

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

**The Historic Crossroads of 2023**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—“In the face of unprecedented pressure and provocations from the West, we defend our principled positions and protect not only our own interests, but also the interests of all those who stand for a truly democratic world order and the right of countries freely to determine their destiny,” said Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) during his Dec. 30 video summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“[President Xi](#) emphasized that the world has now come to another historical crossroads,” reads the Chinese readout of the summit. “To revert to a Cold War mentality, provoke division and antagonism, and stoke confrontation between blocs, or to act out of the common good of humanity, to promote mutual respect and win-win cooperation—the tug of war between these two trends is testing the wisdom of statesmen in major countries.”

The relationship between the two non-NATO members of the Security Council has been strengthened by the incessant, and increasing provocations against them by the U.S.-U.K.-NATO bloc, which seeks to destroy them as exemplars of the independent sovereignty the would-be unipolar hegemons cannot tolerate. The recent attack on Russia’s Engels-2 strategic air force base is a significant escalation.

That U.S.-U.K.-NATO bloc has less and less to offer the world—besides terrible advice. And the world as a whole realizes it. International trade is moving away from dollars, as energy and other deals are increasingly made in national currencies. Sanctions have had a profound effect on the world economy, driving millions into food, fertilizer, and energy poverty, even as Russia’s current account surplus soars. De-dollarization, well underway, is coming to be de-Westernization.

Consider Philippines President Marcos’s very successful trip to China this week. Tens of billions of dollars in bilateral deals were signed. “China

is the strongest partner of the Philippines, and nothing can hold back the continuation and development of the Philippines-China friendship,” he said. Efforts to bring the Philippines into an anti-China alliance, such as over disputes in the South China Sea, have failed.

At the suggestion of Patriarch Kirill, and with the encouragement of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Putin has declared a 36-hour truce to allow the faithful to celebrate Christmas, celebrated on January 7 in the Orthodox tradition. Unfortunately, Ukraine has rejected the ceasefire.

Who can bring peace? And who must be brought to the table?

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s offer to help in peace negotiations was rejected by Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#): “[I]t is strange to hear offers of mediation from countries that took an unequivocal and very aggressive anti-Russia position from the very beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine.... Obviously, given Italy’s biased position, we cannot regard them as either an honest mediator or a possible guarantor in a peace process.”

Peace is not a matter of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia simply. It is a matter of ending the attempted U.S.-U.K.-NATO hegemony and of adopting new principles for international relations and development. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Schiller Institute founder, has issued [Ten Principles](#) for such a discussion, and, through her co-thinkers, is moving the deliberation forward:

On Sunday, January 8 at 2 p.m. EST, Diane Sare will host an online policy discussion, “Can Nuclear War Be Avoided? Only If the U.S.A. Becomes Trustworthy,” with Scott Ritter, Col. Richard Black (ret.), Steve Starr, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and others. The event will *only* be on Zoom. [Register](#) for the link.

On Tuesday, January 10 at 11 a.m. EST, the Schiller Institute will host an internet discussion “Do You Care about International Law, Frau

Merkel?” with Ray McGovern, Scott Ritter, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Gen. Dominique Delawarde (ret.), Col. Alain Corvez (ret.), and others.

On Saturday, January 14 at 10 a.m., the LaRouche movement will host an event on, among other things, recovering the soul of the United States. “To Stop NATO’s World War, Dismantle the ‘JFK International Assassination Bureau’ ” will include Garland Nixon, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and Ray McGovern.

In early February, the Schiller Institute will hold a major conference “Ten Principles for Organizing a New International Security and Development Architecture.” Zepp-LaRouche’s [Ten Principles](#) are available on the Schiller Institute website.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday January 6, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## NEW WORLD PARADIGM

### Philippine President’s Visit Cements China-Philippine Friendship

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. has wrapped up his visit to China, where he had in-depth meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as well as Premier Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. President Marcos was accompanied by key private sector representatives. The new President has firmly rejected efforts from London and Washington to pit the Philippines against China over disputes in the South China Sea, in favor of friendly relations and a spirit of mutually beneficial development with Beijing.

After the meeting with President Xi, President Marcos said they had had a very long meeting, and that he is “very optimistic” about the relationship. “We had a very fruitful exchange of ideas and beginnings of a plan for moving forward.... We covered so many subjects, much more than as usual

for these very formal meetings. We talked about the trade imbalance between our country and China and what we can do to remedy this,” [President Marcos](#) told reporters, according to the government news agency. “We also discussed what we can do to move forward, to avoid any possible mistakes, misunderstandings that could trigger a bigger problem than what we already have.”

On the issue of the South China Sea and fishing rights, Marcos was pleased with Xi’s pledge to “find a compromise and find a solution that will be beneficial.” He said the Philippines is “willing to continue to properly handle maritime issues through friendly consultation.”

Otherwise, Marcos flanked the anti-China hysteria being whipped up by Western nations, and said, China is the strongest partner of the Philippines, and nothing can hold back the continuation and development of the Philippines-China friendship, reported [China’s Foreign Ministry](#) spokeswoman Mao Ning today. President [Xi Jinping’s statement](#) on their Jan. 4 meeting cited President Marcos as expressing “his hope to prove to the world through this visit that the Philippines-China relationship is in very good shape and is very important, and that both sides attach great importance to this relationship and are committed to taking it to a new height.”

As had earlier been reported, the two Presidents signed 14 bilateral agreements, and concluded \$22 billion worth of trade deals. The agreements included an updated memorandum of understanding on China’s Belt and Road Initiative, a new line of communication for any disputes in the South China Sea, agricultural, infrastructure, energy, and tourism. On infrastructure, it included new bridges over the Pasig-Marikina River, the Manggahan Floodway, and the ongoing Davao-Samal Island Bridge. There were also agreements made to restart gas and oil exploration and drilling in the South China Sea, which had been stopped as a result of pressure from the U.S. in recent years.

Also of note, upon returning to Manila after his trip, President Marcos was quoted by Reuters as saying, “I emphasized to President Xi how my

administration intends to pursue an independent foreign policy, that we are more than willing to cooperate whenever possible in the pursuit of regional peace and our two countries' national interest.”

## STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

### A Dangerous Moment of Insecurity

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—A senior military source, commenting on the article “[Playing with Atomic Fire](#)” (“Spiel mit dem atomaren Feuer”) by Col. Ralph Bosshard (ret.) on Ukraine’s extremely dangerous Dec. 26 attack on the Russian airbases in Saratov and Ryazan, told *EIR* that the attacks constituted a “dangerous moment of insecurity,” because Engels airbase is a Russian nuclear strategic base. He compared it to an attack on the U.S. Pacific and Atlantic Fleet strategic naval bases at San Diego, California or Norfolk, Virginia. He warned that there has now been a loss of the transparency that existed at those bases as part of the superpower agreement; that transparency is lost, he said, because the Russians were compelled to disperse the aircraft. Russia is now compelled to take measures to protect other nuclear assets.

The source also said that had a European NATO country assisted Ukraine, he would think it would have been the British, since, as a nuclear power, Britain would have the intelligence capabilities to assist in such an operation (although he would not publish it, because he could not prove it); furthermore, he said that the British are the most directly involved in Ukraine. He also agreed to the characterization that, because of these attacks, a chessboard has been activated being the potential for a superpower confrontation, because now Russia’s nuclear strategic assets have been directly targeted.

He had a further observation on the question of nuclear assets and intelligence sharing: Whereas NATO has its structures and procedures in this area for cooperation, in reality any cooperation is bilateral with another nation and not through NATO structures.

## Russia's Patriarch Kirill Calls for Christmas Ceasefire

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia released a statement on Jan. 5, in which he called for a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine on Jan. 7 for the celebration of Orthodox Christmas. [Patriarch Kirill](#)'s statement read: "I, Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, appeal to all parties involved in the internecine conflict to cease fire and establish a Christmas truce from 12:00 p.m. January 6 to 12:00 a.m. January 8, so the Orthodox people can attend services on Christmas Eve and on the day of the Nativity of Christ."

In the afternoon, Russian [President Vladimir Putin](#), who is Supreme Commander in Chief of Russia's Armed Forces, issued the following orders, which were posted to the Presidential website: "Upon consideration of the address from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill, I instruct the Defense Minister of the Russian Federation to introduce a ceasefire along the entire line of contact in Ukraine from 12.00 on January 6, 2023 to 24.00 on January 7, 2023.

"As a large number of Orthodox Christians reside in the area of hostilities, we call on the Ukrainian side to declare a ceasefire to allow them to attend church services on Christmas Eve as well as on Christmas Day."

[Mykhailo Podolyak](#), adviser to the Head of the Office of the Ukrainian President, tweeted the following disgusting reply to Patriarch Kirill: "First. Ukraine does not attack foreign territory and does not kill the civilian population, as Russia does. Ukraine only destroys members of the occupation army on its territory... Second. The Russian Federation must leave the occupied territories—only then will a 'temporary truce' begin. Leave the hypocrisy to yourself... that the announcement was propaganda and a cynical trap."

## Putin Sends Off Hypersonic-Missile Armed Frigate on Long-Distance Mission

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday gave a send-off to the *Admiral Gorshkov* frigate via video link, which departed

from its Northern Fleet base on a long-distance voyage that will take it into the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Putin said: “Today we have an important, if not landmark, event: the frigate *Admiral Gorshkov* is departing for a long-distance naval mission. There is nothing unusual here, this is common practice; but this time the ship is equipped with the cutting-edge Zircon hypersonic missile system, which has no analogue—this is a sea-based hypersonic system, and other new generation weapons....

“I want to first thank the specialists of the military-industrial complex who have developed and begun to mass-produce this unique weapon. As I said, it has no analogue in any country in the world.

“I know that such powerful weapons will make it possible to reliably defend Russia from potential external threats and will help ensure our national interests. I would like to stress that we will continue to build up the combat potential of the Armed Forces and produce advanced weapons and equipment that will guard Russia's security in the coming decades. This is a promising weapon,” he concluded.

The President asked for a report from Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who stated: “The frigate *Admiral of the Soviet Fleet Gorshkov* ... armed with Zircon missiles, is capable of inflicting pinpoint and powerful strikes against an enemy at sea and on land. At the same time, one feature of the Zircon hypersonic missiles is the ability to reliably overcome today’s advanced air defense and missile defense systems. The missile’s flight speed exceeds Mach 9, and the range is over 1,000 km.

“The main objectives during this mission will be focused on countering any threats to Russia, maintaining regional peace and stability together with friendly countries. During the exercises and training, the crew will practice the use of hypersonic weapons and long-range cruise missiles in various environmental conditions.”

President Putin closed by expressing to the *Admiral Gorshkov* the common wish for those at sea: “May there be seven feet under the keel.”

TASS, citing South African news portal [defenceWeb](#), reported yesterday that South Africa's Defense Ministry had announced a joint South Africa-Russia-China naval exercise, Mosi (Smoke), set for Feb. 17-24, in South Africa's Indian Ocean waters. It seems likely that the *Gorshkov* is slated to participate in that exercise.

## Temple Mount Provocation Sparks Harsh Criticism at Home and Abroad

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—Some harsh commentary, both inside and outside Israel, appeared yesterday, denouncing National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's 15-minute walk on the Temple Mount, where one of Islam's holiest sites, the Al-Aqsa Mosque is located, on Jan. 3. David Horowitz, editor-in-chief of the *Times of Israel*, roasted Ben-Gvir as a "provocateur and a pyromaniac" who "has spent decades stirring trouble ... with innumerable acts of rabble-rousing, dozens of indictments, and several convictions for incitement and racism-related offenses" over the last 25 years. Nonetheless, Ben-Gvir's latest provocation was enabled by newly reelected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who made him "a leading figure in the government of Israel, a member of its key decision-making security cabinet, and the minister with unprecedented power over the nation's police force." Netanyahu, Horowitz notes, could have told Ben-Gvir not to go to the Temple Mount, but he failed to do so.

British journalist [Peter Osborne](#), writing for Middle East Eye news organization, argues that Ben-Gvir's provocation shows that Israel is trying to seize total control of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by wrecking the status quo that allows only Muslims to pray at Al-Aqsa, while Jews pray at the Western Wall. And with the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the Hashemite dynasty of Jordan took over as Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites; Al-Aqsa's administration belongs to a Muslim institution, the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, which is under the custodianship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, while Israeli authorities control security. The arrangement, Osborne says, dates back to 1878 and was reaffirmed by Moshe Dayan after Israel captured East Jerusalem in 1967. It has been under attack, however, since at

least Ariel Sharon’s “storming” of the courtyard of the mosque in 2000 with 1,000 Israeli police officers.

## **Russia Finds Italy Unqualified To Mediate Peace: First Stop Sending in Weapons**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—Italy’s Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, according to *Corriere della Sera*, stated in her final news conference on Dec. 29, that “Italy is ready” to be the “guarantor of a possible peace agreement. That’s the reason why I plan to go to Kiev before the end of February. Because I believe that on February 24 an initiative can be taken. I’m talking to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy about this.” But she specified that “until the conditions for a peace ripen” it is necessary “to continue to support Ukraine.”

Media requested a response from Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman [Maria Zakharova](#), who replied, in part: “However, it is strange to hear offers of mediation from countries that took an unequivocal and very aggressive anti-Russia position from the very beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine, and not only supported the bloody Kiev regime, but also provide it with significant military and military-technical assistance.... It is known that Italy, along with an extensive range of weapons and military equipment, is supplying Kiev with anti-personnel mines....

“Obviously, given Italy’s biased position, we cannot regard them as either an honest mediator or a possible guarantor in a peace process....”

## **Nearly 8 Million Ukrainians Are Refugees or Émigrés**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—A total of 7,915,287 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in European countries since the beginning of the war, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in a Jan. 4 statement. The number has increased by 18,462 in the past week.

The largest number, 2,852,395, have fled to Russia, while 1,553,707 have fled to Poland; followed by Germany, 1,021,667; and Czech Republic, 476,025, among other countries.

## Ukrainian Orthodox Church Pushed Out of Cathedral for Christmas

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—The “Orthodox Church of Ukraine” promoted by the Kiev regime to undermine the 1,000-year-old Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), announced yesterday that Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epiphanius would celebrate the Jan. 7 Christmas service be in Dormition Cathedral of Kiev Pechersk Lavra, which had been the main UOC cathedral until it was “nationalized” by the Zelenskyy regime on Jan. 1. Zelenskyy’s Culture Ministry asserted the cathedral had been “rented” by the Moscow Patriarchate, which lease expired. The move is clearly in line with President Zelenskyy’s assault on the UOC.

The UOC issued a [statement](#) denouncing the effectively illegal seizure, even pointing out that the Kiev regime’s own martial law suspended expirations of such leases to four months after the end of martial law, and that, therefore, “even if the term of the agreements has expired, they are automatically prolonged for the period of the martial law and for four months after its end.”

Despite the UOC having declared independence from the Moscow Patriarchate after Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine, the Kiev regime has treated it as an enemy. Ukrainian authorities have taken aim against religious institutions allegedly linked to Moscow, raiding churches across the country, including the Dormition Cathedral of Kiev Pechersk Lavra itself. Zelenskyy has supported the crackdown, announcing new measures seeking to ban religious institutions deemed to have links to Russia in a bid to safeguard the nation’s “spiritual independence.”

## U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

### Rep Adam Kinzinger, Out of Congress, In at CNN

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—The notorious Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), who played a large role in the January 6 hearings against former President Donald Trump and his supporters, and who has generally been the worst of neocon war hawks—he was also a key figure leading up the “NAFO” thought police efforts to censor “pro-Russian” accounts on Twitter—did a quiet

duck-out of Congress last year, due to his level of support rivalling Liz Cheney's. However, within days of the end of session, Kinzinger has accepted a post as "senior political commentator" at CNN.

As the revolving door between Washington and the media continues, is it any wonder why political discussion is so manipulated in the United States?

### **Southwest Airlines Fiasco Involves Stock Buybacks Instead of Software Upgrades**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—The holiday disaster of Southwest Airlines, which canceled 15,000 flights, should be blamed on ineffective regulation and a profit-driven orientation, rather than the bad weather from which other airlines recovered much more effectively.

Southwest's computer systems are woefully out of date and became unable to cope with the magnitude of the irregular operations started by bad weather. Pilots and other employees were unable to let Southwest know where they were, and Southwest was therefore unable to assign crews to its flights, meaning there were planes ready to fly, pilots and flight attendants ready to staff them, and thousands of travelers ready to go, held back by an information technology disaster.

[Sam Pizzigati](#) reported on Counterpunch that Southwest's annual report of last year said, "Modifications and refinements to systems have been and are expected to continue to be expensive to implement and can divert management's attention from other matters."

What "other matters"? Well, shareholder value, of course!

"We have starved [the tech upgrade section] a little bit [sic] over the last decade," said CEO Gary Kelly in a pre-Covid earnings call, "because again, our focus was more on the commercial side."

Since 2015, the airline "has paid out about \$1.6 billion in dividends and repurchased more than \$8 billion in shares," reports Michael Hiltzik in the Dec. 28 *Los Angeles Times*.

During Covid, says Pizzigati, Southwest received a \$7 billion federal bailout, for which it expressed its gratitude by becoming the first Covid-subsidized airline to begin making dividend payments again.

The Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 has put all authority for regulating airlines in the Department of Transportation. State officials have been unable to intervene for decades, and the DOT has not made sufficient demands for reliable systems capable of functioning even under times of stress.

### **After Eleven Votes, No Speaker of the House Elected**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—A grouping of Republican lawmakers in the House of Representatives has prevented the election of former Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House yesterday, by voting for a variety of other individuals, including Congressmen Byron Donalds and Kevin Hern, as well as former President Donald Trump, thereby ensuring that no candidate for the position should receive a majority of votes. Shortly after 8 p.m., the House adjourned until noon on Jan. 5, after an eleventh vote failed to elect a Speaker.

Because of the enormous power exerted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the ongoing debate about who will fill that position is an actual debate on policy, including the Ukraine policy. Some specific demands are the separation of appropriations bills, to allow for debate and vote on individual aspects of government; the ability more easily to offer new amendments to bills from the floor of the House; and foreign policy.

The ongoing negotiation about who will serve as Speaker does not represent a catastrophic breakdown of democracy; it is an actual *debate*—something that too rarely happens in Washington.

## SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

### **New DNA-Editing Therapy Proves Effective in Pediatric Leukemia Case**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—Pediatric leukemia, a cancer of the white blood cells, can be treated in a variety of ways, but some patients do not respond to traditional treatments.

One British girl, diagnosed in May 2021, has had two cancer-free examinations at the end of 2022, thanks to a new, very specific treatment, that involved directly changing DNA.

The girl essentially had her T-cells replaced by edited T-cells from a donor. The donor cells were modified to remove CD7, a unique marker characteristic of T-cells, made immune to a chemotherapy drug, and edited to hunt any cells displaying CD7.

Thus the new donor cells destroyed the girl's cancerous T-cells. A new bone-marrow transplant (white blood cells are born in the bone marrow) will allow her to rebuild her new immune system.

Another ten people are lined up for the therapy, which offers other exciting applications, such as the treatment of sickle cell disease. One single DNA change causes sickle-cell anemia, and if it were reversed, the blood cells would be normal.

In the case of this girl's leukemia, all of the DNA changes were designed to deactivate existing portions of her genetic code, but future applications could also add functionality.

### **Beijing Boasts Cleaner Air in 2022**

Jan. 5, 2023 (EIRNS)—China's rapid economic development has pulled the nation out of poverty and made it a leading productive powerhouse. Earlier stages of that development emphasized productive output at the expense of air-quality controls, leading to serious air pollution problems in such cities as Beijing, the nation's capital.

But that has changed in the last decade, as new power plants have come online, vehicle emissions controls have been tightened, and construction techniques have been improved.

On a one-year time scale, average concentrations of PM2.5 in Beijing decreased 9%, reports *Global Times*. (PM2.5 refers to tiny particulate matter, no larger than 2.5 microns in diameter.) Over the span of a decade, the improvements are profound:

The number of days with “good” or “excellent” air quality reached 286 in 2022, the same as 2021, but the number of days specifically with “excellent” air quality increased by 138, over 114 in 2021. Both numbers are huge improvements over the meager 41 days with excellent air quality in 2013.

Days of “heavy” pollution have decreased from 58 in 2013 to only 3 in 2022.

In the case of China’s air quality, we see how development improves the human environment.