



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Ukraine crisis: US rejects Russian demand to bar Ukraine from NATO

January 27, 2022 bbc.com reported: "The US has rejected Russia's demand to bar Ukraine from NATO, amid warnings Russia might invade its neighbour.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken was giving Russia a formal response to its demands to resolve the Ukraine crisis.

Mr. Blinken gave no concessions but said that he was offering Russia 'a serious diplomatic path forward, should Russia choose it'.

Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said President Vladimir Putin would now assess Mr. Blinken's response.

While the document – delivered by the US in coordination with the NATO military alliance – does not address Russia's 'main concern' about the alliance's expansion, Mr. Lavrov said it 'gives hope for the start of a serious conversation' on secondary questions.

The president's spokesman Dmitry Peskov meanwhile told reporters Russia would not 'rush into assessments', saying it would take 'time to analyse' the response..."

Israel working to defuse diplomatic crisis between US and Russia

January 27, 2022 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israel is working to defuse tensions between the US and Russia, amid a simmering border crisis between Russia and the Ukraine, *Galei Tzahal* reported Wednesday morning.

According to the report, the US requested Israel serve as a mediator in diplomatic efforts to prevent a major rift between the US and Russia.

The report also said that Israel is maintaining a low profile publicly on the crisis between Russia and the Ukraine, noting the large Jewish populations in both countries and citing fears that overt Israel support for either side could fuel anti-Semitism against Jews in the region.

The US has been trying to deescalate tensions with Russia over the past few days, even as President Joe Biden suggested Tuesday that he may impose sanctions on his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin..."

Ukraine separatists urge Russia to send modern weapons

January 27, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "A Ukrainian separatist leader on Thursday urged Russia to send modern weapons to the breakaway statelets to help them defend themselves against Western-backed Kyiv forces.

Denis Pushilin spoke after Russia's ruling party urged the Kremlin to start arming the separatist-held regions with tensions soaring between Moscow and the West.

'First and foremost, we need to counter the Bayraktars,' he told pro-Kremlin spin doctor Vladimir Solovyov in an online interview, referring to Turkish-made drones.

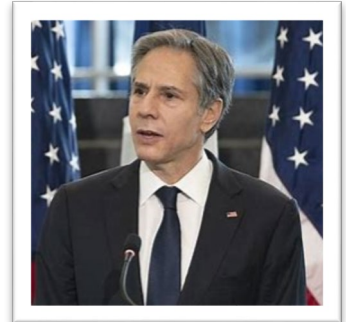
Solovyov said Russia was capable of supplying separatists with next generation weapons instead of Kalashnikov assault rifles and Soviet-era machine guns..."

Russia Rejects Biden Warning of 'Severe' Actions if it Invades Ukraine

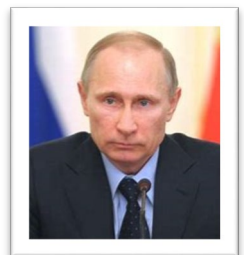
January 26, 2022 voanews.com reported: "Russia on Wednesday rejected the prospect of U.S. sanctions against President Vladimir Putin, one of several proposed responses if Russian forces were to invade neighboring Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that such sanctions would not be politically painful, but would be 'destructive.'

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday warned of 'severe' and 'enormous' consequences for Putin — including personal sanctions against Putin himself — if the Russian leader mobilizes the estimated 127,000 troops who stand ready to strike along the Ukrainian border..."



US Secretary of State Blinken



Pres. Vladimir Putin

China's high-tech warplanes pose 'big new threat' to Taiwan

January 26, 2022 spacewar.com reported: "China's deployment of J-16D jets into Taiwan's air defence zone this week marked the first sighting of the new high-tech warplanes, Taipei confirmed Tuesday, their electronic-jamming equipment posing a fresh threat to the island."

Taiwan lives under the constant spectre of invasion by China, which sees the self-ruled, democratic island as part of its territory to eventually be reclaimed — by force if necessary.

The final quarter of 2021 saw a massive spike of Chinese incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ), with the biggest single day coming on October 4, when 56 warplanes entered the zone.

Sunday and Monday saw a dramatic show of force as well, with 52 warplanes entering the zone over the two days, according to the island's defence ministry..."

Israel concerned joint Syrian-Russian jet patrol to limit IAF airstrikes

January 25, 2022 ynet.com reported: "Israel is concerned amid Syrian and Russian military jets' joint patrol on Monday along Syria's airspace and borders, including the armistice line along the Syrian border with Israel."

Officials said they wondered what caused Russia's apparent policy change, after it had enabled the IDF to act freely against the Iranian intrenchment on Syrian soil and even increase the attacks in recent months, to halt the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp's Quds Forces' plan to establish a Hezbollah like military presence.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the path of the areal patrol included the Israeli and Syrian Golan Heights that has seen regular Israeli airstrikes against suspected Iranian and Hezbollah positions. The ministry also said the patrol flights 'will continue to operate on a regular basis'.

The joint patrol included Russia's latest fighter jets: the Sukhoi Su-34 attack aircraft; Sukhoi Su-35 multi-mission fighter jet; A-50 command and control aircraft, as well as the Syrian army's MiG-23 and MiG-29 aircrafts..."

Two US carriers enter South China Sea, to 'counter malign influence'

January 24, 2022 jpost.com reported: "Two US aircraft carrier groups have entered the disputed South China Sea for training, the Department of Defense said on Monday as Taiwan reported a new Chinese air force incursion at the top of the waterway including a fearsome new electronic warfare jet."

The South China Sea and self-governing Taiwan are two of China's most sensitive territorial issues and both are frequent areas of tension between the United States and China.

US Navy ships routinely sail close to Chinese-occupied islands in the South China Sea to challenge Chinese sovereignty claims, as well as through the Taiwan Strait, to Beijing's anger..."

Israel weighing options amid deepening Russia-Ukraine crisis

January 24, 2022 jpost.com reported: "Israel is considering its position as tensions rise on the Russia-Ukraine border, and the Foreign Ministry plans to deliberate the matter on Monday."

Jerusalem has generally maintained a position of neutrality between the countries since their 2014 war. Maintaining good relations with Moscow is a strategic interest for Israel in light of Russia's significant military presence in Syria. Israel also has strong ties with Ukraine in a variety of areas, and Kyiv has the support of Israel's most important ally, the US, in the current crisis.

Another major concern for Israel is how the Ukraine-Russia crisis will impact the Iran nuclear talks. The US and Russia sit around the same table, and their delegations met in Vienna over the weekend..."

China flies 39 warplanes towards Taiwan as tensions with island rise

January 24, 2022 news.sky.com reported: "China has flown dozens of warplanes towards Taiwan in its largest display of power of the new year, continuing a pattern that caused the island to scramble its own jets in response."

The formation of 39 jets on Sunday night included 24 J-16 fighter jets and 10 J-10 jets, among other support and electronic warfare aircraft, according to Taiwan's defence ministry.

Taiwan's air force tracked the People's Liberation Army planes on its air defence radar systems, it added..."

