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## Macron calls for European rearmament, security talks with Russia

*January 20, 2022* spacewar.com reported: “French President Emmanuel Macron called Wednesday for Europe to become a ‘power of the future’, capable of guaranteeing its own security in the face of Russian military moves on the continent’s doorstep.

The 44-year-old leader, who is set to seek re-election in April, addressed lawmakers at the European Parliament to lay out his priorities for France’s turn holding the six-month rotating presidency of the 27-member bloc.

The agenda intends to ‘create together a European power of the future... an independent Europe that has given itself the means to decide its own future and not rely on the decisions of other major powers,’ he said.

Over his four and a half years in power, Macron has consistently argued for what he calls European ‘strategic autonomy’, seeking to match the continent’s undisputed economic weight with diplomatic and military strength...”



## China says it warned away US warship in South China Sea

*January 20, 2022* jpost.com reported: “Chinese forces followed and warned away a US warship that entered waters near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, the country’s military said on Thursday, in the latest uptick in tensions in the disputed waterway.

The Southern Theatre Command of the People’s Liberation Army said the USS Benfold ‘illegally’ sailed into Chinese territorial waters without permission, violating the country’s sovereignty, and that Chinese naval and air forces tracked the ship.

‘We solemnly demand that the US side immediately stop such provocative actions, otherwise it will bear the serious consequences of unforeseen events,’ it added.

The US Navy said it was working on a statement...”

## Russia Moves More Troops Westward Amid Ukraine Tensions

*January 19, 2022* voanews.com reported: “Russia is sending an unspecified number of troops from the country’s far east to Belarus for major war games, officials said Tuesday, a deployment that will further beef up Russian military assets near Ukraine amid Western fears of a planned invasion.

Amid the soaring tensions, the White House warned that Russia could attack its neighbor at ‘any point,’ while the United Kingdom delivered a batch of anti-tank weapons to Ukraine.

Russia’s Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said the joint drills with Belarus would involve practicing a joint response to external threats.

Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia could launch an attack on Ukraine from several directions, including from its ally Belarus...”

## Israel, US test ‘Arrow 3’ space missile capable of downing satellites

*January 19, 2022* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “On Tuesday, the Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO) of the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D) in Israel’s Ministry of Defense, together with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and the Israeli Defense Forces, conducted a successful flight test of the Arrow Weapon System (AWS) and the Arrow 3 interceptor, which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside of the earth’s atmosphere. Experts have suggested the missile could also be used to destroy satellites in orbit.

The test was performed at a test site in central Israel, and led by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).



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AWS operational radars array detected the target and transferred data to the battle management control (BMC), which analyzed the data and established a defense plan. After the defense plan was established, two Arrow-3 interceptors were launched toward the target and successfully completed the mission...”

### **China’s Xi warns global confrontation ‘invites catastrophic consequences’**

*January 18, 2022* spacewar.com reported: “Chinese President Xi Jinping warned on Monday that confrontation between major powers could have ‘catastrophic consequences’ in a speech to world leaders at an all-virtual Davos forum.

For the second year in a row the face-to-face gathering of political and corporate power players in the Swiss Alps has had to go online thanks to a coronavirus pandemic that shows no sign of abating.

Xi opened proceedings with a speech much like the one he delivered virtually last year.

He touted China — where the coronavirus first emerged in late 2019 — as a rare pandemic success story and the only major economy to continue posting strong growth. He presented himself as the defender of multilateralism and also gave sober warnings for the future as relations between major powers plunge...”

### **Five human cases of H5N6 bird flu reported in China**

*January 18, 2022* jpost.com reported: “Five human cases of the H5N6 strain of avian influenza have been reported in China in recent weeks, the Center for Health Protection (CHP) of the Hong Kong Department of Health reported on Thursday. Two of the patients have died.

Four out of the five cases had confirmed exposure to poultry, although it is as of yet unclear how the fifth case got infected, according to the Department of Health. All the cases were infected in December.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Friday that all the cases had a history of exposure to poultry prior to infection and that none of their family members had developed symptoms. No epidemiological links were found between the five cases.

Additionally, between January 7 and 13, four new cases of human infections of the H9N2 strain of bird flu were reported in China. All four are in mild condition and have already recovered. All had a history of poultry exposure and no epidemiological links were found between the four cases. 24 cases of H9N2 were reported in China in 2021...”

### **Philippines agrees to buy India anti-ship missile system**

*January 17, 2022* spacewar.com reported: “The Philippines has agreed to buy an anti-ship missile system from India, the defense minister said Friday, shoring up its security in the face of growing Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

Manila’s military was one of the most poorly equipped in Asia when President Rodrigo Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino, began a modest modernization program in 2012 — but it is still no match for its superpower neighbor China.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana offered few details about the nearly \$375 million contract awarded to BrahMos Aerospace to supply an onshore anti-ship missile system to the Philippine Navy.

BrahMos — a joint venture between India and Russia — has developed a cruise missile that the Indian defense ministry says is the fastest in the world. The Philippines would be the first country to purchase it. India’s defense ministry declined to comment...”

### **Swedish Security Police Warn of Space Wars With China, Russia**

*January 13, 2022* spacewar.com reported: “...More countries see space as a possible arena for conflicts in the future and already today, space is used as an arena for intelligence, Swedish Security Police (Sapo) chief Charlotte von Essen said at the national conference Nation and Defense.

With space as a new arena, ‘foreign powers’ get new opportunities, Sapo warned. According to Sapo, a conflict in space can begin with the disruption of socially important functions through an attack on an important space system, such as a navigation satellite. And for those who want to communicate with their satellites and retrieve data, Sweden is in a strategic location, according to the authority.

Two countries singled out as the biggest intelligence threats to Sweden, and which Sapo named as having high ambitions for their space activities, are China and Russia.

‘For China and Russia, space is important from both a military and civilian perspective. The countries are also very interested in acquiring knowledge about Swedish research that contributes to the development of space. More people with activities that can be connected to space need to create increased awareness of this,’ Charlotte von Essen said...”