

NEWS ANALYSIS

Can Ukraine
Rely on U.S.?
Doubts Grow.

Aid Stalls in Congress,
and Europe Is Worried

By DAVID E. SANGER

BERLIN — A year ago, when Washington and much of Europe were still awash in optimism that Ukraine was on the verge of repelling Russia from its territory, it seemed inconceivable that the United States would turn its back on the victim of Vladimir V. Putin’s aggression.

Now, even as Senate Democrats try to salvage an aid package for Ukraine, that possibility remains real. And the political moment feels a long way from 14 months ago when President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine stood before a joint session of Congress, wearing his signature drab green sweater, and basked in a minute-long standing ovation.

The turnaround has surprised the White House. Even if the Senate manages to advance military aid, there are still plenty of reasons to doubt that the money will come through, including deep opposition among Republicans in the House and former President Donald J. Trump’s push for a more isolationist stance.

President Biden’s aides insist they are not yet scrambling for other options.

“We’re not focused on Plan B,” Jake Sullivan, the president’s national security adviser, said in Brussels on Wednesday after a NATO meeting with his counterparts. “We’re focused on plan A,” which he said meant passing a bipartisan aid package that would enable Ukraine to “defend effectively and to take back territory that Russia currently occupies.”

But behind the scenes there is a lot of discussion, in Washington and Europe, about other options, including seizing more than \$300 billion in Russian central bank assets that are stashed in Western nations — a process that is

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Ecuadoreans Welcome a Crackdown

President Daniel Noboa’s war on gangs has widespread support, despite some worries that it can endanger civil liberties. Page A4.

Charles’s Candor on His Health
Opens Door to More Questions

By MARK LANDLER

LONDON — When Buckingham Palace announced on Monday that King Charles III had been diagnosed with cancer and would halt his public engagements to undergo treatment, it predictably set off a storm of questions.

What kind of cancer? How advanced? What form of treatment? How long would he be sidelined? And the essential, if often unspoken, question when a patient faces a potentially existential health threat: Would he survive?

The palace, paradoxically, fueled this frenzy by disclosing more about the king’s medical condition than it had for Queen Elizabeth II or any other previous

British monarch. It said it did so at the behest of Charles himself, who wanted to “share his diagnosis to prevent speculation and in the hope it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer.”

As well-intentioned as the king might have been, the palace’s decision to disclose some facts but not others — the medical equivalent of parting the curtain halfway — raised many more questions than it answered.

Britain now finds itself in an anguished middle ground, aware that its 75-year-old king has a life-threatening disease but unsure

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Palestinian and Black Activists
Have Forged Bond Over Protests

By CLYDE McGRADY

One hot Saturday in August 2014, Sandra Tamari scrolled through social media and learned that a Black teenager named Michael Brown had been fatally shot by a police officer in nearby Ferguson, Mo. Her heart “just sank,” she recalled, when she learned that Mr. Brown’s mother had stood on the other side of the police tape while her son’s body had been lying in the street for hours.

Ms. Tamari, who is Palestinian American and lives just outside St. Louis, had spent the previous weeks mourning the death of Muhammad Abu Khdeir, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy. He had been kidnapped, bludgeoned and burned to death in Jerusalem by Israeli teenagers avenging the killings of three Israeli teens by Palestinians. The incident was part of a cycle of violence that culminated in the 2014 War in Gaza that summer, which killed more than 70 Israelis and more than 2,200 Palestinians.

“I was already in so much grief about what was happening in Palestine,” she said. She could not shake the parallels in her mind between Michael and Muhammad. To her, they were both teenagers stolen from their families by racially motivated violence.

A week later, she and about 15 members of the St. Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee joined the protests that sprang up after Mr. Brown’s killing. Before they left, her husband grabbed some old white cloth and made a banner that read: “Palestine Stands with Ferguson.”

A decade later, the Palestinian cause in the United States has become tightly intertwined with the much more powerful African American quest for civil rights — an alliance that has been both

strengthened and tested in the four months of war since Hamas killed more than 1,200 people in Israel.

African American writers, leaders, athletes and celebrities have spoken in support of Palestinians as Israel’s bombardment of Gaza pushes the number of dead past 26,000 people.

“Let me be clear: The collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza is a war crime,” said Cori Bush, a U.S. Representative from Missouri and a Democrat, who is Black, as she introduced a resolution calling for a cease-fire, alongside Rashida Tlaib, a representative from Michigan who is a Democrat and of Palestinian descent.

“My beliefs are rooted in my experiences as an activist in the movement to save Black lives,” Ms. Bush said, referring to her

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANINDITO MUKHERJEE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two versions of butter chicken are at the center of a 2,752-page dispute between families in Delhi.

Which Came First, the Chicken or the Chicken?

By SUHASINI RAJ

NEW DELHI — In 1947, two men, both named Kundan, fled Peshawar during the bloody partition that carved Pakistan out of British India. They landed in Delhi and soon became partners in a restaurant called Moti Mahal serving food from the Punjab region.

On this much their descendants

A Court Battle in India Over a Dish’s Origin

agree. Where they diverge is on the question of which of the men should go down in culinary history.

The two families both say that it was their own Kundan who in-

vented butter chicken — the creamy, heavenly marriage of tandoori chicken and tomato gravy beloved everywhere north Indian food is served. And one of them has gone to court to try to prove it.

Before we dig in: Yes, it’s hard to prove that any single person came up with dishes that have become ubiquitous. Also, does it even matter after all these years?

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Sharing Depression Fight, Politician Takes a Risk

By J. DAVID GOODMAN

HOUSTON — As a rising young Democratic star and the top elected official of Harris County, the most populous in Texas, Lina Hidalgo surprised many people last summer when she announced that she had checked herself in at a residential mental health clinic for serious depression.

She had been struggling privately for years, even as she stepped forward assertively to preside over Houston’s response to the coronavirus pandemic and help residents throughout the county deal with flooding and a

Rising Texas Democrat Confronts a Taboo

devastating winter freeze.

Then, during a brutal re-election fight in 2022, her mental state worsened. Aides were aware that something was wrong — there were missed campaign events, and shortness with staff members — but few knew just how dire things had become.

“I remember feeling really suicidal, and saying to David, my

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A pro-Palestinian rally in New York City on Wednesday.

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Haley, Unopposed, Is Second
Nikki Haley faltered in a Nevada G.O.P. primary that did not have Donald J. Trump on the ballot, beaten by “None of These Candidates.” PAGE A19

A G.O.P. Senator’s Burden
Senator James Lankford of Oklahoma, who brokered the doomed border deal, fended off attacks from his own party as he fought to keep the bill alive. PAGE A14

A Resounding Rejection
The unanimous ruling by the federal appeals court in Washington systematically took apart Donald J. Trump’s claim of immunity. PAGE A20



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The \$1.50 National Sandals
In Ivory Coast, lèkè are the preferred footwear for amateur soccer games and almost everything else. PAGE A11

Fed Up With Pakistan’s Military
The frustration with the military establishment is a stark shift in Punjab, a politically important province. PAGE A13

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Apple’s Headset Lacks Polish
Billed as the future of computing, the \$3,500 Vision Pro can’t replace a laptop for work, Brian X. Chen writes. PAGE B1

The Priciest Super Bowl Ever
Thinking of a splurge to see the big game in Las Vegas this weekend? You’ll be competing with billionaires. PAGE B1

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Looking Like a Billion Bucks
With an off-season spending spree, the Dodgers executed their “Plan A” in an attempt to end a string of October disappointments. PAGE B8

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Not Used to All the Attention
Da’Vine Joy Randolph, acclaimed for her performance in “The Holdovers,” isn’t at ease in the spotlight’s glare. “In a very otherworldly way, my entire world has changed,” she said. PAGE C1

Los Angeles Limbers Up
Despite all that wonderful dancing in films, the city has struggled to establish lasting dance companies able to attract and maintain audiences and patronage. That may be changing. PAGE C1

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Life After Vogue
Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, who had been a contributing editor of the magazine, looks back on quitting Condé Nast and speaking her mind. PAGE D5

