

Weekly Top 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. January 28, 2022

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

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

Dear Friend,

Below is the Weekly Top 10.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

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NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10 **Washington, D.C. January 28, 2021**

Poland Has Hosted 15,000 Refugees From Belarus in 2021 **SchengenVisaInfo | January 25, 2022**

The Polish government has accommodated 15,000 refugees from Belarus in the last year, Foreign Minister Mariusz Kaminski revealed during the international conference “Border Management”.

The Foreign Minister further went on to say that a similar migration crisis as the one of 2015 when thousands of migrants died was about to occur in Europe in these recent years, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

“The post-Soviet Lukashenka regime was driven by a desire to take revenge on Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia for the support we gave to the Belarusian opposition, with concern for political refugees. In Poland alone, after 2020, when there were big protests and repressions after rigged elections, we accommodated about 15 thousand political refugees from Belarus,” said the Minister during the conference held in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Kazakhstan’s Longtime Leader Is Gone, but Still Seemingly Everywhere
Valerie Hopkins

The New York Times | January 25, 2022

For three decades, Nursultan Nazarbayev was seemingly everywhere in Kazakhstan, the country he ruled with an autocrat's clenched fist. The capital's airport was named after him, as were the city's best university, a group of elite high schools throughout the country, well-endowed foundations and wide boulevards.

Mr. Nazarbayev designed a futuristic white steel tower in the center of the city, with a gold orb on top. Inside, visitors can place their hands in a giant gold relief of Mr. Nazarbayev's own hand, his fingers pointing out the plate-glass windows to his presidential palace in the distance. He stepped down as president in 2019 after 28 years, but retained power and influence as the official "Leader of the Nation." His rubber-stamp Parliament renamed the capital city in his honor.

It was an open secret that he was the one still calling the shots.

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Romania is ready to host increased NATO troops if needed, president says Reuters | January 26, 2022

Romania is in talks with the United States and France over ways to enhance their troop count in the country and was ready to host an increased NATO military presence, President Klaus Iohannis said on Wednesday.

The U.S. Department of Defense said on Monday it put about 8,500 American troops on heightened alert, awaiting orders to deploy to NATO's eastern flank should Russia invade Ukraine. France has also offered to send more troops if needed.

"I have been constantly saying we are ready to host an increased allied presence on our territory," Iohannis said.

"Following the announcements made by the United States and France we are in contact with the two allies to establish concrete ways to realise their military presence."

[Read the Full Article Here](#)

Ukraine Sees Russian Hand In Spate Of Bomb Scares At Schools Nationwide

Nina Bakhmach

RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty | January 26, 2022

Shortly after noon on January 24, thousands of teachers and students at the schools of this city of some 285,000 people were hastily evacuated in the wake of an anonymous bomb threat. The children at one downtown preschool were napping when the alarm was sounded.

"We got the report and rushed all the children and employees out of the building," Viktoria Oleksiyenko, director of preschool No. 26, told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service. "It took about six minutes to get all the children out. They had been sleeping, and we quickly got them dressed and outside. Then we called all the parents, and they came to pick up their children."

Similar scenes played out across the city, which is located less than 100 kilometers from Ukraine's border with Russia.

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The West Sounds The Alarm On Russia. Ukraine Sends A Different Message: Keep Calm And Carry On.

Mike Eckel

RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty | January 26, 2022

Listen to the message from Washington and other Western governments about the intensifying threat from Russia: An invasion is imminent.

Listen to the head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council and other officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, and hear a different message: Don't panic, don't exaggerate.

There's very little disagreement about what is happening on Ukraine's borders: At least 60 Russian battalion-tactical groups, more than 100,000 troops, and some of Russia's most advanced weaponry are deployed frighteningly close. In fact, Moscow has clearly opted against secrecy in what many experts say is a conscious decision to send signals to Ukraine, NATO, and the United States.

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Russian Hybrid Threats Report: A push to recognize Ukrainian regions as independent states

Digital Forensic Research Lab

New Atlanticist | January 25, 2022

As Russia's aggression in Europe heats up, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) is keeping a close eye on Moscow's movements across the military, cyber, and information domains. With more than five years of experience monitoring the situation in Ukraine, as well as Russia's use of propaganda and disinformation to undermine the United States, NATO, and the European Union (EU), DFRLab's global team presents the latest installment of the Russian Hybrid Threats Report.

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Biden Is Learning How to Deal with Putin

David J. Kramer

The Bulwark | January 27, 2022

Last week, President Biden tripped over his messaging by suggesting a "minor incursion" by Russian forces into Ukraine would not trigger a strong response from the West. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky responded by tweet: "We want to remind the great powers that there are no minor incursions and small nations."

This week, so far at least, Biden and his administration have done a much better job, not only in messaging but in action.

On Wednesday, the administration and NATO formally rejected Russian demands publicized last month that NATO close the door to membership for Ukraine and other aspiring states and return to the European security landscape of the 1990s—i.e., before the enlargement of NATO. That clear message should eliminate concerns that the administration would concede fundamental security issues and the right of countries to determine their own future and alliances.

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