

Voltaire

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

France stubbornly colonizes the island of Mayotte

A significant influx of illegal, impoverished Mahorais has resulted in a staggering increase in violence and crime in Mayotte. The French Ministry of the Interior has begun "Operation Wuambushu" aimed at destroying the slums of Mayotte and deporting illegal immigrants to the nearby island of Anjouan. However, the security forces were interrupted by a court ruling prohibiting the destruction of slums because, given the form of their construction, this could damage legally constructed buildings. In addition, the Comoros has closed its ports to French ships.

During the beginning of the operation, 1,800 police fired 650 tear gas grenades, 85 de-encirclement grenades and 60 DBL (Defense balls launcher) shots. They were forced to fire 12 live ammunitions on the ground as warnings, despite the risk of them bouncing and killing someone. The Comoros archipelago was divided in two by France in 1974. On one side the current Union of the Comoros, on the other the current French department of Mayotte. This division violates, on the one hand, the commitment made by France in the agreements of 15 June 1973 signed by Minister for Overseas Bernard Stasi and President of the Government of the territory Ahmed Abdallah Abderamane and on the other hand the principle of indivisibility of the archipelago established by international law.

The question of the nature of successive regimes in the Comoros should not be taken into account, nor that of the lack of unity of the Comoros for centuries, let alone the operations of Bob Denard's irregular troops. France doesn't seem to know how to satisfy its citizens of Mayotte anymore and how to honor its commitment to decolonize the united archipelago. It is trying to keep the island of Mayotte which it uses to control the Scattered Islands (also illegally occupied) and maintains an electromagnetic interception base there. Rather than negotiating with the Union of the Comoros, France ignores the reminders to international law issued on this issue by the United Nations General Assembly and persists in maintaining itself on the island, risking eventually provoking a situation comparable to that which has arisen in Algeria.

AMERICAS

The de-dollarization of the world

The dollar's share of global reserves was 47% in 2022 compared to 71% in 2001. The regular acceleration of the phenomenon reached a paroxysm last year. The pace of de-dollarization is now 10 times faster than it was twenty years ago. The 2022 phase is explained because a number of countries were looking for alternatives after the West tried to generalize unilateral coercive measures against Russia.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said, "There is a risk, when we use financial sanctions related to the role of the dollar, that over time they could undermine the hegemony of the dollar."

According to *Bloomberg Intelligence*, the dollar's share of China's international trade is now smaller than the yuan's share. It was only 47% at the end of March, compared to 83% in 2010.

How to vote in US elections without being a US citizen

The Public Interest Legal Foundation has shown that it is possible to register with your driver's license to vote in the US, even though it is not proof of citizenship. In the US, elections are the responsibility of the states, not the federal government. However, some states have created the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a joint agency to track down registrants in two different states. It is obviously easy to register for local elections, and quite possible to vote in federal elections without proof of citizenship.

James at the center of the Biden family investigation

The House subcommittee investigating the Biden family gathered various testimonies relating to 80yo President Joe Biden's younger brother, 73yo James Biden. They appear to be very close to the point that it was James who furnished the White House's Oval Office for Joe. The subcommittee found that many times, James did put forward his kinship with Joe to run his business. While many payments have

been identified, parliamentarians still ignore what James did to deserve them. He's now the one at the center of the investigation, and no longer his nephew Hunter Biden.

Hunter Biden's legal response

Hunter Biden's lawyer Abbe Lowell has written to the Treasury Secretary asking it to launch an investigation into how Garrett Ziegler could get five confidential administration reports on his client's activities and [publish them on the Internet](#).

These documents were forwarded to the House Subcommittee investigating the activities of the Biden family which allegedly showed them to a witness for comment. However, bank secrecy laws prohibit parliamentarians from discussing with third parties the data examined so far. In addition, Hunter Biden was summoned by an Arkansas judge to present tax documents on his income to judge the alimony he must pay to the mother of his daughter.

Whistleblower accuses AG of lying to protect Hunter Biden

An IRS whistleblower has questioned the testimony of Attorney General Merrick Garland. He accuses him of lying to minimize Hunter Biden's crimes. According to his testimony, this criminal supervision of taxes special agent claims to have received political instructions not to investigate further the case of Hunter Biden. Merrick Garland has been under sanctions from Russia since April 2021. Moscow accuses him of validating false accusations to expel 10 Russian diplomats.

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. 2024 Bid

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr., son of former Attorney General Bob Kennedy and nephew of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, ran for the nomination of the US Democratic Party against incumbent President Joe Biden. Polls today show Joe Biden losing to Donald Trump. Robert Kennedy Jr. is an environmental lawyer. He won a high-profile lawsuit against Monsanto. In the name of science, he led the fight against Dr.

Anthony Fauci and pharmaceutical companies during the Covid outbreak. Like Bernie Sanders in 2020, this left-wing figure who has consistently stood up against the leaders of the woke Democratic Party is trying to take over the party the way that Jacksonian Donald Trump took over the Republican Party. The battle cry of Kennedy's campaign will be the fight against the corruption of institutions and against the power of transnational corporations. He embodies a non-sectarian left, turned towards the common good. In July 2021, Robert Kennedy Jr. took part in the ReAwaken America Tour, described by the press as a far-right Christian movement. He was photographed there alongside General Michael Flynn and election strategist Roger Stone. Republican Roger Stone, who participated in the campaigns of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and directed that of Donald Trump, assures that whatever the differences between Trump and Kennedy (especially on weapons and abortion), a candidacy of national unity of the two men would offer a solution in response to the country's division and go a long way in preserving the integrity of the US. For his part, Steve Bannon encouraged Robert Kennedy Jr. to throw his hat in the ring.

A law to protect women in sport

The House of Representatives passed (H.R.734) - [Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023](#). It requires athletes to compete based on their "reproductive and genetic biology at birth," not their gender identity.

Attacks on freedom of speech on US campuses

According to the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) which fights against "cancel culture", there were 83 sanctions to silence scholars in 2017, 82 in 2018 and 87 in 2019. They increased to 151 in 2020, 213 in 2021 and only 145 in 2022. The increase in these censorship operations is believed to be linked to *Woke* reactions to the murder of George Floyd in 2020 as well as the campaign on transgender identity, Donald Trump's

presidency and the #MeToo movement. The most affected universities are Harvard (23 actions), followed by Stanford (22), California at Los Angeles (19) and Georgetown (16).

The Six Threats to U.S. Homeland Security

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas announced a 90-day review of U.S. vulnerability which includes six topics:

- Migration. He said his administration's goal is to "build legal pathways to give individuals the opportunity to reach the US safely, in an orderly manner to avail themselves of the humanitarian relief that our laws provide, and then to obtain a consequence [of residency, even nationality] for those who follow those legal channels."
- Artificial intelligence. A working group has been created within the department to study the applications of AI in homeland security.
- China. He accused it of sponsoring attacks "designed to disrupt or degrade the provision of critical domestic functions, sowing discord, panicking, and preventing the mobilization of U.S. military capabilities."
- Domestic extremism. "Lone offenders and small cells of individuals motivated by a wide range of violent extremist grievances and ideologies, from white supremacy to anti-Semitism to anti-government attitudes, are the most persistent and deadly threat linked to terrorism in the US."
- Fentanyl trafficking.
- The effects of climate change.

Fox News fires Tucker Carlson

Without notice or reason, *Fox News* has put an end to its collaboration with Tucker Carlson, the most famous TV journalist in the US. The show's lead executive producer, Justin Wells has also reportedly left the network. This dismissal follows Fox News' lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems (which cost Fox News \$787 million) and anticipates the one brought against the network by Smartmatic. Contrary to appearances, Fox News yielded to Dominion for no reason: Tucker Carlson had not defamed the manufacturer of voting machines, but had given

the floor to experts explaining that these machines were connected to the Internet and could therefore be operated remotely during voting, something that no one disputes. Tucker Carlson Tonight was the second most-watched political show in the US. The press reports on a sexual harassment lawsuit filed a month ago by Tucker Carlson's show secretary Abby Grossberg. But this action does not concern him directly but is directed against some of his collaborators. The dismissal of the star journalist was greeted with applause from Democrats and strong disappointment from Republicans. Steve Bannon said Tucker Carlson was "the" reason to watch Fox News. Shares of Fox Corp, which owns the channel, fell 5% after the news broke.

State Department contradicts White House over withdrawal from Afghanistan

Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael T. McCaul revealed the existence of an internal Secretary of State report on the fall of Kabul that would shift the blame to both the Trump and Biden administrations. He said the full report would undermine the [12-page document](#) the White House just released that seeks to make Biden's decision the only option available once Trump triggered the withdrawal.

Michael T. McCaul called for the release of the report's findings which would no longer be classified.

Alejandro Toledo detained in Peru

Former Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo has been extradited by the US to his country. He is accused of receiving a \$20 million bribe from Brazil's Odebrecht during the construction of the Inter-Oceanic Highway. Alejandro Toledo was pro-US and a member of former Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar's Friends of Israel Initiative.

Guatemala supports Taiwan

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei pledged unconditional support to Taiwan during

an official visit to the island. Only 13 out of 193 States maintain diplomatic relations with the unrecognized State of the "Republic of China". The other 180 consider Taiwan an insurgent province of the "People's Republic of China". Of these, 59 maintain non-diplomatic relations with the Republic of China.

Colombia hosts conference on Venezuela

Colombian President Gustavo Petro convened an international meeting to discuss the continuation or lifting of unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions") against Venezuela. Before the meeting, Juan Guaido who arrived illegally in Colombia the day before, was deported. His government has not been recognized by the Venezuelan opposition since the end of 2022. Gustavo Petro has asked US President Joe Biden to gradually lift sanctions against Venezuela in exchange for guarantees for the presidential election scheduled for 2024. The meeting was held in the presence of US Deputy National Security Advisor Jonathan Finer and EU Foreign Minister Josep Borrell. The summit brought the points of view closer together. It concluded by noting that only the publication of a precise timetable for the Venezuelan presidential election was capable of changing things.

Attack on the Argentine economy

According to one of the 24 directors of the IMF, the Argentine Sergio Chodos, three Argentine personalities have asked the IMF not to help the country as long as it is governed by Peronists and does not adopt liberal principles. These three personalities would be former Finance Minister Hernonza, former Central Bank Governor and former Finance Minister Alfonso Prat Gay and former Central Bank Governor Guido Sandleris, all members of Mauricio Macri's governments (liberal PRO). President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez (Peronist) confirmed the facts. These revelations come as unidentified operators attack the Argentine Peso which consequently dropped 11% earlier this week. Current Minister of Economy Sergio Massa should be the one to wear the colors of

Peronism in the next presidential election and not President Fernández nor Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. He is expected to face former Security Minister Patricia Bullrich, who is in favour of widespread gun ownership. According to Human Rights Watch, she was involved in the blackmail of Marcelo D'Alessio's indiscreet videos.

EUROPE

Catholic Synod opens to women

Pope Francis will appoint 70 "non-bishop" members – 35 of whom will be women and "many" will be "youth" – as delegates to the Synod with the same deliberative and voting rights that the 300 bishops will enjoy. 10 members of religious orders of both genders will also be appointed to attend and vote at the event.

Hungary denies secret Pentagon documents

The Hungarian government has denied allegations in secret Pentagon documents leaked by Jack Teixeira, that Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has ranked the US among the main opponents of his Fidesz party.

EU against online disinformation and hate

From August the EU will place 19 social networks with more than 45 million users each under surveillance so as to make sure they effectively fight online disinformation and hate. Violators will be liable to a fine of up to 6% of their turnover.

EU and Japan against US sanctions proposal

According to the [Financial Times](#) (FT), at the G7 foreign ministers' summit in Japan, the EU and Japan thwarted a US plan to ban all exports to Russia.

At Washington's request, the EU and Japan apply import bans on Russian hydrocarbons that

Foreign editions

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- [English](#),
- [French](#),
- [Italian](#),
- [German](#),
- [Spanish](#).

are far more restrictive than those applied by the US.

Josep Borrell against China

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Spaniard) Josep Borrell published an op-ed in French newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche*. This is a response to statements by French President Emmanuel Macron during his trip to Beijing. Josep Borrell poses "A cold look at China". He presents it as a partner, a competitor and a rival. He writes: "There is only one China in our eyes. But not under any conditions. And certainly not through the use of force. Europe must in fact be very present on this issue, which concerns us economically, commercially and technologically. That is why I call on European navies to patrol the Taiwan Strait to demonstrate Europe's commitment to freedom of navigation in this absolutely crucial area." In addition, before the European Parliament, Josep Borrell said: "Taiwan is clearly part of our geostrategic perimeter to guarantee peace (...) It is not only for moral reasons that an action [from China] against Taiwan must necessarily be rejected. It is also because it would be, in economic terms, extremely serious for us, because Taiwan has a strategic role in the production of the most advanced semiconductors." The EU is trying to impose its policy on Member States. France pleads for neutrality in the face of Sino-US rivalry, while Brussels can't think itself other than aligned with Washington.

Global increase in arms budgets

According to the [Stockholm International Peace Institute](#) (SIPRI), global arms spending increased by 3.7% in 2023 to \$2.24 trillion. This surge is explained by the armed conflict in Ukraine. It mainly concerns European states: Finland with 36%, Lithuania with 27%, Sweden with 12% and Poland with 11%; bringing these countries back to the level of Cold War spending. This is the largest increase since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Jens Stoltenberg in Kiev

Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance Norwegian Jens Stoltenberg was received in Kiev by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. At the press conference that followed, he said: "Let us be clear: Ukraine's place is in the Euro-Atlantic family (...) NATO is at your side today, tomorrow and for as long as it takes (...) Just as Russian aggression caused negative and very painful global consequences, the Ukrainian victory should bring the world new security standards, a new experience of joint action and economic potential, new opportunities to build and defend – together."

Xi-Zelensky conversation

Chinese President Xi Jinping called his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for more than an hour. He confirmed the terms of Beijing's 12-point peace plan and invited him to negotiate. He announced that he will send a special envoy to hold talks with all parties. His mission will not be to take advantage of war to do business, but to work for peace. Mr. Zelensky was courteous, assuring Xi that Ukraine shared Beijing's view that there is only one China of which Taiwan is a province. However, he opposes any ceasefire with Russia. Kiev considers that not only Novorossiia, but also Donbass and Crimea are Ukrainian territories. A ceasefire would be a partial recognition of a Russian victory. M. Zelensky appointed Minister of Strategic Industries Pavlo Ryabikin as ambassador to Beijing. The US expressed skepticism, saying China was not in a position to

play peacemakers because it had not condemned the "invasion" of Ukraine. On the contrary, France and Germany appeared attentive and interested in the Chinese approach. Before the phone call, Xi held talks with many leaders of relevant parties, including Russia, Germany, France and the EU as well as neutral third parties such as Brazil.

Crimes of French mercenaries in Ukraine

The Russian Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Committed in Ukraine said it had identified French mercenaries among those responsible for the murder of 25 Russian POWs (prisoners of war). They allegedly acted as part of the Azov Battalion and the 92nd Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Commission of Inquiry will establish all the circumstances of the incidents to bring to justice those involved in the commission of the crimes. There are 8,000 foreign mercenaries on the Ukrainian front, mainly Poles, Americans, Canadians, Romanians and British. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Volker Turk of Austria, Ukraine is not prosecuting its soldiers who have committed documented war crimes. The French Penal Code punishes mercenarism activities with 5 years' imprisonment and the prohibition of civic, civil and family rights (art. 436). Both mercenaries and regular soldiers must be held accountable for acts of torture and the murder of prisoners. They are then liable to life imprisonment.

AFRICA

Release of Chadian plotters

Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno has announced that he will release the twelve people involved in the coup attempt against him in December 2022.

Disappearance of Sudan's most wanted prisoner

The prison where former President Omar al-Bashir was held was attacked. He reportedly disappeared along with Abdel-Rahim Muhammad Hussein and Ahmed Haroun. The three men would have been transferred to a military hospital according to some, freed by the men of "General" Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (aka "Hemedti") according to others. Omar al-Bashir remains wanted on an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Ethiopia negotiates with Oromo rebellion

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has announced the opening of negotiations with the Oromo Liberation Front in Tanzania. Oromo is in the south of the country, while Tigray is in the north. Abiy Ahmed is himself from Oromo.

Arrest of former Burundian Prime Minister

Former Prime Minister Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni (2020-22) was arrested. The charges against him are unknown. The US accused him of being responsible for the civil war in 2015. They placed him under sanctions from 2015 to 2021.

Yoweri Museveni opposes death penalty for homosexuals

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has refused to enact the law punishing homosexuality with death sentences. This law, passed under the influence of evangelical Christian churches, took up and aggravated the old Victorian law imposed by British colonists.

South Africa and the ICC

While the International Criminal Court is demanding that all its members, including South

Africa, arrest Vladimir Putin to be imprisoned and tried in The Hague, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced his country's withdrawal from the ICC. President Putin is expected in Pretoria for the BRICS summit. However, under internal and external pressure, South Africa has backtracked and remains in the ICC.

ASIA

Adwan tribal leader arrested for smuggling

Jordanian MP Imad Adwan was arrested in Israel. He was allegedly carrying fifteen pistols, twelve machine guns and about 100 kilos of gold. The conditions of his arrest are unclear and official statements are contradictory. A revolt is foreseeable if Israel indicts him, while releasing him will appear as a sign of weakness. Imad Adwan is a leader of the Adwan tribe of over 100,000 people. Present in Jordan and Israel, it owns most of the land in the Jordan Valley and is one of the most patriotic and ferocious tribes.

French investigation against Riad Salame goes on

French judges who are in Beirut to investigate the activities of governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon Riad Salame have begun their hearings. The suspect's brother, Raja Salame, could not appear before the judges for health reasons but was represented by his lawyer.

Meeting of Syrian and Turkish Defense Ministers

Defense ministers and heads of Russian, Iranian, Turkish and Syrian security services met in Moscow to bring Damascus and Ankara closer together. Syria is still demanding the withdrawal of Turkish forces ahead of a peace summit between Presidents Bashar al-Assad and Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This is the first time Iran has been invited to these negotiations. They stand as rumor spreads that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is seriously ill.

Assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader's Representative

Supreme Leader's representative at Tuesday prayers Ayatollah Abbas Ali Soleimani was coldly murdered by a bank guard. He had also represented him in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan. This premeditated murder is not yet explained.

Possible agreement on decolonization of Chagos Islands

Mauritius would have agreed to renew the illegal lease of the US base of Diego Garcia in case of retrocession of the Chagos Islands colonized by the British. The reaction of the US is unknown, knowing that Mauritius has a special relationship with China. In May 2019, the United Nations General Assembly gave the United Kingdom 6 months to leave the Chagos Islands, including the Diego Garcia base, and return them to Mauritius.

Taliban keep promise

A key element of the U.S. withdrawal agreement from Afghanistan with the Taliban was a promise that they would never again allow the country to be used as a base from which jihadists could launch terrorist attacks against the West. Washington has just confirmed that two weeks ago the Taliban killed an ISIS-Khorasan leader who is directly responsible for the August 2021 suicide bombing that killed 13 US Marines and 170 Afghans at Kabul airport.

Sikh independence leader arrested

Leader of the Punjab Sikh independence movement Amritpal Singh was arrested. The police managed to get him out of a shrine where he was praying without having to storm it. Amritpal Singh had become the leader of the movement for the creation of the "Khalistan" since the accidental death of actor Deep Sidhu. The Sikh Empire was defeated by the British in 1849. However, faced with the English Empire, then India, a movement was formed to restore it to Punjab. In 1984, Prime Minister Indira

Voltaire Network analyses

- "[Türkiye facing the American Empire](#)", by Thierry Meyssan

Three weeks before the Turkish presidential election, the debate is changing from for or against the Islamism of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to for or against the alliance with the US. The outgoing president is regaining percentage points in polls that predicted he would lose. From Islamist he became a nationalist. It is unclear at the moment whether this will be enough for him to win, but if he does, he is expected to withdraw Türkiye from NATO.

- "[Rebellion against the dollar empire is spreading](#)", by Manlio Dinucci

In a few months, the rebellion against the American empire has been translated into action: the dollar's share of global reserves has fallen to 47% in 2022. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was forced to declare: "There is a risk when we use financial sanctions related to the role of the dollar that over time, they could undermine the hegemony of the dollar."

Gandhi ordered "Operation Blue Star" which goal was to arrest a hundred pro-independence terrorists entrenched in the Golden Temple of Amritsar. The operation, in which Sikh soldiers participated, turned into carnage, leaving more than 500 dead, mainly pilgrims present on the spot. Two months later, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

Russia calls on India to join Afghanistan Quartet

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has proposed that India join the Afghanistan Quartet. In addition to Russia, this quartet includes China, Iran and Pakistan. This proposal is being presented as China is secretly trying to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan.

Assassination in Myanmar with CIA assistance

In Yangon, the People's Defense Forces assassinated deputy director-general of the Burmese Election Commission Sai Kyaw Thu. Little is known about the People's Defence Forces other than that they present themselves as the armed wing of a mysterious CIA-backed "Government of National Unity". These forces are trying to sabotage the holding of new elections while declaring themselves pro-democracy.

Possible return of Shinawatra to Thailand

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (2001-06) and niece of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (2011-14), could win the Thai elections. When he was prime minister, Thaksin created a \$1 medical care social security system. He had also taken measures in favour of peasants and the poor in general. However, his term ended in accusations of corruption. The return of his family is seen as a haunting by the political staff of Bangkok. His party is proposing to raise the minimum wage from \$10 to \$18 a day.

NATO in the Indo-Pacific

NATO's partners in the Indo-Pacific (including South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand) met in Lithuania. The Alliance's Deputy Secretary General, Mircea Geoană of Romania, opened the meeting by saying: "Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is protracted. Authoritarian regimes in Moscow, Beijing and elsewhere are openly challenging the rules-based international order." He stressed that China is not NATO's adversary, but that by seeking to assert itself and applying coercive policies, it threatens "our interests, our security and our values". He said the growing alignment of Russia and China was worrying, with China refusing to condemn Russia for the war it "has waged against Ukraine without justification and in the absence of any provocation." "China is

thus seeking to continue to pose as a model of neutrality while it nevertheless relays Russia's false theories and disinformation campaigns." Participants agreed to develop a common position on the North Korean nuclear threat.

North Korea prepares to launch spy satellite

North Korea Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un ordered the launch of a military spy satellite. He explained that space development is "essential" to the country's independence and security.

North Korea as seen by South Korea

South Korea's Unification Ministry has released a 553-page [report](#) in English on human rights in North Korea. It is based on the testimonies of more than 500 North Korean defectors and highlights widespread human rights violations committed by state authorities, including killings, torture and public executions.

South Korea will remain under US nuclear umbrella

While [71% of South Koreans](#) think their country should acquire nuclear weapons, President Yoon Suk-Yeol visiting Washington has pledged to remain under the US nuclear umbrella.

In September 2022, DPRK passed a law proclaiming its status as a nuclear power "irreversible." Although they condemned Russia's "invasion" of Ukraine, Joe Biden and Yoon Suk-Yeol did not officially discuss aid to Ukraine. The classified Pentagon documents that Jack Teixeira leaked show that the NSA was listening to the South Korean government on this subject. South Korea has aligned itself with the US when it comes to the Indo-Pacific and Taiwan.

Erratum

The bail required in the Japanese legislative elections is 3 million yen (not dollars).

China reportedly preparing a maritime blockade of Taiwan

According to IndoPaCom, the US command for the Indo-Pacific region, China is preparing a complete naval blockade of Taiwan. Suspicious activity of helicopters specializing in submarine warfare was detected, as well as jamming of GPS signals.

Video

We participated in the [Web TV program](#) *À la recherche de la vérité* (in French only).

China tests its 3rd aircraft carrier

The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy celebrates its 74th anniversary. On this occasion, it opened some of its brand new vessels to the public (almost the entire fleet has been launched in the last 20 years). It also announced that it was completing navigation tests of its 3rd aircraft carrier, the Fujian, so that it could be operational in the coming months. Aircraft carriers are weapons intended for the projection of forces and not for the defense of territory. The US has the largest number: 21. These weapons are now vulnerable to hypersonic missiles and therefore cannot be used against modern militaries such as those of Russia and China.

10 years of the Belt and Road Initiative

China celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). During that period, it has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with 151 States and 32 intergovernmental organizations.

Trial in China

Dong Yuyu (61), a liberal journalist with *Guangming Daily*, will be tried for spying for Japan. He was arrested last week while having lunch with a Japanese diplomat. Yang Chih-yuan (33), a Taiwanese pro-independence

politician, was arrested in August. He will also be tried as the founder of the Taiwanese National Party, banned in the People's Republic of China.

China strengthens its legislation against cyber espionage

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has adopted a proposal by President Xi Jinping to reform the counterintelligence law. Cyberattacks targeting state bodies and critical information infrastructure will be included. Internet service providers will be required to assist authorities in charge of counterintelligence efforts and to report on potential problems. The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has taken control of parts of China's telecommunications network after hacking into a government-funded university, the *Global Times* reported. It is unclear whether China has managed to clean up its networks.

China legislates on AI

China has drafted its first legislation on artificial intelligence (AI). The aim is to prevent any achievement that would undermine socialist values and the country's history. Messages undermining state authority or encouraging separatism will also be prohibited. In addition, AI companies will be required to respect intellectual property and will have to register their algorithms with regulators. This reaction contrasts with Western laissez-faire.

The controversial remarks of the Chinese ambassador in Paris

Asked by Swiss journalist Darius Rochebin on French LCI TV, Chinese Ambassador to France [Lu Shaye](#) said: "It depends on how you perceive this [Crimea] problem. There is history. Crimea belonged at the very beginning to Russia. It was Khrushchev who offered Crimea to Ukraine during the Soviet Union. [The countries of the USSR] do not have effective status in international law because there is no

international agreement to concretize their status as sovereign countries."

One after another, European states have described these statements as "unacceptable". The Soviet Union regarded the countries it annexed as provinces whose administrative boundaries it often changed. The borders of the newly independent states were proclaimed within their Soviet administrative borders, not within their original historical borders. Thus, Crimea was attached to Ukraine by First Secretary of the CPSU Nikita Khrushchev, himself a Ukrainian.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

WHO concerned about Marburg virus

The World Health Organization is on alert. An outbreak of Marburg virus disease is reported in both Guinea and Tanzania. There is no cure for it yet and its mortality rate from hemorrhage may be comparable to that of Ebola.

The Marburg virus appeared in 1967 in a laboratory in Marburg (Germany). It is considered that in its natural state, this virus is transmitted by bats, then between humans, by various mucous membranes and other bodily fluids.

Voltaire, international news

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