



Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia

Dispatches

5 August 2022

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia provides a forum for the study, promotion and debate of defence, security and safety issues.

Dispatches is a weekly collection of news of interest, including posts to social media by the Institute. Links to articles are checked at the time they are put into *Dispatches* but may be unavailable at a later date or in some countries other than Canada.

Everyone is encouraged to submit links and other content to be included in *Dispatches*. Submissions and feedback are welcome anytime. Email to RUSINSDispatches@gmail.com. Comments to articles can be from members or non-members of RUSI(NS). Any comment in *Dispatches* is the sole opinion of the author and does not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Department of National Defence or other government department, the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia.

If you wish to receive *Dispatches* at a different address (i.e., not your work address), please inform RUSI(NS). Past editions of *Dispatches* may be requested by contacting RUSI(NS).

Events:

To list an event in *Dispatches*, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday. RUSI(NS) events are by invitation. If you are interested in attending and have not been invited, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com. RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice – email RUSI(NS) if there is a question of an event occurring.

No RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker event is being planned for August.

Save the date: 14 September, Wednesday – RUSI(NS) Distinguished Speaker to be announced. **Note** that is a second Wednesday of the month, not our normal third.

27 October, Tuesday - Georgetown University Wargaming Society presentation "Back to the Future: The 1980s Global War Games as a Campaign of Learning." 1800-2000 EDT. Online. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/back-to-the-future-the-1980s-global-war-games-as-a-campaign-of-learning-tickets-358240826957>

Publications:

Publications without links are available on request to RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

On 13 Jul 22 RUSI(NS) hosted Distinguished Speakers Alexander Worobey, Canadian Centre for Cyber Security; and Natasha Cohen, US Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Liaison to the National Security Agency. The topic of their presentations was "Canada-United States: Strengthening Cyber Resilience." The presentations were not recorded and slides will not be posted. However, some links of interest were passed during the event, and are as follows:

Get Cyber Safe

<https://getcybersafe.gc.ca/en>

4 Things You Can Do To Keep Yourself Cyber Safe

<https://www.cisa.gov/4-things-you-can-do-keep-yourself-cyber-safe>

On the Internet: Be Cautious When Connected

<https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/on-the-internet>

Tallinn Manual 2.0 on International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations

<https://ccdcoe.org/news/2020/ccdcoe-to-host-the-tallinn-manual-3-0-process/>

Canadian Marine Industries and Shipbuilding Association *On Watch*, 20 July 2022

<https://www.cmisa.ca/cpages/on-watch-current>

Edmonton United Services Institute President's *Enews*, July 2022.

Military Institute of Windsor *Communiqué*, Volume XL, Number 6, July-August 2022.

New: Naval Association of Canada *Starshell*, Summer 2022, Issue 95.

New: Royal Alberta United Services Institute *Dispatches*, August 2022

<https://www.rausi.ca/component/acym/archive/146-rausi-dispatches-august-2022?userid=306-QqXJ7Ylxfzd0M&tmpl=raw>

Royal Canadian Naval Association Admiral Hose Branch *Scuttlebutt*, June 2022 Edition.

New: Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Defence Update*, Volume 13, Issue 6, 1 August 2022.


Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (Australia) *Quarterly Newsletter*, Volume 21, Issue 2, June 2022.

New: Veterans Affairs Canada *Salute!* August 2022

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-vac/news-media/salute/2022-08>

Tweeted by @RUSI NS:

RUSI(NS) tweets may also be viewed by clicking on the Twitter icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something tweeted or retweeted, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com.

NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum - JFCBS
@NATOJFCBS tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted:
#NATO's values are demonstrated by the manner that
@NATO's Standing Naval Forces  contribute to freedom
of navigation by ensuring access by all to global sea lines of
communication.



Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace & Security @DallaireInst tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Conflict early-warning systems must consider children in their monitoring + analysis. Listen as @drshellywhitman, joins @dude_lynn on @hensoldt_ai's podcast to discuss early-warning indicators of recruitment/use of #children + armed violence.

<https://www.hensoldt-analytics.com/podcast/>

Intelligence Brief Podcast
OSINT and its application

Listen to the Episode Now
hensoldt-analytics.com/podcast

OR [Social media icons]

Podcast host:
Anne-Lynn Dudenhofer
OSINT Analyst at HENSOLDT Analytics

Special guest:
Dr. Shelly Whitman
Executive Director of The D'Ignazio Institute

Season 1 - Episode 1

Analytics
HENSOLDT

STRATCOMCOE @STRATCOMCOE tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: "In Sept. 2021, 🇷🇺 conducted formal part of Zapad training. Our research shows that besides on-field training for 🇷🇺 armed forces, Zapad 2021 was communicated to portray 🇷🇺 as global power strengthening its positions and fighting for domination in Europe.

<https://t.co/M3CtDTa4EY>

<https://t.co/dMggsWsAGn> / Twitter

ZAPAD 2021 COMMUNICATION ANALYSIS:
MESSAGES, NARRATIVES, (DIS)INFORMATION

Maple Leaf Navy @mapleleafnavy retweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Warshipcam @Warshipcam Vessels leaving Halifax, Nova Scotia for #OpNANOOK - August 2, 2022 - Royal Danish Navy HDMS Triton (F358) - USCGC Bear (WMEC 901) - French Navy FS Rhone (A603) - HMCS Glace Bay (MM 701)



National Defence @NationalDefence tweeted and RUSI(NS) retweeted: Canada has authorized the deployment of CAF personnel to train new recruits from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as they seek to increase the size of their ground forces in the face of Russia's ongoing unprovoked illegal invasion. #OpUNIFIER <https://canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2022/08/defence-minister-anita-anand-announces-deployment-of-canadian-armed-forces-to-train-ukrainian-soldiers-in-the-united-kingdom.html>

Canada.ca/Defence

Canada

Posted on Facebook Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia:

RUSI(NS) postings may also be viewed by clicking on the Facebook icon at <https://RUSI-NS.ca>. To have something posted or commented, email RUSI(NS) by noon Thursday.

Richard Shimooka: There is too little accountability for over-budget or delayed defence procurements

<https://vancouver.sun.com/.../richard-shimooka-there-is-...>

"Trust in government is at an all-time low among Canadians. And the area where this is perhaps most understandable is on defence procurement."



4th Canadian Division ARCG preparing for deployment on Operation NANOOK at CFB Borden

<https://pspborden.com/CitizenOnline/4th-canadian-division-arccg-preparing-for-deployment-on-operation-nanook-at-cfb-borden/>

"Members of the Joint Task Force and the Land Task Force component, led by the Grey and Simcoe Foresters, will be deployed along the Northwest Passage to provide observation of shipping while the shipping lanes are open"



Liberals miss 5-year timeline for UN peacekeeping promise, give themselves extra year

<https://globalnews.ca/.../trudeau-peacekeeping-promise.../>

"The Liberal government is giving itself more time to fulfil a key peacekeeping promise to the UN first made five years ago. The commitment involves the provision of a 200-soldier quick reaction force to the UN."



"Yet the Department of National Defence says cabinet recently gave itself another year to meet the commitment."

How artillery sent by Canada and allies is helping — and not — on Ukraine's front lines

<https://globalnews.ca/.../ukraine-m777-howitzer-kharkiv.../>

"Long-range artillery has become crucial in attempts to turn the tide of the war, allowing Ukrainians to target Russian troops and locations from farther away, in turn preventing further strikes on Ukrainian forces."



Three Royal Canadian Navy ships depart Halifax for Arctic mission

<https://www.saltwire.com/.../three-royal-canadian-navy.../>

"Three Royal Canadian Navy ships are sailing from Halifax as part of a two-month deployment to a mission in the Canadian Arctic."

"The vessels departed to the Arctic to take part in Operation Nanook, a Canadian-led maritime multinational exercise."



Canada to join British-led mission to train Ukrainian recruits: sources

<https://www.cbc.ca/.../operation-unifier-canada-ukraine...>

"Up to 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers are expected to fly to the U.K. for basic and specialist military in courses that last five weeks. The first tranche of Ukrainian recruits arrived and instruction began in early July."

"The plan amounts to the restart of Operation Unifer, the long-standing training mission which saw — until its suspension last winter — more than 35,000 Ukrainian soldiers given advanced combat instruction by Canadian soldiers."



Other Sources:

#continental defence

North America Is a Region, Too

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/north-america-region-too>

#cyber operations

What it Takes to Develop a Military Cyber-Force

https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/PP10-7_2022-EN.pdf

#drones

Air Defense and the Limits of Drone Technology

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/air-defense-and-limits-drone-technology>

#defence industry

NATO Force Planning: Rethinking the Defense Industrial Base

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/nato-force-planning-rethinking-defense-industrial-base>

#defence industry #shipbuilding

Navy's joint support ship taking shape at Seaspan shipyard

<https://www.nsnews.com/local-news/navys-joint-support-ship-taking-shape-at-seaspan-shipyard-5642201>

#Indo-Pacific

Mind the Gap: How China's Civilian Shipping Could Enable a Taiwan Invasion

<https://warontherocks.com/2021/08/mind-the-gap-how-chinas-civilian-shipping-could-enable-a-taiwan-invasion/>

Canada must put China 'front and centre' in Indo-Pacific strategy or it risks irrelevance, experts say

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-indo-pacific-strategy-china/>

#innovation

From the Lighthouse to the Christmas Tree: Enabling Distributed Innovation in the US Military

<https://mwi.usma.edu/from-the-lighthouse-to-the-christmas-tree-enabling-distributed-innovation-in-the-us-military/>

#information operations

Attribution of information influence operations is broken – this is how to fix it, suggests a new publication by NATO StratCom COE and Hybrid CoE

<https://www.hybridcoe.fi/news/attribution-of-information-influence-operations-is-broken-this-is-how-to-fix-it-suggests-a-new-publication-by-nato-stratcom-coe-and-hybrid-coe/>

#NATO

NATO fortifies Eastern Europe's defenses under new 'air shielding' mission

<https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2022/08/02/nato-fortifies-eastern-europes-defenses-under-new-air-shielding-mission/>

#Persian Gulf

RUSI - Mapping Views Across the Gulf

<https://gulffmap.rusi.org/>

#RCAF

Canadian Snowbird aircraft 'incident' reported at northern B.C. airport

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/snowbird-incident-fort-st-john-1.6539211>

#Russia-Ukraine War

Russia-Ukraine updates: Kyiv counteroffensive 'gathering momentum' — UK intelligence

<https://www.dw.com/en/russia-ukraine-updates-kyiv-counteroffensive-gathering-momentum-uk-intelligence/a-62621492>

Ukraine says scores of Russians killed in Kherson fighting

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-scores-russians-killed-kherson-fighting-2022-07-30/>

The IT Army of Ukraine: Structure, Tasking, and Ecosystem

<https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/Cyber-Reports-2022-06-IT-Army-of-Ukraine.pdf>

Cyber Operations During the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Lessons Learned (so far)

https://eccri.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ECCRI_WorkshopReport_Version-Online.pdf

Why there is often a gap between Russian weapons on paper versus their performance in the field.

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1553745899871952897.html>

Thread by @WarintheFuture on Thread Reader App – Thread Reader App

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1553973368809918464.html>

Russia's invasion of Ukraine offers lessons on land, at sea and by air

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/2022/08/01/russias-invasion-of-ukraine-offers-lessons-on-land-at-sea-and-by-air/>

Winning by Outlasting

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Journals/Military-Review/English-Edition-Archives/July-August-2022/DeVore/>

Russia's New and Unrealistic Naval Doctrine

<https://warontherocks.com/2017/07/russias-new-and-unrealistic-naval-doctrine/>

T-62s for Russian reserve units in Ukraine

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/08/03/t-62-tanks/>

Putin's entire Ukraine invasion hinges on the coming Battle of Kherson

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-entire-ukraine-invasion-hinges-on-the-coming-battle-of-kherson/>

Conceding Even One Inch of Territory Will Embolden Putin

<https://cdainstitute.ca/marcus-kolga-conceding-even-one-inch-of-territory-will-embolden-putin/>

#warfare

The Scientific Way of Warfare – Order and Chaos on the Battlefields of Modernity

<https://wavellroom.com/2022/08/04/the-scientific-way-of-warfare/>

Four ways to kill a ship: How US Marines are focused on controlling the seas

<https://www.armytimes.com/naval/2022/08/03/four-ways-to-kill-a-ship-how-us-marines-are-focused-on-controlling-the-seas/>

#war on terror #afghanistan

US kills al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in drone strike in Afghanistan

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/01/politics/joe-biden-counter-terrorism/index.html>

Taliban says it wasn't aware al-Zawahiri was in Kabul, warns U.S. against another attack

<https://torontosun.com/news/world/taliban-says-it-wasnt-aware-al-zawahiri-was-in-kabul-warns-u-s-against-another-attack>

Other:

UK Defence Intelligence update – 4 August 2022



UPDATE ON UKRAINE
4 August 2022

INTELLIGENCE UPDATE

- Ukraine's missile and artillery units continue to target Russian military strongholds, personnel clusters, logistical support bases and ammunition depots which will highly likely impact Russian military logistical resupply and put pressure on Russian military combat support elements.
- On 03 August 2022, the first vessel with Ukrainian grain arrived at the Bosphorus Strait having transited the Black Sea from Odesa. It is almost certain the success of this transit will result in more frequent transits in both directions. Clearing the backlog caused by the blockade that has been in place since February 2022 will remain a logistical challenge.
- Russian forces have almost certainly positioned pyramidal radar reflectors in the water near the recently damaged Antonivskiy Bridge and by the recently damaged nearby rail bridge, both of which cross over the Dnipro River in Kherson, southern Ukraine. The radar reflectors are likely being used to hide the bridge from synthetic aperture radar imagery and possible missile targeting equipment. This highlights the threat Russia feels from the increased range and precision of Western-supplied systems.

Security Affairs Committee Synopsis

O CANADA

The two frigates returned from NATO duty; they were not replaced with other frigates. Canada now has two Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDV) in the Baltic operating with mine warfare task groups. These vessels are missing their main armament as the old 40 mm cannons are no longer mounted and would likely be more hazard to their crews than the Russians. Still, could the 25 mm systems be made available such as the ones to be used on the "Harry De Wolfe class." We certainly armed the task force for the first Gulf war quickly using Navy resources to do the work. Old ships went forth with better weapons. Today, we use the new Canadian principle of War, "we hope nothing happens?" Canada has taken gross liberties with the lives of Canadian sailors, soldiers, and aviators by not providing even the most basic tools to do their job. Where are the immediate operational requirements, why do the troops have no air defence or decent anti-armour weapons, why is the Air Force still flying antiques against modern aircraft used by the Russians?

THE UNITED STATES

The US President, Joe Biden announced the apparent death of Ayman al-Zawahri by a drone strike over the past weekend. He was the chosen successor to Osama Bin Laden. When Bin Laden was killed in 2011, Al Zawahri was his chosen successor as head of Al Qaeda. He has alluded US forces for nearly eleven years, and he has been responsible for the ongoing efforts by Al Qaeda against the US. He was instrumental in developing suicide attacks and was personally responsible for the bombing of US Embassies in Africa in the mid 1990s. His death may cause disruption to the movement as there is no obvious successor. This may cause infighting at least a pause in Al Qaeda operations until the

leadership challenges is sorted out. This may be an optimistic assessment given that the US no longer has “boots on the ground” in Afghanistan.

The full effects of a very conservative Supreme Court continues to cause major disruptions in the US. The court has chosen to throw out previous court rulings and precedence in favour of a “originalist” ideas and concepts. Many acts covered by similar precedence covered issues that the founding Fathers never could have anticipated and therefore successive courts have ruled in favour of more liberal interpretation of individual rights. This court is the very first one in US history to actually take away rights from US citizens. It already has affected abortion rights, but we may also see a further roll back of rights to other areas such as contraceptives, inter-racial marriage, and LBGTQ+ rights including gay marriage. Each of these potential roll backs will cause unrest as a large majority of US citizens do not share the views of the current court. Less than 25% have any confidence in the current court. It does not bode well, and further disruptions and distractions will occur.

The January 6, Committee of the House has had a steady stream of revelations about the last President’s actions many of which prove that he never did understand the Constitution of the United States nor his oath of office. It is increasingly clear that criminal activities took place at his behest. The US Department of Justice is working on a number of criminal cases against the former President based on the testimony of witnesses. At the same time, the Republican Party seems to have adopted goals that are more in line with a cult rather than one of the two parties in the US. It is sad to see such a turn in the Party of Lincoln. Fallout from the entire term of the Trump Presidency has yet to be fully appreciated and understood.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

The war has turned to one of attrition with both sides taking massive casualties. Russia is making slow progress on the ground but at a substantial cost in manpower with infantry units being steadily decimated in close quarters fighting despite heavy artillery. This often means that armour units are moving forward with limited infantry and engineer support with disastrous consequences for tank crews fighting with equipment that is defective or very old or both issues. Russia has ordered its constituent states and cities to create a battalion each, which if all goes well means approximately 85 new battalion groups this fall. There is a question of the level of training, capability and credibility of these new units. There are already comments within Russia that questions the reliability and capability of these units along with the short period of training at both the individual and collective level, let alone being capable of functioning within a larger formation effectively. It would require experienced, knowledgeable leadership of the highest order to make them work effectively, unless the actual role is to act as cannon fodder. It is likely these units may be sent into battle long before they are ready even if used for rear area security or labour troops. Still as has been said in the past about Russian forces in general, “quantity has its own quality,” even if their sole role is to absorb bullets. It is not certain whether those volunteering know what they are getting into with this conflict; it will be more than a rude shock for most volunteers. This will show on the battlefield in negative ways, marching over the bodies of your own Army has a very definite effect. Use of cannon fodder may work against poorly trained armies; this is not the case with Ukraine. It could go badly.

Russia has kept large numbers of troops in the North along the Russia Ukraine border and in Belarus. These numbers are not sufficient to take and hold territory, but they do act as a “force in being” and cannot be ignored by Ukraine. Missiles have been launched from Belarussian territory over the past week although it is thought that these were fired by Russian units in Belarus and not by the Belarussian forces. Belarus has continued to walk a very thin tight rope, loudly supporting the Russian effort and conducting exercises along and near the border of Ukraine but at the same time have taken no actual hostile action except to allow Russian forces to remain in Belarus.

On the battlefield in the South, Russian forces are now forced to react to Ukrainian advances in the Kherson area. Russia has apparently added more troops to the area to according to one estimate. up to 25 k troops. With the destruction or damaging of three key bridges, it severely complicates the logistics for large numbers of troops North-West of the Dnieper River. Russia is moving more bridging equipment to the area, but they have had mixed success with military temporary bridging. There are some sources of unknown reliability stating that Russian forces in this area will attack on 5 August in what can only be considered a spoiling attack on a future Ukrainian offensive. The real story is that Ukraine is now forcing Russia to react to Ukrainian moves. It does not bode well for Russia.

Russia has also not succeeded in the Donbass with most attacks failing or of limited success and value in the Donbass. If the troops moved to the South also came from this area, it will mean a further diminishing of Russia's ability to attack effectively. It seems unlikely at this point that Russia will achieve any major changes here in the near term. The bottom line is things are essentially at a stand still. This being said it is very clear that the Ukrainians are preparing the battle space for future moves. They have specifically attacked high value targets including headquarters and communications nodes, fuel storage sites, ammunition dumps, counter-battery fire and specialized engineering equipment and units. These targets are absolutely essential for Russia to remain and hold the territory. Ukraine has also utilized partisans throughout the occupied area including assassinations, destruction of visible sites of occupation, disruption of traffic and reconnaissance of targets. There is no place in the occupied zone that is safe especially with the acquisition of longer range weapons and ammunition by Ukraine provided by Western Allies. Western Allies have also provided intelligence, satellite reconnaissance, advice and targeting information and advice. The Allies have also placed restrictions on the use of weapons, but the Ukrainian Government uses retired Western General officers to provide day to day advice on targeting. The Putin Regime is upset and has actually said, the Allies (NATO and others) of being actively involved as a result of Ukraine's recent success. This may be the start of a pretext for a number of Russian actions including withdrawal, use of non-standard weapons actions against Ukrainian civilians or the creation of "accidents" that could involve other nations such as Moldova. He has many options, but it is increasingly clear that the Regime will not win a conventional war against a well-motivated and equipped nation.

The UN, Turkiye, Ukraine and Russia have made an agreement to allow both Russian and Ukrainian grain to enter the international market in order to stave off massive levels of starvation especially in Africa and the Middle East. Despite Russia's apparent effort to derail the agreement by firing missiles into the ports, it appears to be holding with the first ship, the Sierra Leone flagged ship the "Razoni," left Odesa on Monday with 26k tons of corn for Lebanon, two more ships are now loaded and are awaiting approval to sail, with fifteen other vessels being made ready. One hopes this will continue as Russia and Ukraine provide 30% of the world's grain supply.

On another issue, the Wager Group has been spearheading Russia's theft of Sudanese gold directly from the mines. It is estimated that millions of dollars worth are stolen each week by this method. The Wagner Group has been instrumental in other criminal activities throughout Africa in order to gain funds to continue the Putin Regime's war. These methods are likely to be poisonous for Russia in the long term as countries turn on these types of actions.

Russia's economy continues to suffer under sanctions and long term damage is now being seen throughout the country including increasing inflation, high levels of unemployment' a high ruble but no where to spend it because of sanctions, loss of foreign investment with more than 1200 international businesses pulling out of the country, loss of international reputation with Russian equipment due to the poor showing in Ukraine thus lower military sales, loss of access to key technology, the freezing of

a large proportion of their financial reserves by international institutions and of course loss of their international reputation to most of the world's key economies. As several commentators have noted, the Russian economy will likely not recover for a very long time. Russian citizens are voting with their feet and leaving especially ones with badly needed skill sets. Putin is not Peter the Great. He has led the country to near disaster financially, the best outcome for Russia is his resignation and the creation of a new Government of national unity based on actual democratic values similar to Europe post the Second World War.

CHINA

The biggest issue this past while has been the visit of the US House of Representatives Speaker, Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan to visit President Tsai. She was wildly greeted by the Taiwanese people for her short visit. It was a sign of US interest in the fate of Taiwan and its people and a vote of confidence in a liberal democracy that Taiwan has become far cry from the authoritarian regime of Communist China. It is also a reminder to the Communist regime that there are differences between the US understanding and Communist Chinese Party's definition of the "One China Policy." One aspect is clear there is agreement there is one China of which Taiwan is a part, however, Washington and Taiwan have never agreed that it would be under the CCP. It is a key difference.

The timing of this visit is inopportune for President Xi. His various spokesmen and Ministers have virtually shrieked threats if the visit were to occur. Their actions therefore necessitated the US to conduct the visit as the US has been equally clear over time that no one can dictate what an American politician can do, particularly the representatives of a brutal, authoritarian Regime. In the coming weeks, there will be the Beidaihe Party Conference at the beach resort of the same name. It is not for recreation but a brutal political play in more ways than one. This conference usually sets conditions and the way ahead for the CCP. It is most likely that this will be where Xi will face his true opposition within the senior leadership of the Party to his gaining a third term as President. The meeting consists of the seven members of the Central Party Committee, other members of the Politburo, about seventy members of the Vice/Deputy level, and approximately 120 members of retired senior party leadership. All toll this will be approximately 200 of the most influential members of the Party and not all are pro-XI. Political in-fighting is the main effort with factions fighting for their point of view in order to gain influence and power. It was at a previous meeting where Xi was nearly assassinated before allegedly. This meeting is therefore crucial for Xi and the large number of failures and disappointments will weigh heavily upon Xi especially as it relates to his handling of Covid, the economy, foreign affairs all of which have had a profoundly negative influence on China at the moment. The Pelosi visit may be another perceived failure, timing could not be worse. The coming months in China may be "interesting" as in the old Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." By the end of October there may be a clearer understanding of the way ahead in China/world relations. Will we see an inward looking China or one that is ongoing; time will tell.