Trump Legacy: 35 Nations Declare No International Right to Abortion

Now just 34, because Biden pulled U.S. out

BY JONATHAN ABBAMONTE

While the Trump administration has now left Washington, D.C., the administration in its final months worked together with dozens of nations to leave behind an important pro-life initiative that could have a significant and lasting impact for protecting the right to life internationally for years to come, regardless of who occupies the White House.

On October 22, 2020, 32 countries on the sidelines of the 2020 World Health Assembly, the governing body of the WHO, signed the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women’s Health and Strengthening the Family, a historic declaration co-sponsored by Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Uganda, and the United States.¹ The declaration affirms that there is no right to abortion under international law and reaffirms the long-standing international consensus that sovereign nations have the freedom to make their own laws pertaining to abortion without foreign interference.

The Geneva Consensus Declaration makes clear that “there is no international right to abortion nor any international obligation on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion,” and affirms that all people have the right to the full enjoyment of all human rights.

The declaration commits to promoting women’s advancement and development and affirms that women have the right to the highest attainable standard of health but that multilateral efforts to secure women’s health must do so “without including abortion.” Too often in negotiations at the United Nations, pressing health needs for women are set aside in favor of debates about controversial issues like abortion which do not enjoy international consensus.

(continued on page 4)
To hear the Chinese Communist Party tell it, the network of concentration camps in China’s far west are “vocational schools.” But former women inmates, largely Uyghurs and Kazakhs, tell a different story.

They describe the camps as houses of horrors where Chinese camp guards systemically use gang rape and torture to violate their bodies and break their will to resist.

The new testimony, contained in a blockbuster BBC report, has aroused worldwide condemnation. It also confirms the State Department’s recent finding that China is committing genocide against its Uyghur minority.

Take Tursunay Ziawudun, for example, who described to the BBC how she and her cellmates were beaten, tortured and raped.

The guards and other masked men come at night, Ziawudun said, and “don’t only rape, but also bite all over your body... They did not spare any part of the body, they bit everywhere leaving horrible marks... I have experienced that three times. And it is not just one person who torments you, not just one predator. Each time they were two or three men.”

The guards would also torture them by inserting a cattle prod into their vaginas and anuses, and repeatedly shocking them.

Ziawudun, who now lives in the US, recounted how some of the women who were mistreated in this way lost their minds. Others, she said, were taken away by the guards and “never returned.”

Gang rape is also sometimes used as a means of public discipline. Sayragul Sauytbay, an ethnic Kazakh woman, told the BBC that rape in the camps was “common.” One time a young girl was brought in front of some 100 detainees for some infraction. Her punishment came when, “in front of everyone, the police took turns to rape her.”

Any women inmates who tried to close their eyes or look away from this horrific scene were themselves taken away by the police for more “punishment.”

Some of the camps also pimp out the women in their custody to the wider public to make money. Gulzira Auelkhan, an older woman who spent a year and a half in the camps, told how not just the police, but Han Chinese civilians from outside the prison system “would pay money to have their pick of the prettiest young inmates.”

Auelkhan was forced to go with the women to the rape rooms, where she

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would “remove their clothes above the waist and handcuff them so they cannot move.”

Qelbinur Sedik, an ethnic Uzbek woman, told the BBC that in the camps “the rape has become a culture. It is gang rape and the Chinese police not only rape the [women] but also electrocute them. They are subject to horrific torture.”

China has denounced the BBC report as “lies and fabrications,” and has attacked everyone from the British government down to the individual witnesses themselves.

Beijing’s denials would be more convincing if China:

- Had not already locked up millions of Uyghur men and women in concentration camps, where they spend their days making cheap goods for export, and their evenings memorizing the sayings of the same tyrant who ordered their incarceration.
- Did not uniformly rely upon the “four tortures” — the chair, the glove, the helmet, and anal rape — to break prisoners and extract “confessions” in its prison system.
- Was not in the business of killing some of those same prisoners to harvest their organs, parting out heart, liver, lungs and kidneys for resale like so many used car parts.
- Wasn’t already committing genocide against the Uyghurs by systematically aborting and sterilizing large numbers of Uyghur women.
- As it is, however, the claims of systematic rape and torture fit into a larger pattern of genocide. They are part and parcel of the systematic dehumanizing and destruction of an entire people that China’s leaders have slated for extermination.

The Biden administration should move swiftly to impose additional sanctions on the Chinese officials responsible for these outrages, and place new curbs on the importation of goods made by prison labor in the camps.

Yet the new administration seems to be moving in the other direction, counseling “strategic patience,” as if we can simply wait China out, genocide or no genocide.

Add to this President Biden’s remarks at a recent Town Hall meeting, in which he justified China’s human rights abuses by saying that, “Culturally, there are different norms that each country and their leaders are expected to follow.”

I wonder what the Uyghur women in China’s concentration camps would say about that.

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2 https://nypost.com/2021/01/19/pompeo-calls-chinas-treatment-of-the-uighurs-genocide/
3 https://www.asiatimesfinancial.com/xi-calls-for-open-world-economy-biden-counsels-pa-tience
The declaration also seeks to recover a focus on protecting the family, a focus that has largely been missing at the United Nations in recent decades. Quoting Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

Since the declaration was issued, three additional countries have signed on, bringing the total number of signatories to 35.

That number has now been reduced to 34 by the U.S. withdrawal. On January 28, President Joe Biden, in one of his first acts as president, issued a presidential memorandum directing his administration to withdraw the United States from the Geneva Consensus Declaration.

Despite the departure of the U.S. from the agreement, the declaration remains valid as strong evidence that a significant number of countries do not consider abortion to be a human right under international law. The declaration is currently being hosted by the government of Brazil and will remain open indefinitely to additional countries that wish to sign the Declaration.

The Geneva Consensus Declaration could roll back decades of efforts from pro-abortion advocates to gain recognition for an international “right” to abortion. And while most of the pro-life initiatives of the Trump administration are being reversed by the Biden administration, the Geneva Consensus Declaration cannot be reversed since it relies not on U.S. law or federal regulations but on the consent of sovereign countries.

The declaration makes an important comment on how the signatories of the document interpret the term “sexual and reproductive health”—a phrase that has long been used extensively by pro-abortion advocates and by the U.N. system to push the evolution of language toward the acceptance of abortion as a human right.

The document reinforces the signatory nations’ commitment to promoting women’s health and development, including sexual and reproductive health “without including abortion,” in essence declaring that the signatories do not recognize abortion as part of “sexual and reproductive health.”

The Declaration further reaffirms the long-standing international consensus agreed to by 179 nations in the Programme of Action from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development that “in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning” and that “any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process.”

The significance of the Geneva Consensus Declaration is difficult to overstate. The Declaration is historic as it is the first internationally agreed-to declaration that makes explicit that a significant number of states do not acknowledge an international right to abortion. This is important because international law (unlike federal or state law) is derived from the consent of states, from international agreements such as treaties, and from the general practice that states exhibit in their own domestic laws and in their responses to developing customary norms.

For decades, specialized agencies and human rights bodies within the United Nations system, pro-abortion NGOs, and a handful of wealthy western countries have gradually, incrementally, and relentlessly pushed for recognition for an international “right” to abortion. They have attempted to do this by reinterpreting international human rights treaties and by holding countries that have signed these treaties to interpretations never agreed to by the states.

The more countries sign onto the Geneva Consensus Declaration, the more compelling the case will be that there exists no international right to abortion.

This will strengthen the hand of sovereign nation states in regulating or banning abortion in accordance with their national laws, customs, and culture, without foreign interference.
The Lost Art of Sacrifice: A Spiritual Guide for Denying Yourself, Embracing the Cross, and Finding Joy

This powerful book, The Lost Art of Sacrifice: A Spiritual Guide for Denying Yourself, Embracing the Cross, and Finding Joy, will impact your life as soon as you start reading it!

That’s a bold claim, of course, but I can’t stop myself from urging you to get this book and share it with those you love.

You see, even though we’re most of the way through Lent, and we’ve been taking up the call to make sacrifices, I didn’t realize how little I was applying to this practice until I began reading this book.

The Lost Art of Sacrifice is just released by Sophia institute Press, so you can be among the first to receive it and begin to realize the benefits right away. The best part, it’s worth reading at any time, and can bring us closer to Christ all year long!

The author, Vicki Burbach, earlier published How to Read Your Way to Heaven: A Spiritual Reading Program for the Worst of Sinners, the Greatest of Saints, and Everyone in Between. Her work has been featured in the National Catholic Register, on Catholic Exchange, on Big Pulpit, and at The Catholic Education Resource Center.

Let’s look at its three sections:

Part 1 presents The Fundamentals of Sacrifice: What is sacrifice? Lose the “Me” attitudes… Contemplate the Cross … and Become One with Christ. It’s hard to imagine there’s more but just see...

Part 2 covers Avoiding Satan’s Traps: Beware the Traps of Modernism… The Lie of the Prosperity Gospel… The Lie of Socialism (so key to our current times!) … but even more eye-opening than that: Beware the Gospel of Death: Lies about Suffering.

And saving the Best for last: The Art of Sacrifice Dispositions that make way for sacrifice… Penance and Mortification… Giving God Your Time… Devotion to Christ and His Mother… Love of Neighbor, and, not by any means least, Perseverance and the Road to Holiness.

You’ll want to begin reading this the moment it appears at your front door! And surely you know others you’d like to give this book. It certainly belongs in every faithful Catholic home. I’m glad our home has it, and we’re giving it to our children for their families benefit.

So please let me send you a copy or two, with my humble thanks for your gift of $50 or more.

And please accept these wishes for Holy Lent and joy-filled Easter!

Please use the enclosed Gift Reply to request your copy of...

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Gifts to PRI are tax deductible. Give today!
Pro-Life Consideration of Vaccines: One More Link in Chain to Abortion

BY KATARINA CARRANCO

Many in the pro-life movement are undecided whether they should accept or reject the COVID-19 vaccine. But before we decide as a movement to make this a kind of pro-life litmus test, we must put the larger issue of abortion in context.

Truth be told, the COVID-19 vaccines are but one sad little link in a much bigger chain fettered to the great evil of our age: the killing of innocent children in the womb.

Those who say that the COVID-19 vaccines presently available are morally illicit point to the fact that the cell line used in their testing or production was derived from a baby aborted around 1960.

It is important to note that the vaccines currently available vary in their connection to abortion and thus their cooperation with that evil. The AstraZeneca vaccine used cell lines derived from abortion at all stages of the vaccine process (development, production and testing) and therefore has a strong connection to abortion.

However, Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines were not developed or produced from cell lines derived from abortion but did make use of such cell lines (HEK-293) during the testing stages.

Both the Pontifical Academy of Life and the lay-run John Paul II Academy for Human Life and Family believe that this constitutes remote cooperation with evil, and should not be used as a basis for denying anyone the vaccine, especially the elderly who are at high risk from the China Virus.

But if an individual decides that receiving such a vaccine constitutes immoral cooperation with evil, then we—and society at large—should also reflect on all of our other choices in life that also constitute immoral cooperation with that same evil.

The fact of the matter is that our society is so intertwined with the abortion culture and industry that it is almost impossible to not be “cooperating” with that evil in one way or another.

It turns out the same 60-year-old cell lines used to develop the COVID-19 vaccine have not only been used in the making of other vaccines, but also in developing cancer treatments, insulin, and numerous commonly prescribed medicines and drugs, such as statins and blood pressure medications.

The bottom line is that if the use of the currently available COVID vaccines is illicit because of their association with these cell lines, then the same use of these cells in the production of almost all of today’s...
medications makes their use equally illicit. Tens of millions of individuals would lose access to life-saving medications if we went down this path.

Those who claim that the use of COVID-19 vaccines can never be justified, to be consistent, must apply the same standard to all medicines that are associated with abortion. This would put the lives of countless people at immediate risk and create an even bigger moral dilemma concerning human dignity than we are currently facing with the vaccine alone.

In a broader sense, we are all guilty of cooperation with the evil of abortion by nature of our society’s economic and cultural connection to it. For this reason, it is intellectually dishonest and inconsistent to deny vulnerable people who need immunization from COVID-19 access to the vaccines that are currently available, especially when there are no moral alternatives present.¹

Perhaps one might suggest the use of hydroxychloroquine² or ivermectin³ as effective therapeutics in the treatment of COVID-19, but it turns out that these drugs, too, are also tested using those same cell lines.

The average American has a much more proximate cooperation in the evil of abortion when they buy anything made in China,⁴ where the government forces women to have abortions. And, now, under the Biden administration, we will be complicit in abortion when we simply pay our taxes.⁵ Remote cooperation, not just with abortion, but with all evil is inevitable unless we completely isolate ourselves from modern society by taking up a hermit-like existence.

This is not to say that individuals should not be free to abstain from a vaccine that has a connection to abortion, as long as by refusing it they do not cause harm to themselves or their community. And if there is no “clean vaccine” option—a vaccine that is not associated with abortion—then you should choose the vaccine that has the most remote cooperation with this evil. We should demand ethical practices in biomedical research—which means not using cell lines from aborted babies—and we should employ every lawful means to achieve this end. This includes educating yourself using trustworthy sources of information so that you will know how to proceed.

All this is to say that the COVID-19 vaccines are only a small part of a much larger problem: the abortion-industrial-complex itself and the immoral practices of both bio-medical researchers and the pharmacological industry.

We urge everyone in the pro-life movement to confront the larger issues raised above. If we are to have an effective response to the unethical practices in the bio-medical and pharmacological industries, we must be unified in our demands for clean vaccines and clean medicines. We must be courageous in our pursuit to seek the truth and defend life, but realistic about the challenges as well.

Above all, we must pray for clarity as we seek to expunge the sin of abortion from every corner of our lives and from society as a whole.

Katarina Carranco is the Director of PRI’s newly established Rome Office.

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² https://www.jpharmsci.org/article/S0022-3549(15)00090-8/pdf
⁵ https://www.pathreos.com/blogs/throughcatholiclenses/2020/12/12/things-less-remote-cooperation-in-evil-than-covid-vaccines/?fbclid=IwAR1FuGFHBr23Pp7iHNST90U5B7z0I7rmswyTZRZYKxsiMCW3pW0s_KFE
In tumultuous times, we can’t take our nation’s bedrock principles for granted. We must defend them at all costs.

Today our country faces serious attacks on our faith and our freedom. They come from within, even from some elected officials. Our Constitutional protections—the Electoral College, the Senate, the Supreme Court, right down to the Bill of Rights—are under fire because they protect our churches, our families, our children, and our way of life.

When we read the life story of our country, we find it embodied in its founding documents. In the Declaration of Independence, we find God mentioned five times, resonating the origin of our liberties in the self-evident truths embedded in “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.”

Those who have turned against our country have turned against those truths as well, replacing them with the language of class struggle and demanding that unlimited power be placed in the hands of an unelected ruling class. To respond, we have to go back to basics: remember our roots, and the truths that have nourished them through the centuries.

In his book America On Trial: A Defense of the Founding, author Robert Reilly describes this task as a search for “the origin of certain truths without which the American founding would have been inconceivable.” Reilly, who served in the Reagan White House and as Director of the Voice of America for two other presidents, is more than an intellectual historian: he is a valiant defender of history—our history—against those who would replace it with a sordid secular socialism in the name of “progress.”

A Vibrant Defense of America

With vigor and clarity, Reilly traces “the lineage of the ideas that made the United States possible.” He is inspired by John Courtney Murray’s classic work, We Hold These Truths, written in the heyday of American Catholic life in the 1950s. Murray writes that America’s founders “thought the life of man and society under government is founded on truths, on a certain body of objective truth, universal in its import, accessible to the reason of man, definable, defensible. If this assertion is denied, the American proposition is, I think, eviscerated at one stroke.”

And our religious liberties are eviscerated as well.

So truth matters. But where did these truths come from? “The story begins in classical philosophy and continues through history as the defense of nature, the good, and reason against the constant attacks of will, especially the will to power,” Reilly responds.

Reilly finds the historical sources of our liberties in Israel, in Athens, and in Rome. He recounts their development through the centuries, taking note of their defenders and their deformers. He explains how the founding didn’t take place in a vacuum but within a rich and fascinating history, inspired throughout by God.

America’s founding was based not on a couple of abstract documents, but on millennia of historical realities that inform and articulate every word, every phrase, every concept so dearly defended by our Founding Fathers.

In the years of America’s founding, John Adams called these realities “the general Principles of Christianity” and “the general Principles of English and American Liberty.” Faith and freedom united to form the foundations of the America the Beautiful.

In tyranny, by contrast, God need not apply. In fact, both Karl Marx and Adolf Hitler recognized the Catholic Church and its timeless teachings as the ultimate enemy that must be destroyed. Fifteen hundred years before, Augustine had identified for all time the enemies of the City of God as those who love power—unlimited power—for its own sake.

Those enemies constitute the City of Man, he wrote, and Satan is their ruler.

Reading Reilly, one appreciates all the more why we must defeat them.

You can order Reilly’s book from the enclosed reply page.
In every controversial issue in the public square, there are two irreducible extremes. In the case of abortion, there is the pro-life side and the pro-abortion side. And there is also a political narrative that each side transmits to others who are active politically.

The pro-abortion side has always tried to identify itself with “women’s rights” and in particular with the right to choose — to the point of calling itself “pro-choice.” At the same time, it has sought to demonize its pro-life opponents by calling them “anti-abortionists,” “patriarchal chauvinists,” “misogynists,” and a long list of pejorative labels whose most recent entry is “anti-choice.”

But in reality, are things as the abortionists say they are? What does each side concretely offer women? After all, it is reality, and not media speeches, that speaks soundly and truthfully about which side is truly with women.

What does the abortionist side offer women?

Abortion, of course, a service for which women pay. They pay directly to private clinics like Planned Parenthood in the U.S. or Dator in Spain. Or they pay indirectly, like all taxpayers, when the state subsidizes these clinics. Consider the millions of dollars that Planned Parenthood receives from the U.S. government every year. President Trump cut these taxpayer-funded grants and sought to eliminate them, but now Joe Biden wants not only to restore, but to expand them.

Taxpayers also pay for abortion indirectly in subsidies to public hospitals. The same is true for the cost of public programs, complete with the “experts” and NGO advisors attached to public services that receive funds to “ensure access to legal, safe and free abortion.”

A sex education tailored to abortion and contraception services. The precocious character of sexual activity and the trivialization of sexual relations are not accidents or defects of the programs that abortionists promote worldwide. They are their unspoken but fundamental goals. They are encouraged so that women will need contraceptives and, when those fail, resort to abortion either early with misoprostol pills or surgically when pregnancy is more advanced. It is no coincidence that the same international and local NGOs promoting abortion as a right also promote what they call “Comprehensive Sexual Education.”

But wait. Abortionists often emphasize the programs combatting violence against women that are proposed as part of their package. And that has appeal. After all, violence exists and we are all against it.

However, these programs are usually ideologically contaminated by a radical feminism that, to put it bluntly, incites women to hate men. And as our colleague Agustín Laje has explained, ultimately they are totally useless.

Their ideology doesn’t permit them to analyze the real causes of violence. They pretend to attack the effect when they can’t admit the true cause. The obvious result: every day there is more violence against women in spite of the enormous state budgets dedicated to prevent it.

This is already happening, for example, in Spain and Argentina. In these countries, there is a direct relationship between the higher budget for these programs, also called “against gender violence,” and the number of violent acts against women. The more public funding, the more cases of violence. Rhetoric aside, the facts are clear. It’s time to admit that feminism and gender ideology do not defend women.

To learn what the abortion side really offers women, I recommend that you see Abby Johnson’s movie, “Unplanned.”

What does the pro-life side offer women?

A genuine right to choose. The choice of whether I continue my pregnancy or not is fallacious. And the woman sooner or later realizes it... painfully, irreparably.

The indisputable reality, supported by biology and medicine, is that there are two lives, that of the woman and that of her child. Whether the child is wanted or unwanted, desired or not, is a second question.

(continued on page 10)
Pro-Life Help for Women, continued

But the life of the unborn child is a reality, and the pro-life side usually shows it to the woman with free ultrasounds in ambulances in front of abortion clinics, or with bills like those proposed in the U.S. to allow every woman to be shown an ultrasound and see for herself what she is carrying in her womb.

The pro-life side shows you the truth, while the abortionists make every effort to hide it from you. Without knowing the whole story, it is not possible to exercise the right to choose.

Programs to help women in crisis with an unexpected pregnancy. These programs offer accompaniment and concrete help. Accompaniment comes in the form of medical advice and psychological support, as well as legal assistance when needed. About 80 percent of young women with unexpected pregnancies just need advice and help while their parents are getting over their anger. Later on, these parents become proud grandparents and a solid support for young mothers or daughters who end up being single because their boyfriend has disappeared.

The remaining 20 percent receive more comprehensive support in these centers, including shelter, routine pregnancy visits, medicines, childbirth, classes to teach them a trade, and social and economic support after the birth.

Help and accompaniment to women who decided to have an abortion. Here we have the deciding factor that proves that the pro-life side is truly pro-woman.

The abortionist side considers as enemies all women who disagree with their dogmas and do not choose what radical feminism wants them to choose. Go to a feminist or “reproductive health” center and ask them to help you with your choice to continue your pregnancy and keep the child and you will see what happens and hear what they say. They don’t actually have programs for that.

On the pro-life side, such programs are everywhere. They help women and advise them not to have an abortion. However, if a woman decides to have an abortion, pro-lifers don’t turn their backs on her. In many of these programs, they wait for the woman to come out of the abortion clinic and continue to help her because they know that at that moment she needs it more than ever. The pro-life side also offers the woman a personal life project where she can harmonize her femininity in all its facets, reconciling her professional and work life with her family. It encourages her to be a woman with self-esteem in every role she wants to play by free choice: as a woman, as a lover, as a mother, as a student and as a professional worker. A true sexual education that gives you more options is more intelligent in the long run. Such an education goes beyond being driven by sexual impulse, redirects you to options that give you greater emotional, social and economic stability.

It places sexual enjoyment in its proper role of family well-being and security. It allows women to better analyze their options based on the experience of trial and error, not an “integral sexual education” that leads them to be the 10 billionth case of the young girl who had casual relations with a young man who told her he loved her and upon learning of the pregnancy vanished magically.

The woman’s crisis and anguish occurs because she did not think about the consequences of her actions, both expected and unexpected. Every woman with an unexpected pregnancy and a disappeared boyfriend knows that the abortionist package of “Comprehensive Sexual Education” sells a lot of misinformation and hides a lot of truths that she deserves to hear.

In conclusion, help for women comes from the pro-life side. And lest there be any doubt about the pro-life side’s commitment to women, the most popular hashtag on their pro-life social networks is #Salve-mosLas2Vidas (Let’sSave2Lives).
Mosher: New Rules on Clergy in China Undermine Vatican

LIFESITENEWS—China expert and PRI President Steven Mosher called the new rules from China regarding Catholic clergy “a slap of the face of the Vatican” in a recent article in LifeSiteNews.1

The new guidelines include a rule whereby bishops must be elected from among the state-sponsored Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association (CCPA), appointed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and consecrated through China’s Catholic Bishops Conference (CCCB), an entity not recognized by the Vatican.

The guidelines, which take effect May 1, make no reference to the Vatican’s wishes in the appointment of bishops in China, despite the 2018 Vatican-China deal that allowed Pope Francis to appoint bishops in conjunction with the CCP.

“We know that Pope Francis believes that he appoints the bishops of the Catholic Church in China, because he has said so. It is also clear that the CCP is here asserting that it appoints those self-same bishops. So what is the reality?” Mosher said.

He said his understanding of the 2018 agreement is that the CCP shall nominate, and the Pope shall confirm, bishops, which presumably, gives the Holy Father a veto over bishop appointments in China.

“At the same time, however, a senior Chinese official has said, quite plainly, that the Pope cannot continually veto candidates, nor can he indefinitely refuse to give his consent to a CCP nominee. In these circumstances, he said, the ordinations will go forward anyway,” he said. “The new regulations state quite plainly that the CCP is the ultimate decision maker when it comes to deciding who heads Chinese dioceses. I take their statement at face value.”

“Strategic Patience” is Not the Answer for China, Says Mosher

SECURE FREEDOM RADIO—Credited as the first American social scientist to visit mainland China, PRI President Steven Mosher was a guest on Secure Freedom Radio to discuss the United States’ best strategy with China.2

Highlights of the interview with host Frank Gaffney include:

- Mosher’s recommendation that the United States needs to show strength with China, not “strategic patience”
- A growing fear within the Chinese Communist Party is that their people will soon realize that Taiwan’s democratic success proves that the Chinese people are capable of self-governance
- Mosher’s warning that what is happening in the U.S. today is eerily similar to Communist China’s state-controlled media apparatus

Worry for U.S.: Will Biden Really Stand Up to China?

LIFESITENEWS—In a recent column, PRI President Steven Mosher described the sharp contrast between the Trump and Biden administrations on China policy.3

“One of the signal successes of the Trump administration, among many, was President Trump’s clear-eyed focus on winning the cold war with China,” he wrote. “From the National Defense Strategy early in the administration, to the declaration that China is committing genocide against the Uighurs in its last days, Trump’s China policy was right on target.

“The contrast with the feckless policies of the Obama-Biden administration could not be sharper. Vice President Biden, whom Obama had put in charge of China policy, was more interested in monetizing his relationship with Chinese oligarchs than in confronting the premier national security threat of the 21st century.

“Mitigating against any softening of our current stance towards China is the Biden Crime Family’s past operations in China. Any sudden reversal of Trump’s policies will be seen as kowtowing to Beijing.”

Mosher notes in his column that Biden’s senior cabinet officials seem disposed to continue many of Trump’s policies.

“To judge from his testimony at his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate, Secretary of State designee Antony Blinken is unlikely to repeat Hillary Clinton’s ‘Russian reset’ stunt on his first trip to Beijing.

“Secretary of Defense designee Lloyd Austin likewise believes that Trump’s National Defense Strategy is ‘absolutely on track for today’s challenges’ and concurred that China is the preeminent threat to the U.S.”

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3 https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/will-biden-cave-to-china
From the Countries

**POLAND**
Down Syndrome Babies Now Safe

POLAND—An amended abortion law in the homeland of Pope St. John Paul II has officially come into effect, protecting the right to life of babies with Down syndrome and those with serious disabilities, according to LifeSiteNews.¹

Poland’s Constitutional Court published its decision last fall to outlaw the practice of eugenic abortion, a change from its previous laws allowing the abortion of unborn babies with “serious disabilities” and “incurable diseases,” the report stated.

After considering a petition by 119 members of the Polish parliament, representing several different parties, the country’s highest court declared that the practice was unconstitutional.

Article 30 of the Polish Constitution reads, “The inherent and inalienable dignity of man is the source of human and civil freedom and rights. It is inviolable and its respect and protection is the responsibility of public authorities.” Article 38 further states that “the Republic of Poland provides every human being with legal protection of life.”

Though abortion is not totally banned in the majority-Catholic country, this ruling ended a kind of unspoken truce between pro-life and pro-abortion citizens to keep certain exceptions in the law. Today, abortion in Poland is still legal if the life or health of the mother is endangered by the unborn child or if the child has been conceived through a criminal act, such as rape.

Protests from the foreign-funded pro-abortion movement broke out in October when the court first announced its decision. A smaller number of demonstrators came out this year, but they were violent, and a journalist was injured, the report said.

“Of course, feminists are going to express their anger, but this is what always happens when life wins. We should not be scared,” said Kaja Godek of Poland’s Life and Family Foundation.

**HONDURAS**
Pro-life Laws Firmed Up

HONDURAS—Leaders in Honduras have moved to further strengthen the country’s protection of unborn children, according to an article in LifeSiteNews.²

After voting to fortify its ban on abortion with a “constitutional lock,” voting 88–28 in favor of the reform in the previous legislature, the Congress of Honduras has ratified that vote by the new legislature, increasing the vote share to 90 votes in favor, thus making the pro-life position stronger, the article stated.

For a constitutional reform to be validated, it must be proposed and approved by one legislature and subsequently ratified by a second. This ratification means that a three-quarter majority of Congress will be required to make any changes to the constitution of Honduras, which contains strong pro-life and pro-family protections, according to the report.

All abortion—even those in cases of rape or incest—have been illegal in Honduras since 1982. Currently, Article 67 of the Honduran constitution states that “(t)he unborn shall be considered as born for all rights accorded within the limits established by law.”³

**ARGENTINA**
Judge Blocks New Law, Limits Abortion

ARGENTINA—In support of an injunction filed by pro-lifers, a judge in the northern province of Chaco, Argentina has blocked the recently enacted abortion law from taking effect in the region, reported LifeSiteNews.⁴

Up until early January 2021, abortion in Argentina was a crime punishable by up to four years in prison. A new law, “Access to Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy (IVE)” has legalized abortion in the country up to 15 weeks. But for now, that law is blocked in the province of Chaco.

Judge Marta Aucar approved the precautionary measure, which defends the rights of the unborn child and declares the new law unconstitutional.

Her ruling reads in part, “The execution of abortion procedures restricts, undermines, abuses, limits and alters the right to life of the unborn child, [which is] protected by our legal system from conception,” according to the report.

Pro-abortion groups are preparing to fight back. The National Campaign for the Right to Legal, Safe and Free Legal Abortion said are “working on a legal and political strategy.”

National Senator María Inés Pilatti Vergara decried Judge Aucar for being “closely linked to the Catholic Church” and smeared her as “mindless and irresponsible” and a “legal monstrosity.”

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