



## The News

**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 8am** ©

*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron has confirmed France will be stepping up military support for Ukraine. The President spoke to his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on the phone yesterday on the matter of the Russian invasion. Meanwhile, the United States fears an alliance between Russia and China. The American Secretary of State Antony Blinken, has claimed that Beijing could provide "weapons" to Moscow to support its offensive in Ukraine.

Antony Blinken has also announced more aid for Turkey and Syria. The two countries have been affected by a major earthquake, which killed nearly 45,000 people. The head of US diplomacy announced 100 million dollars for the victims of the earthquake. The Turkish authorities have announced that they will be limiting the search for survivors to two southern provinces.

The Paris home of Pierre Palmade is being searched. The actor is now targeted by an investigation for "possession of child sexual abuse images". The investigation has been opened by the Paris prosecutor's office after a report from a person who claimed to be close to the comedian and who told police that there was evidence. This investigation is a new case. Pierre Palmade was charged last week after causing a road accident which seriously injured 3 members of the same family. The actor had taken cocaine at the time.

The Ile de la Reunion remains on orange alert as Cyclone Freddy approaches. The cyclone has lost some of its intensity but remains dangerous. It is due to pass over the island this evening.

And finally to football, Marseille remains in second place in the Ligue 1 after winning 3-2 against Toulouse last night at the end of the day 24 of the Ligue 1. Marseille are 5 points behind the leader, Paris Saint Germain, with a week to go until the two meet for a match at the Vélodrome.