "massive launch-on-warning missile strike and countering a nuclear attack by the means of the Moscow missile defense system." A Topol RS-12 ICBM was launched from the Plesetsk launch center to the Kamchatka test range. Two Delta-class nuclear submarines, one from the Northern Fleet and another from the Pacific Fleet, each fired an R-29 missile at different test sites, and a TU-95 strategic bomber



NATO

Rising tensions between NATO and Russia are not a product of the local Ukrainian situation, as is underscored by the outbreak of hostilities in the Asian theater, and a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Abe to NATO headquarters in Brussels. Abe (left) shown here with NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen in Brussels May 6.

fired six cruise missiles at targets in the Western District military range. According to the Defense Ministry, all warheads hit their targets. The Gazelle ABM system, which is installed around Moscow, was also tested at the Sary Shagan range in Kazakhstan, where a target imitating an ICBM warhead was successfully intercepted.

Just days after the Russian maneuvers, U.S. Strategic Command announced that it would also be conducting exercises involving U.S. strategic nuclear forces—also reportedly planned as long as a year ago. Exercise Global Lightning 14 is to run from May 12-16 “in coordination with other combatant commands, services, and appropriate U.S. government agencies to deter and

detect strategic attacks against the U.S. and its allies,” said the Stratcom release. Units involved in the exercise will fly up to ten B-52 and six B-2 bombers “to demonstrate flexibility and responsiveness in the training scenarios throughout the continental U.S.” according to the Stratcom release, which otherwise provided few details.

“This exercise provides unique training opportunities to incorporate the most current technology and techniques in support of our mission. Continued focus and investment in our strategic capabilities allow USSTRATCOM to deter, dissuade, and defeat current and future threats to the U.S. and our allies,” said Stratcom commander Adm. Cecil Haney.

The Provocations Aren’t Working

The danger that the British puppeteers will activate their thermonuclear option is heightened by their dismal failure on the ground. While provocations by NATO and the neo-Nazi government in Ukraine continue to escalate, with brutal, bloody results for the Ukrainian population, they are clearly backfiring with the western Europeans, in particular. At the same time, the Russian government continues to steadily advance a policy of dialogue and non-violence in the region.

The Russian policy bore fruit this week, as, with the encouragement particularly of German senior statesmen and industry leaders, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) came forward with a thorough proposal and timetable for negotiations to move toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine. OSCE chairman (and Swiss President) Didier Burkhalter discussed his proposal with President Putin last week, and delivered a full-fledged plan to the European foreign ministers meeting today.

According to swissinfo.ch, run by the Swiss Public Broadcasting corporation, Burkhalter “announced a series of high-level roundtable discussions led by the OSCE which would bring together leading representatives from national government authorities, the Ukrainian Parliament, and representatives from the regions. Those roundtables ‘will start in a pilot format in the next few days,’ Burkhalter added, ‘and will be co-moderated by German diplomat Wolfgang Ischinger. The OSCE has recommended that a bipartisan Ukrainian public figure serve as moderator.’”

The objectives are disarming “of both sides”; national dialogue on language prevalence and on decentralization. “‘We do not have to agree on every detail.

But we need to agree to take action and implement some measures immediately,' said Burkhalter." Ischinger is former German ambassador to the U.S., current head of Munich Security Conference, and co-chair with former Sen. Sam Nunn of the U.S.-Atlantic Dialogue.

Putin has also proposed that the OSCE act as broker on the question of last weekend's referenda in Donetsk and Luhansk, where an overwhelming majority of the citizens braved Kiev military aggression to vote for self-rule. Kiev, using both its regular military and the armed Nazi gangs it has deputized, has declared that it will not recognize the results of the referenda, and intends to press its military assault against the population there, claiming that it is really fighting against Russian aggression.

In the wake of the Burkhalter proposal, the EU postponed its last round of sanctions against Russia (the addition of a dozen or so more individuals to the list), undoubtedly to the dismay of NATO, Obama, and other members of the British pro-war faction.

Provocations from NATO are also continuing, with the sending of troops and staging of maneuvers in the Baltic states and Poland. These are creating an extremely tense environment in the region.

And in the South China Sea

The fact that the escalating NATO-Russian tensions are *not* a product of the local Ukrainian situation is underscored by last week's outbreak of hostilities in the Asian theater, and a visit May 6 by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

During Abe's visit, the two sides signed an "individual partnership and cooperation program" that will serve as a roadmap for future joint activities, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said. The substance of the program for "cooperation" was signalled in the rhetoric employed: Abe said, "NATO, which shares our fundamental values, is indeed our natural partner. Together, we triumphed in the Cold War."

But the real significance lies in the future. "There is no doubt the security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic and Asian-Pacific regions cannot be treated separately," Rasmussen told a joint news conference. "In this time of crisis, our dialogue with like-minded partners like Japan is key to address global security challenges."

And, when Abe said, in the non-public portion of his speech, according to a transcript provided by Japanese officials, that "The number of times that [Japanese]

Self-Defense Force aircraft scramble in response to military aircraft approaching our territorial airspace has now reached the same level as during the height of the Cold War," it should be understood that Japanese self-defense spokesmen are speaking of both Chinese and Russian aircraft.

Meanwhile, a conflict between Vietnam and China over the stationing of a Chinese oil-rig in the South China Sea, near the Paracel Islands, has become an international incident. Vietnam is attempting to prevent a Chinese deep-sea drilling rig from establishing a position at the location, which is claimed by both countries.

Both countries have deployed dozens of ships to the area, and exchanged water cannon fire.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh told Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi that the deployment of the \$1 billion deep-sea rig, accompanied by military vessels, was illegal and a violation of Vietnamese sovereignty, according to a Vietnamese government statement. Vietnam demanded that China withdraw the rig, adding that it would "apply all necessary and suitable measures to defend its rights and legitimate interests."

China says the rig, CNOOC 981, is in its territorial waters. Yang told Pham that the activities of the Chinese companies in the Xisha Islands are within the mandate of China's sovereignty, according to Xinhua. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin summoned Vietnamese Ambassador to China Nguyen Van Tho, and called Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Ho Xuan Son to make solemn representations on this issue.

As of May 8, both the U.S. and Japanese governments had weighed in with attacks on China for deploying the rig, thereby making it an international issue. The Chinese government blasted the U.S., in particular, for its interference in the regional affair.

No Local Crises

While cool heads might temporarily calm the conflicts in Ukraine or the South China Sea, to restrict anti-war actions to those regions would be suicidal. Until the British imperial financial system is put out of action by being forced into bankruptcy where it belongs, it will continue to use its stooges—from Obama, to the Ukrainian Nazis, to its dupes in Asia—to stoke war crises.

The cause of the danger of thermonuclear war is the British Empire, stupid! And we had better act accordingly.