



Weekly Top 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. January 14, 2022

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

**FROM: James Schiller, Chairman;
Mark B. Levin, Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO**

Dear Friend,

On Monday, January 17th Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be observed across the country. Dr. King was a strong supporter of Soviet Jewry and their right to leave the USSR. Included in this week's update is a speech given by Dr. King, on December 11, 1966, to the American Conference on Soviet Jewry (predecessor of NCSEJ), in Atlanta, Georgia. **Please take a moment to read his stirring words.**

Sincerely,

Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

Show Your Support, Donate to NCSEJ Today

Putin is Threatening a War. Are Russians Willing to Fight It?

Uliana Pavlova

Politico | January 12, 2022

I went to Red Square on the last weekend of the New Year holiday to try to gauge how prepared ordinary Russians might be for yet another conflict in Ukraine. For months, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been massing troops and Russian state television has been laying the groundwork for war. State-sponsored political talk shows warn that Ukraine is growing more nationalistic, spurred on by the West and Russo-phobia among some Ukrainians.

Russian television has broadcast footage of Ukrainians tearing down Soviet statues. It's part of a new wave of statue-topplings in Ukraine; last summer, residents of the western Ukrainian city of Lviv dismantled a monument celebrating the Soviet Army's defeat of Nazi Germany, a victory considered

sacred in Russia. “Everything that is somehow connected with the Soviet period in Russia is subject to either public desecration or destruction in Ukraine,” TV hosts said in one broadcast.

[Read the full article here](#)

This year, Russia’s internet crackdown will be even worse

Justin Sherman

The New Atlanticist | January 13, 2022

When Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law in 2019 allowing the state to isolate the internet within Russia in the event of a security incident, international media outlets extensively covered the development, with many (incorrectly) likening it to China’s Great Firewall. The spotlight quickly swiveled back to Beijing’s grip on online content and data—even though a Kremlin campaign continues to ratchet up pressure on US technology giants, and could soon create a disruptive playbook for other states.

While Moscow made headlines after throttling Twitter and coercing Google and Apple into censoring opposition leader Alexei Navalny’s election app last year, Western media coverage of internet repression and security threats still tends to focus on China. This penchant persists despite Russian developments that impinge on both the internet ecosystem and human rights in the country—and which constitute broader cyber threats and efforts to undermine the global internet.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia Steels Itself For Omicron 'Tidal Wave' As Vaccination Rates Remain Stubbornly Low

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | January 13, 2022

When St Petersburg’s Polytechnic University announced on December 20, 2021, that dozens of students in college accommodation had contracted COVID-19 and were self-isolating in a facility outside the city, the news immediately prompted fears that the omicron variant surging in the West since early December, and leading to rates of illness and hospitalization not seen for months, had finally taken hold in Russia.

As relatives sought information, and the university failed to supply exact numbers of those who tested positive, it fell on independent sleuths to conclude that the majority of the cases could be attributed to the highly infectious new coronavirus variant.

“Active spread [of omicron] has begun,” Aleksandr Solovyov, a prominent Russian doctor and member of the Federation of Laboratory Medicine, wrote on Facebook on December 21.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia says ‘no grounds’ for further talks on security amid heightened tensions

Robyn Dixon and Paul Sonne

The Washington Post | January 13, 2022

The United States and its European allies appeared no closer to resolving a crisis with Russia over a possible renewed war in Ukraine, as Western officials flatly rejected Moscow’s call to pledge there

would be no further eastward expansion of NATO, while a top Russian negotiator said diplomacy already had reached a “dead end.”

The impasse came after three rounds of high-stakes talks this week in Geneva, Brussels and Vienna, where the United States hoped to placate Russia by proposing reciprocal restraints on missile placements and military exercises in Europe. The Russian delegation expressed interest in those areas but still accused Washington and its allies of stonewalling on the Kremlin’s core demands.

This week’s flurry of meetings was seen as a critical bid to defuse a crisis amid fears that Russia — which has amassed more than 100,000 forces near its western border — could once again invade Ukraine, the neighboring nation where Russia has been fueling a separatist conflict for nearly eight years.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Presidents of Ukraine and Azerbaijan signed a Joint Declaration on Deepening Strategic Partnership

Official website of the President of Ukraine | January 14, 2022

Following the talks between President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Kyiv, a Joint Declaration on deepening the strategic partnership and a number of other bilateral documents were signed.

Thus, the heads of state signed the Joint Declaration of the President of Ukraine and the President of Azerbaijan, which sets out the main agreements reached as a result of today’s meetings. The document confirms the readiness of the parties to deepen the strategic partnership, in particular through the implementation of specific projects in areas of mutual interest. Among other things, on ensuring peace and stability in the Black Sea-Caspian region and beyond.

“We have signed the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of Ukraine and Azerbaijan. It enshrines readiness to provide mutual support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our states within internationally recognized borders, joint counteraction to hybrid threats, the desire to ensure peace and stability in the Black Sea-Caspian region and beyond,” said Volodymyr Zelenskyy during the meeting with the media following the Ukrainian-Azerbaijani talks.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Martin Luther King Jr.’s Speech On Soviet Jewry

Read the original text of King’s December 1966 address to the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry

Some years ago, John Donne wrote in graphic terms, “No man is an island entire of himself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a part be washed away by sea, Europe is less, as well as is the promontory world, as well as is the manner of thy friends of thine own self world. Any man’s death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind. Therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for thee.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Everybody Asks, What Does Putin Want? We Think We Have an Answer

Alon Pinkas

Haaretz | January 13, 2022

Will Russia invade the Donbas region of Ukraine? Or is this a high-stakes game of brinkmanship diplomacy in which amassing 100,000 soldiers on the Russian-Ukrainian border and positioning equipment and munitions for 75,000 more is just for show, intended to extract compromises from the United States and NATO?

[Read the full article here.](#)

U.S. Offers Support After Ukraine Hit By Massive Cyberattack

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | January 14, 2022

The United States has offered to provide Ukraine "whatever help it needs to recover" from a massive cyberattack that Kyiv has said appears to have links to hacker groups associated with Russian intelligence services.

The cyberattack, which targeted several Ukrainian government websites on January 14, came amid increased tensions between the West and Russia, which has massed troops and military equipment near the border with Ukraine.

The news was first reported early on January 14 by Ukraine's Education and Science Ministry on its Facebook page. Kyiv later said the cyberattack, which took place on the night of January 13-14, had not changed the content of any of the government websites targeted and that no personal data had been leaked.

Ukraine's Security Service said in a statement late on January 14 that its criminal investigation revealed some signs of the involvement of "hacker groups associated with the special services of the Russian Federation."

[Read the full article here.](#)

About NCSEJ

Founded in 1971, the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

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