Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

9/6/23 Wednesday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US to Ship Depleted Uranium Shells to Ukraine

Experts have warned that the use of depleted uranium (DU) could have highly detrimental effects on the health of Europeans and the fertility of the “black soil” region, especially following a massive explosion at a site in Khmelnitsky, Ukraine, where DU rounds have been stored. Following months of debate amid steep resistance to their plans, the Biden administration has finally confirmed it will send depleted uraniumshells to Ukraine to be used against Russian forces.

The White House confirmed that a batch of DU shells would be sent to kiev as part of a military aid package worth $175 million.

The package also includes equipment for Ukraine's air defense systems, and additional HIMARS munitions, TOW missiles, 155mm artillery shells, and Javelin and AT-4 anti-armor systems.

Addressing Washington's decision to send the dangerous shells to Kiev, UN spokesman Farhan Haq told Sputnik it is a concerning development.

"Our concerns about the use of depleted uranium anywhere in the world has been consistent and still stands," Haq said.

The DU shells are intended to be used by US-made M1 Abrams main battle tanks due to their armor-piercing properties. Ukrainian forces are already using British DU rounds in the British-made Challenger 2 tanks with which they have been supplied, but Washington sending the rounds as well constitutes a further escalation, as Russian leaders have indicated.

"Due to the supply of radioactive and highly toxic British and American depleted uranium munitions, Ukraine is turning into an uninhabitable land. Radiation contamination of the soil is already happening and is being objectively recorded," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova recently warned.

DU is obtained from spent nuclear fuel already used by the reactors inside nuclear power plants, hence why it is called “depleted.” However, the dense material is not bereft of radiation, and after it is fired, it can poison the surrounding environment, with disastrous effects for soldiers, civilians, and wildlife alike.

The shells’ radioactive properties have a direct impact on their penetrative ability. When fired at enemy armor, DU-tipped rounds generate an immense amount of heat, literally sloughing off portions of the projectile as it rams into its target to keep the shell’s tip sharp and prevent mushrooming. This helps the rounds grind into and through armor almost like a hot knife through butter, penetrating enemy vehicles and killing any unfortunate souls who happen to be inside.

Tank, artillery, and air-launched DU munitions have left a horrifying record of destruction and illness in their wake in the countries where they have been deployed, including Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War and 2003 invasion; Yugoslavia; Afghanistan; and Syria. Iraq and the former

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Yugloslav republics are the most heavily affected, with cancer rates in Iraq jumping from 40 cases per 100,000 people in 1991 to 800 per 100,000 in 1995, to a whopping 1,600 per 100,000 by 2025 after the US and Britain deployed up to 2,300 tons of DU in the country.
The US decision to supply Ukraine with the weapons comes after Kiev's counteroffensive, much vaunted in the West as the potential turning point in the conflict that would evict Russian forces from former Ukrainian lands, has ground to a halt with few gains and catastrophic losses of both men and materiel.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Bad Decision All Around': Ex-Pentagon Officials Blast US Move to Send Ukraine Depleted Uranium

Two former longtime Pentagon officials told Sputnik they would "not have recommended" US President Joe Biden decide to supply Ukraine with depleted uranium rounds, saying it was a "sign of desperation" amid Kiev's failed counteroffensive, which US officials touted as the final act of the conflict.
On Wednesday, the White House confirmed it would begin supplying depleted uranium (DU) ammunition to Ukrainian forces despite widespread disapproval of the plan, including from the United Nations.
The DU rounds are for US-made M1 Abrams main battle tanks also bound for Ukraine, and are included in a weapons package with other types of armaments totaling some $175 million in value.
The use of DU in warfare, where it serves as a cheap alternative to tungsten-based armor piercing rounds, is associated with increases in cancer rates in the area. When the round impacts its target, molten bits of the uranium slough off the penetrator, which both allows it to pierce deeper into armor but also deposits its radioactivity into the soil.
"Definitely a bad decision all-around," Earl Rasmussen, a retired lieutenant colonel who spent over 20 years in the US Army, told Sputnik about the White House's move. However, he added he did not interpret the move as an escalation per se.
"The UK has already done it, I'm sure it was done in consultation and coordination with the UK as well, and we're running low on ammunition," he said of the US military. "Additionally, we've had the complete failure, collapse of the counteroffensive, so in a way it's a sign of desperation."
"I think it's a mistake, I would not have recommended it," Rasmussen added. "The ramifications will be long-lasting: what once was fertile farm ground will be contaminated, there will probably be an increase in cancer rates, and the health of Ukrainian people will definitely be impacted as well, if Iraq is an indication."

Former senior Pentagon adviser Karen Kwiatkowski told Sputnik that both the US and UK were sending DU shells to Ukraine for which there was, "by their own admission, no accountability for where these will be used and how they'll be used."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

“This is an escalation, certainly, beyond any justification that we have. It is a danger, not just to the Ukrainians themselves but to the future of Ukraine - the future usability, the future productivity of the country. And why we’re doing it, other than the fact that the United States has them and maybe wants to get rid of these weapons, but other than that, why we’re doing it doesn’t make a lot of sense. I don’t know the solution to it: apparently average, normal people are not involved in the decision-making to send these kinds of weapons into any country, and certainly not into a European country. So, we don’t know what they’re thinking.”
“The consequences, of course, are going to be very expensive - and not just for the Ukrainian people, but the Western investors who expect to go into a post-war Ukraine and rebuild the country. That’s going to be very expensive. I guess American taxpayers will pay for that as well. It’s just an ugly, ugly, dangerous thing,” she urged.
“Our leadership in this country is not something many people understand. Americans don’t understand how these decisions are being made. We’re not consulted. There’s a great deal of separation between the average American and the activities that are pursued by Washington, DC,” she said, adding it was “unfortunate, sad, tragic, and dangerous.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Expert: Biden a 'Bald-Faced Liar' for Touting 'Bidenomics' as Boon for Working Americans

While the White House claims “Bidenomics” has benefited working Americans, its large spending deficits will only weaken the middle class in the end, one expert told Sputnik.
In the lead-up to the November 2024 US presidential election, President Joe Biden has looked to take credit for economic changes under his tenure, labeling his investment and trade policies and fiscal policy as “Bidenomics.”
Last month, the White House marked the one-year anniversary of "Bidenomics," when key bills like the CHIPS and Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act were passed, although Biden has presided over numerous other bills and executive actions affecting wide parts of the economy from fossil fuel extraction to infrastructure repair and trade with countries like China and Russia, who Washington considers rivals.
Speaking at a sheet metal workers’ union in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Monday, which is Labor Day in the United States, Biden defended "Bidenomics" as a boon for the working class.
"'Bidenomics' is a blue-collar blueprint for America," Biden said. "My plan for the country is to make the economy work for people like you, because when it works for people like you, it works for everybody … It's working."
Sputnik spoke with one expert, financial and geopolitical analyst Tom Luongo, about the realities of so-called “Bidenomics” under the 46th US president.
"Biden is a bald-faced liar," Luongo asserted. "The economy isn’t working for anyone in the middle class. It is creating the biggest debt burden imaginable on people already taxed to death."
"Now, if you view the ‘Biden’ administration as a group of vandals attempting to destroy the country with open immigration, native worker replacement and ruinous inflation, then yes,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

'Bidenomics' is working as intended. If you view it from the perspective of the voters it is a disaster," the analyst said.

"So, the real question you should be asking is not whether it's working, but for whom is it working? Clearly, that isn't for the people."

Luongo said the budget deficit was "ballooning because of reckless spending in [Washington,] DC, on projects that have negative return on investment – green technology – and the inexorable increase in US debt servicing payments because of the Fed's aggressive interest rate policy."

"The insane defense spending and hundreds of billions going to support Ukraine do not help matters. The Fed and US banks/investors are clearly telling the government in DC that there is no more room for 'guns and butter.' We can't afford this and it's time to pull back and retrench, spend the money better and differently than we have to date."

"It feels like this orgy of spending, regulatory madness, and political chicanery are the last kick at the can of a bunch of ideologues leaving behind an untenable future for the US middle class before they are wiped out during the next election cycle."

He noted the US economy was "still limping along," with continued but low economic growth but also low unemployment. However, Luongo said the Republicans needed to "get serious" about challenging Biden in the coming elections, saying that doing so would require a move toward the rapidly expanding "radical center of the US electorate."

"No amount of ballot harvesting will cover what's coming for these folks. The political consequences for them will be existential, which is why they continue to act as if they are 'winning' and on track, rather than what they really are: scared to death of all of their corruption coming back to destroy them all," he said.

Returning to the deficit, Luongo said the unbalanced budget would soon begin to hurt Americans' property values and costs of living.

"The loss for most Americans will be the degradation of their balance sheets in the form of equity in their homes, cars, etc. Energy costs are going to rise again. Interest rates will go higher into the election cycle. [Federal Reserve Chair] Jerome Powell has made it clear he won't bail out Congress. Congress has to reform, or Congress will be overthrown in a year," he said.

"The middle class will be forced to tighten up, double up, and get more reliant on friends and family rather than looking to DC or their State Capitols to fix what's wrong. There is no fix for what's really wrong other than a complete political revolution on Capitol Hill."

"The mood amongst the middle class in the US is dangerously angry. They know who the real villains are, and they are ready for what comes next. The trick for people like [former US President] Donald Trump and others will be to thread the needle between marshaling that anger constructively while keeping it stoked to a fever pitch to effect real change."

"We in the middle class here in the states have to realize that we are being driven to despair on purpose. So, whatever their next outrage they inflict on us next has to be rebuked completely. This isn't about numbers anymore; it's about choosing a particular future."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Astronomers Make Furthest-Ever Measurement of Galaxy's Magnetic Field

By studying the early universe, astronomers hope to unlock new secrets about how and why structures like stars, galaxies, and black holes formed in the wake of the Big Bang, and the fundamental forces of physics that made them possible.

A team of astronomers led by James Geach, a professor of astrophysics at the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom, have discovered a fully formed magnetic field in a galaxy some 11 billion light-years away.

Their results were obtained using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array in the northern Chilean desert and were published in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

"Magnetic fields are fundamental to the evolution of galaxies, playing a key role in the astrophysics of the interstellar medium and star formation," the scientists wrote in their paper. "Large-scale ordered magnetic fields have been mapped in the Milky Way and nearby galaxies, but it is not known how early in the Universe such structures formed."

The galaxy is called ASW0009io9 and the light detected by the human astronomers departed when the universe was just 2.5 billion years old. It's also an extremely small galaxy at just 16,000 light-years across - by comparison, the Milky Way is 105,700 light-years across.

The field was measured at just 500 microGauss, or about 1,000 times weaker than the Milky Way's magnetic field, and the astronomers don't know why.

"We actually know very little about how these fields form, despite their being quite fundamental to how galaxies evolve," Enrique Lopez Rodriguez, a researcher at Stanford University in the US who was part of the study, said in a news releasefrom the European Southern Observatory (ESO), which is a partner of ALMA.

Co-author and ESO astronomer Rob Ivison said the discovery opens up "a new window onto the inner workings of galaxies, because the magnetic fields are linked to the material that is forming new stars."

Of course, the Milky Way's magnetic field is pretty weak as well, even when compared to a small planet like Earth, which has a strength of between 25 and 65 Gauss. Galactic magnetic fields are much weaker because they're spread across huge distances.

The scientists made their observation in a cunning way: they looked for polarized light emitted by magnetic elements like iron in interstellar dust. Being inside the galaxy's magnetic field, they would have become aligned with that field.

Astronomers have become keenly interested in the early universe, looking further and further back in time - which in space means further away, since nothing travels faster than light. More powerful telescopes, such as the James Webb Space Telescope, have afforded unparalleled views as far back as 500 million years before the Big Bang, when the first stars, galaxies, and black holes were forming.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New EU Digital Laws Seek to Bust 'Gatekeeper' Tactics of Tech Giants

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

The European Union has unveiled a second batch of laws aimed at curbing the power of major technology companies, with a focus on ending monopolistic practices that leave consumers with few choices and even less power.

The package of laws is collectively called the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and is intended as a companion to the Digital Services Act (DSA) that was implemented late last month.

The DMA names six "gatekeeper" companies the European Commission says impose "unfair conditions on businesses and end users and at ensuring the openness of important digital services." The companies are: Meta*, the owners of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp; Alphabet, the owners of Google; Bytedance, the owners of TikTok; Microsoft, Apple, and Amazon. In addition, Samsung narrowly avoided inclusion, but the EC notes this could change as the designation is subject to review.

The EC has given the "gatekeepers" six months to comply with a list of “dos and don’ts” the EC says will result in the companies "offering more choice and more freedom to end users and business users of the gatekeepers' services." Failure to comply will result in fines that will begin with 10% of the company's total worldwide turnover and could escalate to 20% "in case of repeated infringement."

"In case of systematic infringements, the Commission is also empowered to adopt additional remedies such as obliging a gatekeeper to sell a business or parts of it or banning the gatekeeper from acquisitions of additional services related to the systemic non-compliance," the news release adds.

An EU official told UK media that the DMA would be good for both consumers and for smaller tech firms that face steep barriers to reaching users in markets already dominated by the "gatekeeper" companies.

"For example, now when a consumer sees an app doesn’t do well on their phone, they think immediately it is the app that is not really good," the official explained. "Very often it is not because the challenger app is bad but because the interoperability is missing because it is in the interest of the gatekeeper to make sure the experience is not the same."

Some of the Dos include allowing third parties to inter-operate with the gatekeeper’s services in certain situations; allowing business users to access the data that they generate by using the gatekeeper’s platforms; providing relevant tools and information to advertising and publishing companies sufficient to independently verify their advertisements on the gatekeepers’ platform; and allowing business users to promote their offer and conclude contracts with their customers outside the gatekeeper’s platform.

The practices on the Don'ts list include giving their own services and products favorable ranking over third parties’ products; preventing consumers from linking up to businesses outside their platforms; preventing users from uninstalling pre-installed software or app; and tracking end users without their consent off of the gatekeepers' core platform service for the purpose of targeted advertising.

The law also targets specific services offered by companies, including: WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, TikTok, Facebook, Amazon, Google, Chrome, Safari, Google Maps, Google Pay and Google Shopping. The list originally included Gmail and Outlook as well, but these were removed from the final law following petitions by Alphabet and Microsoft.

These efforts follow the DSA last month, which focused on regulating online content and has generated far more controversy, including accusations of censorship. The Act claims to curb

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

online hate, child sexual abuse and disinformation and imposes similarly stiff fines on tech firms for failing to comply with its stipulations.
However, the EU has shown that it defines "disinformation" as websites and news services on which users can find information and perspectives with which European bureaucrats disagree, resulting in the banning of Russian news agencies like RT and Sputnik from reaching EU would-be readers.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Abuse Accuser Tara Reade Reveals She Received Temporary Asylum in Russia

Reade served as a Senate staffer in then-Senator Joe Biden's office from December 1992 to 1993, during which time she says he assaulted her sexually in the basement of a Washington, DC, Senate office building. Reade is one of eight accusers that came forward during the 2020 campaign cycle.
Tara Reade, a former Senate aide who accused US President Joe Biden of raping her in 1993 and who fled to Russia earlier this year because she said she “didn’t feel safe” in the United States, announced during an extensive and lengthy talk on X’s (formerly Twitter) Spaces platform that she received temporary asylum in Russia.
Reade underscored during the appearance that she didn’t feel safe in the United States, explaining her decision to accept a plane ticket to Russia may have resulted in her breaking sanctions.
National Security Council official John Kirby denied that Reade’s life was in danger in May; however, Reade made clear during the Wednesday call that she didn’t believe it, saying that danger had a habit of being just around the corner anytime Kirby shot down such claims.
Reade noted that the amnesty office only asked her one question: Has she been to the US embassy in Moscow? She replied that she had not.
Reade was one of eight women to accuse then-candidate Joe Biden of sexual misconduct. Her story was backed up by her family and former neighbor, and gained more credence when a "Larry King Live" episode included Reade’s mother complaining about the assault around the time Reade said the attack took place.
Already an occasional columnist for RT, Reade also announced that her contract with the outlet has been expanded, and that she is now a correspondent for the Russian outlet.
During the Q&A portion of her talk, Reade praised Russia, pointing to its thriving middle class, expansive education system and cleanliness as things that contrasted with her experience in the United States.
When asked about her feelings on US politics, Reade said she felt the presence of evil when she was attacked by Biden and called him a monster, adding “he is the world’s monster now.”
Reade said the “uniparty” is leading the world towards thermonuclear war and noted that while she did not vote in the last election, at least former President Donald Trump didn’t get the United States involved in a World War.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

But as traumatizing as Biden's attack on her was, Reade said the way she was dragged by the US media after coming forward proved nearly as traumatizing.

"I did nothing wrong. I was doing my job. [...] then when I came forward in 2019 there were seven other women, and one of them was a young lawmaker and they destroyed her. You never hear from her anymore," Reade said, referring to former Nevada State Representative Lucy Flores who was among Biden's accusers.

Flores accused Biden of sniffing her hair and kissing the back of her head during a campaign event he attended for her ill-fated campaign for Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico. Flores described the incident as "awkward and disturbing and weird."

Reade also said she has no interest in returning to the United States even if she were welcomed with open arms, noting that she is still too angry at the US government to consider it for the foreseeable future.

"They didn't break me. ... I want to make sure they don't break anyone else," adding that if anyone needs help leaving the United States, her DMs are open.

Moscow nor the United States have commented on Reade receiving asylum.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Offers New Details on AI-Powered Programs Intended to Counter China

The first pilotless vehicles were developed by the United Kingdom and the United States during World War I but they were not used during the conflict. Reconnaissance drones were first used on a mass scale in Vietnam. However, deadly drone use exploded during the United States' war on terror, first being used in Afghanistan in 2001.

The Pentagon is considering a vast network of artificial intelligence-powered (AI) autonomous systems and drones in what Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks says is designed to counter alleged threats posed by China.

Announced last month, Hicks provided some more details on the program while taking questions during a speech at the Defense News Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, on Wednesday.

Hicks detailed during an interview that the plan is to create thousands of drones and systems that are "small, smart [and] cheap."

The project, dubbed Replicator, will take place in all domains, including ground, air, sea and space.

"Imagine constellations of ADA2 systems on orbit, flung into space scores at a time, numbering so many that it becomes impossible to eliminate or degrade them all," Hicks said of the program's potential in space.

In the realm of air, Hicks proposed a system of "distributed pods" that could be powered by the sun or other "virtually limitless resources" and "packed with sensors" to give the military "information in near-real-time."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Other projects being considered in the program include ground-based systems that can scout ahead for troops and provide logistics support, autonomous anti-missile systems, and systems that could autonomously guard Department of Defense (DoD) assets.

The program, Hicks said, is not being created because the DoD desires war, but rather to deter any potential attacks against Taiwan by China. The official further contended it would give the military an edge over China if conflict does come.

China currently has more ships than the US Navy, an advantage of “mass” that Hicks described as “more ships, more missiles, more forces.” But rather than try to counter China “pound for pound,” she says the US must innovate to keep up.

As evidence, Hicks pointed to the conflict in Ukraine, where drones have been indispensable for both sides.

China does hold an advantage in numbers over the US but it is not immediately clear why that is as the United States' military budget dwarfs that of China’s.

For 2023, the US military budget stands at $778 billion compared to $224 billion in spending by China, according to official numbers. In 2024, the US Navy alone will have a $255.8 billion budget, exceeding China’s entire military budget.

On that note, Hicks contends the Replicator program won’t require any new funds, saying it will take from already established funding. Earlier this year, the Pentagon authorized $1.8 billion in funding for artificial intelligence research in 2024.

The Replicator program, Hicks says, will be able “to field autonomous systems at a scale of multiple thousands, in multiple domains, within the next 18-24 months" and will establish “all-domain, attritable autonomy” to overcome China’s anti-access and area denial programs, which will give US forces a significant advantage in any potential war.

Many peace advocates and AI researchers have warned about handing weapons over to AI systems. In May, a United States Air Force spokesperson said an AI-powered drone “killed” its operator in a simulation, but later said he misspoke and no such simulation occurred.Updated quotes in articles covering the speech noted the spokesperson was describing a thought experiment.

Hicks said the DoD’s track record of a “responsible and ethical approach to AI” and later added that the system would adhere to the DoD’s policy that “there is always a human responsible for the use of force.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Home is Where You Make It - Cartoon

During a visit to his beach house in Rehoboth, Delaware, on Sunday US President Joe Biden told reporters that he was not on vacation while at the swanky residence.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

“The reason I’m here today, just for one day — I know people [say] I’m on vacation, I’m not. I have no home to go to.[The] Secret Service has torn my house up in a good way to make it more secure,” Biden said.

A reporter asked the president if this meant he was homeless. “Oh I’m not homeless, I just have one home,” Biden replied. “I’m down here for the day because I can't go home, home,” he concluded, seemingly forgetting about the residence voters put him in.

According to US media, Biden has spent approximately 40% of his time as president on personal overnight stays away from the White House.

Earlier in the weekend, Biden claimed he still has plans to visit East Palestine, Ohio, but has not been able to because of his busy schedule. “There’s a lot going on here and I just haven’t been able to break,” the president said of his May promise to visit the city after it suffered a chemical train derailment and subsequent planned explosion that released hazardous chemicals into the air, ground and water.

While the president jokes about having only one home – other than the taxpayer-funded White House – homelessness is up in most major urban areas across the United States, including the Washington, DC, area, where homelessness has increased 18% in 2023.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Georgia Attorney General Hits 61 'Cop City' Protesters With Racketeering Charges

The proposed facility, dubbed "Cop City" by opponents, has been the cause of tensions for more than two years in Atlanta. In January, a protester was shot at least 57 times by police who claim they were fired on even though an autopsy revealed that the activist, Manuel Esteban Paez "Tortuguita" Teran, did not have gunpowder residue on his hands.

Sixty-one individuals who authorities say are involved in the Stop Cop City in Georgia movement were indicted on racketeering charges on Tuesday night, in a case civil liberty activists say has chilling implications for the First Amendment.

State prosecutors released the indictment late Tuesday, and in addition to racketeering charges also brings domestic terrorism and arson charges against organizers and participants in the Stop Cop City movement, which aims to prevent the construction of an 85-acre, $90 million training facility that includes a mock city.

Officially known as the Atlanta Public Safety Center, proponents of the facility say it will replace outdated and inadequate training facilities currently used by the Atlanta Police and other area law enforcement agencies. They argue that a large mock city is necessary to train recruits in scenarios they might come across during patrols; the facility plans to include a mock convenience store and nightclub.

But activists argue the training facility is unnecessary and expensive, will further militarize the police and remove the largest wooded area in Atlanta. Some activists have also worried that the facility will be used to train officers in quelling protests.

The charges were brought by State District Attorney General Chris Carr, who has hinted at a potential gubernatorial run in 2026, when current Republican Governor Brian Kemp’s term ends.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

The indictment begins with a nearly five-page explainer on the “Anarchy Background of Defend the Atlanta Forest” that observers note reads more like a critical essay on the philosophy of anarchy than a criminal indictment. It includes an explainer of terms such as “mutual aid,” “collectivism” and “social solidarity.”

“These anarchist ideals and actions undergird the occupation of the forested area that will be the site of the Atlanta Public Training Center,” the section concludes.

Section two of the indictment lists 225 “overt act[s] in furtherance of the conspiracy” in which it says the racketeering occurred. At least 41 of the accounts relate to blog postings. Many others include providing food, money, or supplies to the protesters, most of the supplies listed are plainly legal, like tents and tarps. Some include receiving aid from the organization.

Bizarrely, one count includes an alleged conspirator signing his name as “ACAB.” It does not clarify when or where the individual signed his name as ACAB or how that act furthered the alleged conspiracy.

Part of the Indictment in the State of Georgia case against Stop Cop City protesters that includes RICO charges.

© Fulton County

ACAB is an acronym for “All Cops Are Bast**ds.”

Many of the indicted individuals were already facing charges related to the Stop Cop City movement, including more than three dozen who already face domestic terrorism charges. Five more individuals were charged with domestic terrorism in Tuesday’s indictment, along with first-degree arson charges.

Three of the leaders of the movement were also charged with money laundering, largely stemming from allegedly using funds from the Network for Strong Communities, a non-profit organization, to fund the protests. Authorities argue that donors were unaware their contributions would go towards funding allegedly illegal activities.

Interestingly, the indictment lists May 25, 2020, as the date the conspiracy started, long before the facility was proposed by the city. It is also the date George Floyd was murdered by police. Activists say this is an attempt to link the Stop Cop City movement and the larger movements against racial injustice and police violence, in an attempt to link and vilify both Stop Cop City and those movements.

Outside of the date, the text of the indictment also adds more credence to those claims. It spends a significant amount of space contending the Stop Cop Movement capitalized on the anger over the Floyd case and the police killing of Rayshard Brooks to recruit new members.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) condemned the “unprecedented” indictment.

“We are extremely concerned by this breathtakingly broad and unprecedented use of state terrorism, anti-racketeering, and money laundering laws against protesters,” Aamra Ahmad, senior staff attorney for the ACLU’s National Security Project. “Georgia law enforcement officials are disproportionately wielding these overbroad laws to stigmatize and target those who disagree with the government.”

Meanwhile, Governor Kemp praised the indictment, saying his “top priority is and always will be keeping Georgians safe, especially against out-of-state radicals that threaten the safety of our citizens and law enforcement.”

While the city council voted to approve the project, despite a record number of residents expressing their opposition to it, activists remain hopeful they will stop the project. Participants

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

have been working on gathering signatures to get the issue on the ballot as a voter referendum. The group claims to have already collected 104,000 signatures, far above the 60,000 required, but they plan to gather more before submitting it as the city announced they will use signature matching.

Signature matching compares signatures to those on voter records, but it is controversial because minor discrepancies can be used to throw out otherwise valid signatures.

In 2018, the ACLU successfully sued the state of Georgia for rejecting nearly 600 absentee ballots for alleged mismatches.

“Chris Carr may try to use his prosecutors and power to build his gubernatorial campaign and silence free speech,” the Cop City Vote coalition said in a statement. “But his threats will not silence our commitment to standing up for our future, our community, and our city.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Abuse Accuser Tara Reade Reveals She Received Temporary Asylum in Russia

Reade served as a Senate staffer in then-Senator Joe Biden's office from December 1992 to 1993, during which time she says he assaulted her sexually in the basement of a Washington, DC, Senate office building. Reade is one of eight accusers that came forward during the 2020 campaign cycle.

Tara Reade, a former Senate aide who accused US President Joe Biden of raping her in 1993 and who fled to Russia earlier this year because she said she “didn’t feel safe” in the United States, announced during an extensive and lengthy talk on X’s (formerly Twitter) Spaces platform that she received temporary asylum in Russia.

Reade underscored during the appearance that she didn’t feel safe in the United States, explaining her decision to accept a plane ticket to Russia may have resulted in her breaking sanctions.

National Security Council official John Kirby denied that Reade’s life was in danger in May; however, Reade made clear during the Wednesday call that she didn’t believe it, saying that danger had a habit of being just around the corner anytime Kirby shot down such claims.

Reade noted that the amnesty office only asked her one question: Has she been to the US embassy in Moscow? She replied that she had not.

Reade was one of eight women to accuse then-candidate Joe Biden of sexual misconduct. Her story was backed up by her family and former neighbor, and gained more credence when a "Larry King Live" episode included Reade’s mother complaining about the assault around the time Reade said the attack took place.

Already an occasional columnist for RT, Reade also announced that her contract with the outlet has been expanded, and that she is now a correspondent for the Russian outlet.

During the Q&A portion of her talk, Reade praised Russia, pointing to its thriving middle class, expansive education system and cleanliness as things that contrasted with her experience in the United States.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

When asked about her feelings on US politics, Reade said she felt the presence of evil when she was attacked by Biden and called him a monster, adding "he is the world's monster now." Reade said the "uniparty" is leading the world towards thermonuclear war and noted that while she did not vote in the last election, at least former President Donald Trump didn't get the United States involved in a World War.

But as traumatizing as Biden's attack on her was, Reade said the way she was dragged by the US media after coming forward proved nearly as traumatizing.

"I did nothing wrong. I was doing my job. [...] then when I came forward in 2019 there were seven other women, and one of them was a young lawmaker and they destroyed her. You never hear from her anymore," Reade said, referring to former Nevada State Representative Lucy Flores who was among Biden's accusers.

Flores accused Biden of sniffing her hair and kissing the back of her head during a campaign event he attended for her ill-fated campaign for Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico. Flores described the incident as "awkward and disturbing and weird."

Reade also said she has no interest in returning to the United States even if she were welcomed with open arms, noting that she is still too angry at the US government to consider it for the foreseeable future.

"They didn't break me. ... I want to make sure they don't break anyone else," adding that if anyone needs help leaving the United States, her DMs are open.

Moscow nor the United States have commented on Reade receiving asylum.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Offers New Details on AI-Powered Programs Intended to Counter China

The first pilotless vehicles were developed by the United Kingdom and the United States during World War I but they were not used during the conflict. Reconnaissance drones were first used on a mass scale in Vietnam. However, deadly drone use exploded during the United States' war on terror, first being used in Afghanistan in 2001.

The Pentagon is considering a vast network of artificial intelligence-powered (AI) autonomous systems and drones in what Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks says is designed to counter alleged threats posed by China.

Announced last month, Hicks provided some more details on the program while taking questions during a speech at the Defense News Conference held in Arlington, Virginia, on Wednesday.

Hicks detailed during an interview that the plan is to create thousands of drones and systems that are "small, smart [and] cheap."

The project, dubbed Replicator, will take place in all domains, including ground, air, sea and space.

"Imagine constellations of ADA2 systems on orbit, flung into space scores at a time, numbering so many that it becomes impossible to eliminate or degrade them all," Hicks said of the program's potential in space.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

In the realm of air, Hicks proposed a system of “distributed pods” that could be powered by the sun or other “virtually limitless resources” and “packed with sensors” to give the military “information in near-real-time.”

Other projects being considered in the program include ground-based systems that can scout ahead for troops and provide logistics support, autonomous anti-missile systems, and systems that could autonomously guard Department of Defense (DoD) assets.

The program, Hicks said, is not being created because the DoD desires war, but rather to deter any potential attacks against Taiwan by China. The official further contended it would give the military an edge over China if conflict does come.

China currently has more ships than the US Navy, an advantage of “mass” that Hicks described as “more ships, more missiles, more forces.” But rather than try to counter China “pound for pound,” she says the US must innovate to keep up.

As evidence, Hicks pointed to the conflict in Ukraine, where drones have been indispensable for both sides.

China does hold an advantage in numbers over the US but it is not immediately clear why that is as the United States' military budget dwarfs that of China’s.

For 2023, the US military budget stands at $778 billion compared to $224 billion in spending by China, according to official numbers. In 2024, the US Navy alone will have a $255.8 billion budget, exceeding China’s entire military budget.

On that note, Hicks contends the Replicator program won’t require any new funds, saying it will take from already established funding. Earlier this year, the Pentagon authorized $1.8 billion in funding for artificial intelligence research in 2024.

The Replicator program, Hicks says, will be able “to field autonomous systems at a scale of multiple thousands, in multiple domains, within the next 18-24 months" and will establish “all-domain, attritable autonomy” to overcome China’s anti-access and area denial programs, which will give US forces a significant advantage in any potential war.

Many peace advocates and AI researchers have warned about handing weapons over to AI systems. In May, a United States Air Force spokesperson said an AI-powered drone “killed” its operator in a simulation, but later said he misspoke and no such simulation occurred.Updated quotes in articles covering the speech noted the spokesperson was describing a thought experiment.

Hicks said the DoD’s track record of a “responsible and ethical approach to AI” and later added that the system would adhere to the DoD’s policy that “there is always a human responsible for the use of force.”

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Nearly Half of Americans Say Any Republican Nominee Better Than Biden - Poll

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Nearly half, 46%, of Americans believe any Republican presidential nominee would make a better president than the incumbent Joe Biden, according to a CNN poll released Thursday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Similarly, 44% believe that any Democratic presidential nominee would be a better choice than Republican contender and former President Donald Trump. A lower 32% said Biden specifically would be a better choice than any of the Republican nominees. Relatedly, 67% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters wished there was a better Democratic alternative to Biden than Marianne Williamson and Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

There was no clear top Republican contender in most hypothetical matches with Biden; only Nikki Haley led him by seven percentage points. All other Republican nominees did not have more than a two-point margin of difference with Biden.

The nationwide poll was conducted by SSRS from August 25-31.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Announces New Cyber-Related Sanctions Targeting 11 People in Russia - Treasury

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - The US Treasury said on Thursday it is imposing sanctions on 11 Russians in a cyber-related action.

The designated individuals are Mikhail Chernov, Maksim Galochkin, Maksim Khaliullin, Artem Kurov, Sergey Loguntsov, Alexander Mozhaev, Dmitry Putilin, Maksim Rudenskiy, Mikhail Tsarev, Vadym Valiakhmetov, and Andrey Zhuykov.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Majority of Americans Believe Biden Involved in Son's Business Dealings – Poll

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - The majority, 61%, of Americans believe that US President Joe Biden had some degree of involvement in his son Hunter's business dealings while he was vice president, according to a CNN poll released Thursday.

The poll also found that 42% of Americans believe Biden acted illegally, while 18% believe he acted unethically but not illegally. Biden has denied any involvement in his son's business affairs.

The nationwide poll was conducted by SSRS from August 25-31, shortly before Special Counsel David Weiss announced that he plans to indict Hunter on gun charges by the end of September, after an earlier plea agreement fell apart.

Just over half, 55%, of respondents said that Biden acted inappropriately in regards to the investigation into his son.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Canadian Gov't to Appoint Quebec Judge to Lead Foreign Interference Inquiry - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has reached a deal with opposition parties to appoint Quebec Court of Appeal Justice Marie-Josee Hogue to lead a public inquiry into alleged foreign interference in the nation's elections, The Globe and Mail reported on Thursday.

Hogue will be submitting an initial report on alleged foreign interference by China and Russia, among other state and non-state actors by February 29, 2024, the report said, citing two sources familiar with the matter.

She would also assess the actors' alleged influence on the 2019 and 2021 federal elections.

The report noted that Canadian Minister of Public Safety Dominic LeBlanc is expected to make an announcement on the issue later today.

In late March, Trudeau appointed former governor general David Johnston as special rapporteur to investigate reports of foreign meddling in Canada's elections. The appointment raised concerns among opposition parties and civil society, given Johnston's links to the Trudeau family and membership in the Pierre Trudeau Foundation.

After the House of Commons passed a non-binding motion calling on the rapporteur to step down, Johnston — who had initially refused to do so — resigned.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden's Anti-Mining Policies Leave US Critical Mineral Supply Chains at Risk - Congressman

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - US supply chains for minerals critical to national security remain vulnerable, and reliant on China and other foreign sources, due to the Biden administration's lack of support for domestic mining initiatives, Congressman Paul Gosar told Sputnik.

The United States is over 50% import reliant on 43 of 50 minerals deemed critical to security, eleven of which China is the primary import source, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). Chinese export controls on gallium and germanium, metals the US needs to make semiconductors and renewable energy technologies, went into effect on August 1. The measures, showcasing China's critical mineral dominance, were imposed in retaliation to Biden administration restrictions on Chinese technology.

"Today, the United States relies on China to meet most of our demand for minerals. That's because China controls nearly two-thirds of the world's critical mineral supply," Gosar said. "Despite growing demand for minerals and America's dangerous reliance on China for minerals, the anti-mining actions by the Biden administration hurt America's economy, threaten our national security, and push mineral production abroad."

Gosar said President Joe Biden is "hellbent" on stopping mining in the United States. Several of the Biden administration's policies hinder domestic critical mineral production, limiting progress towards independence and risking supply chain disruptions, he added.

The United States needs to focus on bolstering domestic production of critical minerals given

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

the global challenges US supply chains face, including scarcity, sourcing and the threat posed by international monopolies, Gosar said.

Gosar explained that Projects like Twin Metals in Minnesota and Resolution Copper in Arizona can provide desperately needed minerals for the United States, including copper, nickel, cobalt and tellurium, which are essential for electric vehicles, solar panels and many defense-related technologies.

The Biden administration canceled federal mineral leases for Twin Metals in Minnesota, which is a subsidiary of Chilean mining company Antofagasta. The Biden administration also halted the finalization of the environmental impact statement for Arizona's Resolution Copper project, which is stuck in court challenges launched by tribal groups.

"For too long, American mining has been lapped by foreign countries," Gosar said. "If these critical minerals are not produced domestically, they will be mined in other nations, some openly hostile to the United States and others that have notoriously poor human rights and environmental standards."

Several solutions exist to end US dependence on foreign supply of critical minerals including improving the mine permitting process, he added.

China recognizes the importance of critical minerals and is acting to protect its economy and military while the United States, under Biden, is not doing enough, Gosar said.

Gosar said China’s restrictions on US access to germanium and gallium only worsen the national security threat created by Biden’s push to eliminate domestic mineral production.

The Biden administration said it has attempted to secure US supply chains of key green metals, including by investing nearly $3 billion to boost production of materials required to meet the growing demand for electric vehicles and energy storage.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

PREVIEW - Biden Departs to India for G20 Talks on Ukraine, Aid for Developing Countries

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is departing to New Delhi to participate in discussions with his G20 counterparts that are expected to focus on the conflict in Ukraine, expanding economic opportunities for developing countries, including providing debt relief to low-and-middle income states.

Biden will travel to India from September 7-10 to attend a G20 summit in New Delhi. Leaders are also expected to address issues related to climate change, health and technology, according to US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping's will skip the G20 summit in New Delhi. Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, while the Chinese delegation will be led by Chinese Premier Li Qiang.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS

Biden's focus at the summit will be on providing economic opportunities to developing nations around the world, including debt relief, according to the White House.

"His focus is going to be on delivering economic opportunity for developing countries, making

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

progress on key priorities for the American people, from climate to technology, and showing our commitment to the G20 itself as a viable, if not vital, forum to tackle these sorts of issues," White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby told reporters this week.

Another priority for the United States at the summit is to help reshape and scale up multilateral development banks like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Kirby said.

During the summit, Biden will also call on G20 members to provide meaningful debt relief so that low and middle income countries can stabilize after years of stress on their economies.

BIDEN BILATERAL WITH MODI

Biden will have a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday prior to the two-day G20 summit to mostly discuss matters on economic cooperation and multilateral investment opportunities among G20 countries, according to Kirby.

"I think just issues in general about security, economic, and diplomatic challenges throughout the Indo-Pacific will certainly be something that they discuss," Kirby said.

Biden will also convey to Modi his desire to see multilateral development bank reform and reshaping continue, the US official added.

In addition, the two leaders will also touch on matters related to Ukraine, climate change, and the clean energy transition.

UKRAINE

The summit in New Delhi will also have a focus on how G20 nations deal with the conflict in Ukraine, Kirby said.

Biden during the summit will highlight US support for Ukraine and the impact the crisis has on the international community.

"Biden will call for a just and durable peace – one founded in respect for international law, the principles of the UN Charter, and the precepts of territorial integrity and national sovereignty. And we'll also continue to emphasize that the United States will support Ukraine for as long as it takes to redeem these principles," Kirby said.

There's also a possibility for talks on efforts to revive the Black Sea grain deal, according to a senior US official.

The United States hopes to see a joint communique emerge out of the G20 summit in India, Kirby said, after G20 ministerial meetings in India recently failed to agree on joint declarations due to objections from Russia and China on issues related to Ukraine.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said on Wednesday that G20 Sherpas are continuing to work on a joint declaration that is to be agreed on.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Mexico's Supreme Court Decriminalizes Abortion Nationwide - Statement

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Mexico's Supreme Court said it has ruled to decriminalize abortion federally, deeming the existing ban unconstitutional.

"The First Chamber of La Corte ruled that the legal system that penalizes abortion in the Federal Criminal Code is unconstitutional since it violates the human rights of women and

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

people with the capacity to gestate," the Supreme Court of Mexico said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday.

The Supreme Court of Mexico stated that the criminalization of abortion in 2021, particularly evident in Coahuila, which imposed penalties of up to three years in prison and fines on women seeking abortions, is unconstitutional.

The decision comes after 12 states in Mexico had already decriminalized abortion, with the most recent ruling occurring in the central state of Aguascalientes on August 30.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Tucker Carlson Interviews Man Who Claims He Had Sexual Relations With Obama

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Media personality Tucker Carlson conducted an interview with Larry Sinclair, a man who claims to have had sexual relations and done drugs with former US President Barack Obama in 1999.

"The night became somewhat active sexually and drug wise in the limo," Sinclair said during the interview, released Wednesday.

The interview drew newfound attention to Sinclair's claims, which he had previously presented to the press during Obama's rise to the presidency.

Sinclair claims to have been introduced to Obama through a limousine driver in Chicago, who he asked for a connection to help "party" in the city while visiting. It did not appear to have been Obama's first same-sex encounter or doing drugs, Sinclair said.

Obama also showed up at Sinclair's hotel the next day to "rehash" the experience, Sinclair added.

In 2008, Sinclair first came forward with his claims and underwent a polygraph examination. The test found that Sinclair provided deceptive answers when asked about the alleged encounter with Obama, although the scientific validity of polygraphs is debated.

Sinclair also has a prior criminal history, about which he has been open since first coming forward with his claims. Sinclair published a book in 2009 detailing his claims.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Coalition of Environmental Groups Sue US State of Utah Over Great Salt Lake's Decline

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - A coalition of environmental organizations and conservationists have filed a lawsuit against the state of Utah for improper water use and a failure to protect the Great Salt Lake.

"The Great Salt Lake is facing a mortal threat. The Lake's viability depends primarily on inflows of water from upstream runoff, which refill its basin and offset loss of the Lake's water that occurs through usage and evaporation. Water diversions, however, have driven the Great Salt

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Lake into structural decline and threaten its ecological collapse," according to the lawsuit on Wednesday.

A group of nearly 30 scientists and conservationists jointly issued a warning on January 4, asserting that North America's largest terminal lake was confronting an unparalleled threat.

The primary goal of the lawsuit is to ensure the protection of the Great Salt Lake, underlining the responsibility of the state of Utah to safeguard the lake's bed, banks, and waters for the benefit of the public.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Federal Judge Orders Texas to Remove Floating Barriers - Court Documents

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - A federal judge in Texas ordered the state to remove the floating barriers placed along the US-Mexico border earlier this summer to discourage illegal immigration, court documents showed.

US District Court Judge David Ezra sided with the Biden administration and ordered a preliminary injunction instructing the state of Texas to remove the barriers, which are floating in the Rio Grande, by September 15, documents filed in Austin, Texas, showed on Wednesday.

However, Texas officials will be permitted to move the barriers to the edge of the US side of the river instead of removing them entirely from the water.

The judge found that the buoys violated laws governing the free navigation of federally-controlled waterways, the documents showed. In order for the barriers to be legal, Texas Governor Gregg Abbott, who ordered the placement of the barriers, would have needed to obtain permission from the US Army Corps of Engineers first.

On July 24, the US Justice Department filed a lawsuit against Texas authorities for building a barrier in the river on the border with Mexico. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador condemned the floating barriers installed by state authorities to prevent the flow of illegal migrants.

The United States has faced a record number of illegal immigrants arriving at the southern border during the Biden presidency, with more than 3 million people entering the country.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Abuse Accuser Tara Reade Receives Temporary Asylum in Russia

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Former US Senate aide Tara Reade, who accuses then-Senator Joe Biden of sexually assaulting her in 1993, received temporary asylum in Russia after expressing an interest in receiving Russian citizenship, according to Reade's social media.

Reade shared a photo on Wednesday of a certificate of temporary asylum for the Russian Federation and appeared in a so-called Space on social media platform X (formerly known as

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Twitter) to take questions on the matter.
In May, Reade said she planned to apply for Russian citizenship in hopes of living safely in the country.
Reade worked as a staff assistant in Biden's Senate office in the 1990s. Reade accused Biden in 2019 of sexually assaulting her in 1993. Biden has denied the allegations.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Raytheon, Lockheed Join Polska Grupa to Make Javelin Missiles in Poland - Statement

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - Raytheon and Lockheed Martin have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-produce Javelin anti-tank weapons in Poland, Lockheed Martin announced in a press release.
"Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa (PGZ) and the Javelin Joint Venture (JJV), a partnership between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, have entered into a MOU regarding production of the Javelin anti-tank weapon system in Poland," the release said on Wednesday.
The agreement is intended to support increasing current and future inventory demand for Javelins due to regional security concerns in Europe, the release said. The US Army has sent large shipments of Javelins to Ukraine for use in its ongoing conflict with Russia.
"Poland views the Javelin Joint Venture as a key strategic partner, and this agreement further strengthens our relationship with Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. The strategic joint discussions and decisions leading to this agreement demonstrate the potential for fruitful long-term cooperation," PGZ Management Board President Sebastian Chwalek said in the release.
PGZ and the JJV have signed the MOU to explore the establishment of a final assembly facility and component production capabilities in Poland. It is planned to stabilize future production of the Javelin system for US forces while providing new opportunities for Polish industry, the release said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 7 (Sputnik) -

BLINKEN VISIT TO UKRAINE
* US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said on Wednesday that he discussed with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy longer term security arrangements and the discussions will continue in the months ahead.
* Blinken announced additional assistance to Ukraine totaling more than $1 billion, which includes $665 million in security assistance.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

* Washington informed Moscow about the visit of Blinken to Kiev in advance, a Russian diplomatic source told Sputnik.
* The United States is planning to keep supporting Kiev in a state of war to the last Ukrainian regardless of the cost, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

SAUDI ARABIA-RUSSIA OIL AGREEMENT
* Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman noted that reduction in the oil production will stabilize the global market during a phone conversation on Wednesday, the Kremlin said on Wednesday.
* The United States will look carefully at the effects of the voluntary oil production cuts recently announced by Russia and Saudi Arabia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE
* Russia and Turkey have reached an agreement on the supply of one million tonnes of grain and the discussion on the technical details will begin in near future, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said on Wednesday.
* The European Union will raise the issue of the Black Sea grain initiative at the G20 summit, a senior EU official said.

WESTERN MILITARY SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE
* The Pentagon announced on Wednesday a new $175 million military assistance package for Ukraine that includes depleted uranium munitions for Abrams tanks.
* The United Nations has been consistently concerned by the use of depleted uranium munitions anywhere in the world, spokesperson Farhan Haq told Sputnik.
* The Russian Mission to the United Nations has requested a meeting on September 12 to discuss weapons deliveries to Ukraine by the collective West, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the world body Dmitry Polyanskiy said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE
* A Ukrainian shelling injured six people in the city of Volnovakha in the Donetsk People's Republic on Wednesday, the civil defense and emergency service of the Volnovakha district administration said.
* Ukraine has lost up to 285 soldiers in the Donetsk direction over the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.

MOLDOVA'S DEBT FOR RUSSIAN GAS
* Russian energy giant Gazprom said on Wednesday that it does not agree with the unilateral audit of the debt of Moldova's national gas company Moldovagaz to the company.
* Russia calls on Chisinau responsibly approach fulfilling its financial obligations, as well as to refrain from politicizing practical issues of bilateral cooperation, including in the energy sector, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

G20 SUMMIT
* The United States hopes to see a joint communique emerge from the upcoming Group of

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Twenty (G20) summit in India, National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said on Wednesday.
* US President Joe Biden is disappointed that his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, will not be attending the upcoming G20 summit in India, Kirby said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

PREVIEW - US Court to Sentence Russian National Klyushin on Thursday on Fraud, Conspiracy Charges

BOSTON, September 7 (Sputnik) - A US federal court in Boston will hold a sentencing hearing on Thursday for Russian national Vladislav Klyushin after his conviction on hack-and-trade charges.
In February, the Russian national was convicted by a federal jury on charges of conspiracy to obtain unauthorized access to computers, wire fraud and securities fraud. He pleaded not guilty.
The sentencing for Klyushin was previously rescheduled several times.
US prosecutors are asking for a 14-year prison sentence for Klyushin, according to a sentencing memorandum released in August. They also want him to pay a $5 million fine and restitution totaling $8.3 million.
The court should separately allow for forfeiture totaling $36,600,000 and permit the US government to forfeit as substitute assets certain deposits the government has restrained in the Republic of Cyprus, the memorandum said.
Klyushin was arrested in Switzerland in March 2021 and extradited to the United States later that year.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

New F-35s Delayed Again to April 2024 Over Software Problems to Fire Weapons - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Lockheed Martin will once again delay its delivery of the latest upgraded versions of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to the US armed forces because of continued problems in the software needed to fire its weapons, the company said in a statement on Wednesday.
"We have updated our F-35 TR-3 schedule projections with a first TR-3 aircraft delivery between April and June 2024. As a result, we now expect to deliver 97 aircraft in 2023, all in the TR-2 configuration," Lockheed said.
Delivery of the long-delayed and problem-plagued TR-3 version of the aircraft was previously due to start this December, but the software still has to be validated in testing, the company said.
"We are producing F-35s at a rate of 156 per year and expect to continue at that pace while

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

simultaneously working to finalize TR-3 software development and testing. Additionally, we remain focused on receiving the necessary hardware from our suppliers to deliver this critical combat capability for the F-35," Lockheed said.

Lockheed also confirmed the latest delay in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), saying it did not expect the changed production timeline to impact the company's 2023 financial outlook.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Says Canceling Oil, Gas Drilling Leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden said on Wednesday that his administration is canceling oil and gas drilling leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the US state of Alaska in an effort to protect the environment.

"Canceling all remaining oil and gas leases issued under the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge and protecting more than 13 million acres in the Western Arctic will help preserve our Arctic lands and wildlife, while honoring the culture, history, and enduring wisdom of Alaska Natives who have lived on these lands since time immemorial," Biden said in a statement.

The United States has a responsibility to protect the Arctic region from the impacts of climate change, the statement said.

The administration of former President Donald Trump held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain, issuing ten-year leases on nine tracts that cover 430,000 acres.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland determined that the leases ought to be canceled based on flaws in the lease sale, including legal deficiencies and insufficient environmental analysis, the Interior Department said in a statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Mission to All-Metal Asteroid Psyche in October 'In Great Shape to Launch' - JPL Chief

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Psyche, NASA's first ever exploration mission to an all-metal asteroid, which orbits in the asteroid belt far beyond the orbit of Mars is in "great shape" to launch on schedule next month, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Director Laurie Leshin said on Wednesday.

"We are in great shape. It will be the first mission to an all-metal asteroid," Leshin said. "It will be quite a show."

Psyche is scheduled to launch as planned at 10:38 a.m. ET on October 5 on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy booster rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the US space agency confirmed.

"Managed by JPL, the mission will embark on a journey of about 2.2 billion miles (3.6 billion

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

kilometers) to the asteroid Psyche, which may be the partial core of a planetesimal (one of the building blocks of a rocky planet) or could be primordial material that never melted," a NASA said.

The asteroid is the largest all-metallic object in the Solar System and investigating it is expected to reveal new insights into how rocky planetary cores are formed, NASA said.

The spacecraft is only expected to reach its target in 2029 and it will then spend 26 months orbiting Psyche, gathering images and other data, NASA added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Conservatives Back Russia, Fear Advent of Totalitarian Global Gov't - Ex-State Senator

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Many American conservatives tend to side with Russia to some extent in the Ukraine conflict, seeing the country as a power resisting a totalitarian global agenda, former Virginia State Senator Richard Black told Sputnik.

"So many conservative Americans support Russia in the current conflict," Black said. "Conservatives, who once despised the Soviet Union, now find Russia's Christian moral values more in keeping with theirs than with decadent Western LGBT theology. Moreover, conservatives fear the emergence of a totalitarian global government - the one world order."

On the contrary, leftists — who once backed the USSR — now support Ukraine, the former lawmaker noted.

"Conservative Republicans at least favor ending the war with Russia retaining the Russian-speaking Donbass and Crimea," he added.

Conservatives are aware that Russia is a predominantly Christian nation that protects churches from desecration, and has banned homosexual propaganda and transgender sexual mutilation of children, Black said.

Black stressed that it is not that conservatives are against Ukraine — they are against the war entirely.

"They understand that Russia did not want war, but that it was forced on them when the CIA and British MI-6 helped overthrow the legitimate Ukrainian government in 2014," he stated.

Incorporating Ukraine into NATO is not just a nuclear threat to Russia, but an "existential threat" to the West as well, the former lawmaker said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Congress Still Must Pass Continuing Resolution to Fund US Government - Senator

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Congressional leaders still need to pass a continuing resolution measure next to guarantee funding of the federal government even after Senate Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee reached full agreement

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

on 12 major spending bills on Tuesday, committee chair Senator Patty Murray told a Capitol Hill press conference on Wednesday.

"We will start [work] next week [on] a continuing Resolution," Murray said. "[The measure] will be necessary to complete this whole process. ... There is a genuine bipartisan path to fund the government."

Murray said the Senate Appropriations Committee passed on Tuesday all 12 major spending authorization bills with overwhelming bipartisan support.

"Our constituents are counting on Congress to fulfill its most basic obligation and fund the government - and we've proven right here in the Senate that we can work in a timely, bipartisan way to get things done," Murray said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer added that he and Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy had agreed in discussions that the continuing resolution was necessary even after ensuring full agreement between Senate Republicans and Democrats to ensure there was no disruption in the funding of the federal government.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Harris Says Trump Should Be Held Accountable If He Had Role in Jan. 6 Riot

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Former President Donald Trump should be held accountable if he played a role in the January 6 attack on the Capitol, US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Wednesday in a divergence from the White House's official position on the matter.

"Let the evidence, the facts, take it where it may. I spent the majority of my career as a prosecutor. I believe that people should be held accountable under the law. And when they break the law, there should be accountability. And I support it when it happens," Harris told the Associated Press in an interview on the sidelines of the US-ASEAN summit in Jakarta, Indonesia

Harris's statements come after a period of relative silence from the White House regarding Trump's legal situation. Trump has recently faced two indictments on criminal charges related to the 2020 election from two separate grand juries.

When asked by the Associated Press about whether accountability for January 6 should extend to Trump, Harris said, "Well, everyone has their right to their day in court, but absolutely, people should be held accountable, but under our system of law, right? Let the evidence and facts take it where it may."

The White House has long declined to comment on Trump's indictments, redirecting any inquiries to the Department of Justice.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

US Special Counsel Intends to Indict Hunter Biden by September 29 - Court Filing

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The Special Counsel involved in the Hunter Biden investigation plans to indict the President Joe Biden's son by September 29, court documents showed on Wednesday.

"Thus, the Speedy Trial Act requires that the government obtain the return of an indictment by a grand jury by Friday, September 29, 2023, at the earliest," Special Counsel David Weiss said in the documents.

Hunter Biden faces tax evasion and firearms charges, which were set to be resolved by a plea deal and pre-trial diversion agreement. However, the arrangement collapsed and the parties have since reached an impasse in attempting to reach a new deal.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

X Owner Elon Musk Announces Intent to Sue ADL for Defamation

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - X owner Elon Musk on Wednesday accused the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of causing a significant decline in the social media platform's advertisement sales and announced his intent to sue it for defamation.

"Our US revenue is still 60% down from that campaign, but slowly improving," Musk said via X, formerly known as Twitter.

Musk said the advertising revenue in the United States is down by 60% and attributed the decrease to the pressure exerted by the ADL on advertisers.

ADL Director Jonathan Greenblatt and X CEO Linda Yaccarino recently met to discus former's concerns about the alleged prevalence of so-called "hate speech" on the social media platform.

Subsequently, the hashtag #BanTheADL began trending to remove the organization's account, given claims by numerous users that the ADL has been putting pressure on X to curtail free speech while calling opposing views "anti-Semitic."

"To clear our platform’s name on the matter of anti-Semitism, it looks like we have no choice but to file a defamation lawsuit against the Anti-Defamation League," Musk said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken Announces Over $1Bln in New Ukraine Funding, Including $665Mln in Security Aid

(Updates with details in paras 4-5)

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday announced additional assistance to Ukraine totaling more than $1 billion, including $665 million in new security assistance.

"Today, we're announcing new assistance totaling more than $1 billion in this common effort.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

That includes $665.5 million in new military and civilian security assistance," Blinken said during a press conference in Kiev.

The assistance also includes an additional $175 million in presidential drawdown authority from US defense stocks that will provide significant support for Ukraine's air defenses and another $100 million in foreign military financing to support Kiev's longer term military needs, Blinken added.

The State Department in a separate press release said the new assistance also includes $90.5 million in humanitarian de-mining assistance, $300 million to support law enforcement efforts, and $206 million in humanitarian assistance to provide food, water and shelter to displaced people in Ukraine.

The assistance also includes $203 million to support transparency and accountability in Ukraine's institutions in order to bolster key reform efforts related to anti-corruption and the justice sector.

The US will also give Ukraine $5.4 million in seized Russian assets to use to support veteran reintegration and rehabilitation, the release said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Republican Calls to Impeach Biden Dismissed as 'Absurd' - US Senate Majority Leader

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Republican calls to impeach President Joe Biden are "absurd" and will be ignored, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told a press conference on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

"The Republican calls for impeachment are absurd and are going to move forward here in the Senate with funding the government," Schumer said.

On Tuesday, US Congressman Matt Gaetz threatened to seek to force House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy out of office if he failed to move forward with moves to impeach Biden.

The prospect of a Republican impeachment investigation based in the House into Biden has prompted the White House to assemble a “war room” comprising a pack of two dozen lawyers, legislative assistants and communications staffers, according to reports.

The White House strategy is to claim there is no evidence to support such an investigation and to claim it is entirely motivated by election considerations, the reports said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Does Not See Russia-N. Korea Growing Relations as New Alliance - White House

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States is closely monitoring the growing ties between Russia and North Korea but is not ready to label the relationship an alliance, White

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Wednesday.
"We are going to watch this closely, but, no, we are not labeling this some sort of a new axis or a new alliance," Kirby told reporters.
The US is considering such cooperation as a reason of concern for Ukraine, Kirby added, while repeating Washington's statements that Tehran is providing drones to Moscow to attack civilian targets.
He pointed out that the US "has not seen" an arms deal between Russia and North Korea signed.
Kirby warned that North Korean and Russian military capabilities have "some interoperability," and Pyongyang's ability to acquire Russian weapons would be a reason of concern.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

McConnell Says Will Finish Terms as US Senator, Republican Leader Amid Health Concerns

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Wednesday that he will finish out his term in the upper chamber and as the Republican Party's leader there, despite recent concerns about his health.
"I'm going to finish my term as leader and I'm going to finish my Senate term," McConnell said during a press conference, when asked about the possibility of retirement.
Last week, McConnell briefly froze during remarks in Kentucky, appearing unable to speak. McConnell experienced a similar freezing incident during a press conference in July.
McConnell shows no signs of having suffered a stroke, seizures of Parkinson's disease, US Congress attending physician Brian Monahan said on Tuesday. McConnell said he has nothing to add to Monahan's statement on the subject of his health.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Will Look Carefully at Effects of Russia-Saudi Oil Production Cuts - Blinken

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States will look carefully at the effects of the voluntary oil production cuts recently announced by Russia and Saudi Arabia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday.
On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed to extend the voluntary reduction of oil production by 1.3 million barrels per day, which began in July, until the end of the year
"We will look at this carefully in the days and weeks ahead to see the results that it actually produces," Blinken said during a press conference in Kiev. "You can get an immediate bump in price, but that may quickly settle down to something lower, so it's something we'll be looking at with the objective of ensuring that there is sufficient energy on world markets to meet demand

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

and at a fair price."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken Says Discussed Longer Term Security Arrangements With Zelenskyy on Kiev Visit

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday said he discussed with Volodymyr Zelenskyy longer term security arrangements and the discussions will continue in the months ahead.

"Today with President Zelenskyy, I discussed longer term sustainable security arrangements, which will provide ongoing security assistance and modern military equipment across land, air, sea and cyberspace, as well as training and intelligence sharing, the State Department is leading these discussions, which will continue in the months ahead," Blinken said during a press conference in Kiev.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken Announces Over $1Bln in New Ukraine Funding, Including $665Mln in Security Aid

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday announced additional assistance to Ukraine totaling more than $1 billion, which includes $665 million in security assistance.

"Today, we're announcing new assistance totaling more than $1 billion in this common effort. That includes $665.5 million in new military and civilian security assistance," Blinken said during a press conference in Kiev.

The assistance also includes an additional $175 million in presidential drawdown authority that will provide significant support for Ukraine's air defenses and another $100 million in foreign military financing to support Kiev's longer term military needs, Blinken added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Prosecutors in Trump's Georgia Case Say Trial Will Take 4 Months

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The trial for former President Donald Trump's election interference case in Georgia will take four months not including jury selection, Special Prosecutor Nathan Wade said on Wednesday.

Last week, Trump filed a motion in Fulton County requesting that his case be severed from those of his 18 co defendants, but it is unclear at this time if such a motion will be approved by

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

the court.
"We contend that a trial of these 19 co defendants will take 4 months. And that does not include jury selection," Wade said.
Wade added that the trial could be lengthened if all 19 co-defendants decide to testify, and that there are at least 150 witnesses that the state of Georgia intends to call up during the trial.
The former US leader is facing criminal charges in Georgia for his alleged role in efforts to overturn the 2020 election results. The legal cases also come amid Trump's re-election bid in the 2024 US presidential election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Giving Ukraine Depleted Uranium Rounds for Effectiveness, Munitions Not Harmful - Kirby

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States is providing depleted uranium rounds to Ukraine in order to make them more effective on the battlefield, National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said on Wednesday.
"We want to make sure that the Ukrainians can be as effective as possible in this counteroffensive, and it's our belief that depleted uranium rounds will help them be more effective on the battlefield," Kirby said, when asked about the depleted uranium munitions provided to Ukraine.
Kirby also contested claims that the munitions could pose health risks, arguing that the rounds are neither radioactive nor carcinogenic and many militaries around the world utilize them.
Depleted uranium rounds are denser and heavier than standard rounds, making them more effective against armored targets such as tanks, Kirby said.
Earlier on Wednesday, the Defense Department announced a new $175 million military aid package for Ukraine that includes depleted uranium munitions for Abrams tanks, as well as air defense equipment and 155mm artillery shells.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RPT - US Does Not Inform Russia About Its Officials' Trips to Ukraine - State Dept.

(Repeats to erase extra word in second para)
WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States does not inform Russia about the US officials' trips to Ukraine, National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said on Wednesday.
"We do not inform Russia about US leaders travel to Kiev to see President [Volodymyr] Zelenskyy, to visit Ukraine," Kirby told reporters in response to a question about Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's visit to Kiev.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Tests Negative Again for COVID-19 on Wednesday - White House

(Updates with more details, background in paras 3, 4)

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden has tested negative for COVID-19 after First Lady Jill Biden got infected earlier this week, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said on Wednesday.

"Biden tested negative for COVID-19 this morning," Jean-Pierre said during a press briefing.

Jean-Pierre added that the President will adhere to Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) guidelines, including masking and additional testing, during his upcoming trip to India.

On Tuesday, Jean-Pierre said that Biden tested negative for COVID-19 and was not experiencing any symptoms.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Kirby Says US Hopes G20 Summit Produces Joint Statement, But Ukraine 'Sticking Point'

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States hopes to see a joint communique emerge from the upcoming Group of Twenty (G20) summit in India, National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said on Wednesday.

"We hope so… it's difficult to get 20 clocks to chime at the same time, so we're going to work on this," Kirby said during a press briefing, when asked about the possibility of a joint statement coming out of the G20 summit. "Oftentimes, the sticking point tends to be the war in Ukraine."

India would also like to see a joint communique come from the summit, Kirby added.

Biden is set to attend the summit this weekend as part of a trip to India and Vietnam, during which he will also hold a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Does Not Inform Russia About Its Officials' Trips to Ukraine - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States does not inform Russia about the US officials' trips to Ukraine, National Security Council Strategic Communications Coordinator John Kirby said on Wednesday.

"We do not inform Russia about US leaders travel to Kiev to see President [Volodymyr] Zelenskyy, to visit Ukraine," Kirby told reporters in response to a question about Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's potential visit to Kiev.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Disappointed That Xi Not Attending G20 Summit - Kirby

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is disappointed that his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, will not be attending the upcoming G20 summit in India, National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby said on Wednesday.

"Yes, of course, he is disappointed," Kirby told reporters.

He declined to discuss Xi's travel plans.

"But the President [Biden] had been looking forward to seeing him there," Kirby said, adding that there are a lot of topics at the G20 summit that should be in the interest of Beijing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN on US Depleted Uranium for Kiev: Use of Such Rounds Anywhere in World Raises Concerns

UNITED NATIONS, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United Nations has been consistently concerned by the use of depleted uranium munitions anywhere in the world, spokesperson Farhan Haq told Sputnik after the United States approved sending the controversial rounds for tanks to Kiev.

"Our concerns about the use of depleted uranium anywhere in the world has been consistent and still stands," Haq said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Extends Reinstated, COVID-Related Exclusions From China Section 301 Tariffs - Statement

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The Office of the US Trade Representatives (USTR) said on Wednesday that it has extended reinstated and COVID-19-related exclusions from the China Section 301 tariffs investigation until December 31.

"The Office of the United States Trade Representative today announced the further extension of the 352 reinstated exclusions and 77 COVID-related exclusions in the China Section 301 investigation until December 31, 2023," the USTR said in a press release.

The exclusions were previously scheduled to expire on September 30, the release noted.

The Americans for Free Trade groups, which includes some 170 associations that represent brands, retailers, manufacturers, farmers, technology firms, energy companies and other supply

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

chain stakeholders, have urged the USTR to make a prompt decision on whether to renew China tariff exclusions in order to figure out their supply chain sourcing strategies.
The USTR's China Section 301 tariffs investigation is expected to be completed in the fall, according to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Tests Negative Again for COVID-19 on Wednesday - White House

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden has again tested negative for COVID-19 after First Lady Jill Biden got infected earlier this week, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said on Wednesday.
"Biden tested negative for COVID-19 this morning," Jean-Pierre said at a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Unveils New $175Mln Ukraine Aid Package, Includes Depleted Uranium Munitions

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The Pentagon announced on Wednesday a new $175 million military assistance package for Ukraine that includes depleted uranium munitions for Abrams tanks being supplied to Kiev.
"Today, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced additional security assistance to meet Ukraine's critical security and defense needs," the Pentagon said in a press release. "The capabilities in this package, valued at up to $175 million, include..120mm depleted uranium tank ammunition for Abrams tanks."
The package also includes equipment for Ukraine's air defense systems, and additional HIMARS munitions, TOW missiles, 155mm artillery shells, and Javelin and AT-4 anti-armor systems.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Colorado Lawsuit Filed to Remove Trump From Ballot Cites 14th Amendment - Statement

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - A lawsuit filed in the US state of Colorado by six Republican voters is attempting to remove former President Donald Trump from the 2024 election ballot for violations of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) said in a press release.
"If the very fabric of our democracy is to hold, we must ensure that the Constitution is enforced

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

and the same people who attacked our democratic system not be put in charge of it," CREW President Noah Bookbinder said in the release.

CREW alleges that Trump disqualified himself from participating in the 2024 presidential election by violating Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which bars someone from holding office if they've "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof," the release said.

Section 3 of the 14th Amendment has only successfully prevented someone from holding office once since 1869, when New Mexico residents sued to remove a county commissioner from office in 2022, the release said.

CREW argues that the New Mexico lawsuit parallels the facts in the Trump case well enough to be successful too, the release said.

"While it is unprecedented to bring this type of case against a former president, January 6th was an unprecedented attack that is exactly the kind of event the framers of the 14th Amendment wanted to build protections in case of. You don't break the glass unless there's an emergency," Bookbinder said.

Trump has denied all accusations of wrongdoing and said earlier this week that a possible attempt to block him from running for president in 2024 by invoking the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution is yet another trick given that it cannot be used with respect to the 2024 election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Tropical Storm Lee Expected to Strengthen Into Major Hurricane by Saturday - NHC

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in an advisory on Wednesday that Tropical Storm Lee is expected to intensify and become a major hurricane by the upcoming weekend, potentially posing a threat to the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean Sea.

"Lee is expected to strengthen into a major hurricane by early Saturday. While it is too early to determine the precise details of its path and impacts, residents and authorities in the northern Leeward Islands should stay vigilant and stay tuned for the latest information," the advisory said.

Lee is expected to gain maximum sustained wind speeds of 150 miles per hour, which would make it a Category 4 storm, the advisory said.

The authorities have advised residents in this area to closely monitor the tropical storm's progress and remain attentive to further forecast updates, the advisory added.

Tropical Storm Lee originated approximately 1,300 miles to the east of the Lesser Antilles within the Caribbean Sea on Tuesday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Trump Says Will Testify in Own Defense at Potential Trials in US Court

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Former President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he will testify in his own defense at trial if the criminal proceedings against him make it that far in US courts.

"Oh, yes, absolutely," Trump said during an interview with Hugh Hewitt, when asked if he would testify at a trial against him. "I look forward to testifying."

Trump faces four state and federal indictments on charges that include allegedly mishandling classified information and attempting to overturn 2020 US presidential election results. Trump has denied the charges against him, referring to the cases as a political witch hunt and election interference.

Trump currently leads the pack of Republican presidential hopefuls in primary polling despite the unresolved criminal charges.

Last month, US district judge Tanya Chutkan set a trial date of March 4, 2024 for the 2020 election case. The date is just one day before so-called Super Tuesday, on which more than a dozen states hold primaries for the 2024 US presidential election.

Trump has said he will appeal the scheduled trial date.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

House Panel Seeks More Docs on VP Biden's Staff Collusion With Hunter's Business Partner

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The chair of the US House oversight committee asked the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on Wednesday to provide unredacted documents related to Joe Biden's vice presidency after evidence emerged that his office colluded with Hunter Biden's business partner on the media response to the Burisma corruption scandal.

"Joe Biden never built an 'absolute wall' between his family's business dealings and his official government work – his office doors were wide open to Hunter Biden's associates. There is evidence of collusion in the efforts to spin media stories about Burisma's corruption while Vice President Biden was publicly pushing an anti-corruption agenda in Ukraine," Chairman James Comer said in a statement.

He noted that in one example, on December 4, 2015, Eric Schwerin, a Hunter Biden business confidant, wrote to Kate Bedingfield in the Office of the Vice President providing quotes the White House should use in response to media outreach regarding Hunter's role in Ukrainian energy firm Burisma.

Bedingfield responded to Schwerin by saying that "VP signed off on this," Comer said.

Additionally, Comer noted that Hunter Biden reportedly sought assistance from Washington, DC after a Burisma board meeting in Dubai on the same day, according to the statement.

Chairman Comer's letter to Archivist Colleen Shogan requests complete and unredacted documents related to the Biden family's foreign business dealings, communication records involving specific individuals, and executive calendars of then-Vice President Joe Biden

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

spanning from January 20, 2009, to January 20, 2017.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House Panel Requests Info on Conflicting COVID-19 Booster Recommendations - Letter

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The head of the US House oversight panel's Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Chairman Brad Wenstrup, sent a letter on Wednesday to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to request information on its 2021 decision to recommend COVID-19 booster shots for people in high-risk occupations despite warnings to the contrary.

In September 2021, former CDC director Rochelle Walensky recommended booster vaccine doses for people in high-risk occupational and institutional settings, even though the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) urged against boosters in that population just a day before her recommendation.

"[Walensky] disregarded the carefully considered guidance of the expert panel composed of 15 voting members, eight ex officio members, and 30 non-voting representatives designed to inform vaccine policy," the letter said. "ACIP had reasonable concerns about the necessity and feasibility of such a recommendation, which Director Walensky chose to ignore after mere hours of deliberation following the panel's recommendations."

The decision is extra concerning due to the broad authority given to the CDC Director despite it being an unelected position that does not require Senate approval, the letter added.

ACIP is scheduled to meet again on September 12, 2023 to evaluate the need for another COVID-19 booster, the letter said. Lawmakers are concerned that the Biden administration has a "preferred outcome" and that politics may play a role in ACIP's recommendation, the letter said.

Lawmakers are requesting the CDC provide information related to ACIP's 2021 booster recommendation and Walensky's conflicting recommendation no later than September 20, the letter said.

The ACIP meeting comes amid a rise in COVID-19 cases in some parts of the world in recent weeks. US First Lady Jill Biden tested positive for COVID-19 this week, although US President Joe Biden has tested negative so far.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia Requests UNSC Meeting on September 12 to Discuss Western Arms Deliveries to Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 6, (Sputnik) - The Russian Mission to the United Nations has requested a meeting on September 12 to discuss weapons deliveries to Ukraine by the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

collective West, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the world body Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Wednesday.

"On September 8, the Albanian presidency, together with the Americans, requested an open briefing in connection with the anniversary of the September 2022 referenda on joining Russia in the LPR, DPR, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions," Polyanskiy said via Telegram. "Since we already have a tradition of holding 'mirror' events on topics that are inconvenient for Westerners, we requested a meeting for September 12 on the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine and other factors negatively affecting the prospects for resolving the crisis in Ukraine and around it."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Freeland Says Interest Rate Hike Pause 'Welcome Relief for Canadians'

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The Bank of Canada maintaining the overnight interest rate is "welcome relief for Canadians," Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said Wednesday.

"The Bank of Canada's decision to maintain its overnight interest rate is welcome relief for Canadians," Freeland was quoted by the Department of Finance as saying.

The minister acknowledged that the elevated interest rates, which are being used to bring down inflation in the country, are creating challenges for Canadians. Freeland added she respects the Bank's independence as it aims to reduce inflation and ensure a return to the pre-pandemic Canadian economy with stable growth and prices.

Freeland said she would continue to work using all tools available to ensure interest rates come down in the shortest possible period.

Earlier in the day, the Bank of Canada said it was maintaining its overnight interest rate at 5%, the bank rate at 5.25% and its deposit rate at 5%. It did not rule out further increases, if necessary.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Financial Dependence of Canadian Students on Parents Rose 14 Points in 10 Years - Poll

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - Inflation is making Canada's post-secondary students more dependent on financial support from their parents, with a 14-point increase in those relying on parents' money as compared to a decade ago, according to a poll by the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) published on Wednesday.

Canadian inflationary levels are taking a toll on post-secondary students and their ability to fully cover some of their expenses, as it has pushed a significant number of them to rely on their parents for both a place to live throughout their studies and financial assistance to cover academic fees, according to the survey.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

"Poll findings underlined the greatly increased dependence of today's post-secondary students on their parents' money, with 43% assuming their parents will take care of their financial needs, compared to only 29% in 2013," RBC said.

Moreover, nearly 47% of students said they would be living with their parents over the next academic year, 11 percentage points up from 2013.

The poll also addressed what is being done by students to help themselves financially.

Forty-nine percent reported working part-time while studying, 47% said they had reduced non-essential expenses, 45% reported having prepared a budget and sticking to it, and 45% are regularly monitoring their spending.

The poll was conducted by Ipsos between June 29 and July 12 on behalf of the RBC, using a sample of 1,000 Canadian post-secondary students aged 18-29 with an error margin of +/- 3.3%.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Bank of Canada Maintains Policy Rate at 5% But Says May Engage in Rate Hikes if Needed

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The Bank of Canada issued a statement on Wednesday announcing its decision to maintain the policy rate at 5%, but it did not exclude the possibility of rate hikes it if deemed that such action was necessary.

"The Bank of Canada today held its target for the overnight rate at 5%, with the Bank Rate at 5.25% and the deposit rate at 5%. The Bank is also continuing its policy of quantitative tightening," the statement said.

Canada's economy is growing at a slower pace, which reflects a weaker consumption growth and a declining housing activity as well as factors in the impacts of the country's worst wildfire fire season on record on economic activity, the statement said.

In addition, household credit growth slowed as borrowers increasingly feel the strain of higher rates that force them to reduce spending, the statement said.

Recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) data has indicated that inflationary pressures continue to be broad-based, rising from 2.8% in June to 3.3% in July, and the CPI inflation is expected to remain high in the near term before, the statement said.

"The longer high inflation persists, the greater the risk that elevated inflation becomes entrenched, making it more difficult to restore price stability," the statement said.

The Bank of Canada explained that it decided to hold the policy rate at 5% having considered the evidence that the excess demand reduction in the economy is easing, but would not discard further increases if underlying inflationary pressures persist.

The next overnight rate announcement is expected to be delivered on October 25.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

McConnell Says US Senate Will Pass Ukraine Supplemental Bill By End of Month

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell on Wednesday said the upper chamber of Congress will vote by the end of the month to approve the White House's request for an additional $40 billion in funds for Ukraine and disaster relief.
"Helping Ukraine retake its territory means weakening one of America's biggest strategic adversaries without firing a shot and deterring another one in the process," McConnell said. "And our colleagues will have the opportunity to do all of these when we pass the supplemental appropriation before the month is out."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Finding Creative Ways to Support Taiwan's Defense - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States is finding creative ways to support Taiwan's defense amid its backlog in foreign military sales to the self-governed island, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner said on Wednesday.
"We are looking to best use the tools available to us to support Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act that has historically been focused on foreign military sales," Ratner said at the Defense News Conference. "What has been innovative this year from Congress and the types of authorities that the department is looking to leverage include presidential drawdown authority, which the department used for the first time this year."
The National Defense Authorization Act last year authorized for the first time foreign military financing for Taiwan. The State Department recently executed on that authority and there was work underway on Capitol Hill to build appropriations upon that authority too, Ratner said.
He added that he sensed strong bipartisan support for Taiwan and the Pentagon was ready to work with Congress.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sees 'Really Sharp Increase' in Unsafe Chinese Military Intercepts - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States has seen a “really sharp increase” in unsafe intercepts by China’s military over the last couple of years, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner said on Wednesday.
“One of the trends that we have seen over the last couple years is a really sharp increase in PLA [People's Liberation Army]… non-standard or unsafe intercepts against the United States, against allies and partners in the region, coming within very close approaches, conducting unsafe maneuvers around our aircraft,” Ratner said at a Defense News Conference.
The assistant secretary of defense noted that China has been unwilling to maintain open lines

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

of communication despite repeated US entreaties.

Ratner also said there is a need for a mechanism to communicate to China that “this behavior is not going to deter us from operating in the region.”

China had turned lines of communications on and off like a light switch for political reasons, repeatedly over the last several years, Ratner said.

The United States hopes that it would not take a “dangerous crisis” like the Cuban missile crisis for China to realize the necessity of engagement. Ratner added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Announces $163Mln in Additional Humanitarian Aid to Sudan, Neighbors - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States will provide almost $163 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Sudan and its neighbors, the State Department said on Wednesday.

"Today, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced nearly $163 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the people of Sudan and neighboring countries during her visit to Chad," the statement said.

The assistance includes about $103 million provided through the Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and some $60 million through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

This brings total US humanitarian assistance for the Sudan emergency response to nearly $710 million in fiscal year 2023, including for Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic.

The newly announced assistance will support humanitarian programs for internally displaced persons, refugees, refugee returnees, as well as other vulnerable groups and host communities.

The State Department also called on the Sudanese armed forces and the rival Rapid Support Forces to end the conflict and remove restrictions on delivery of life-saving aid and access of humanitarian workers.

On Monday, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) urged the international community to donate $1 billion to support over 1.8 million people that are expected to flee Sudan to neighboring countries by the end of 2023 amid the ongoing conflict.

This is almost twice as much as what was initially estimated to be required to respond to the crisis in May. Meanwhile, Sudanese keep fleeing the country with over 1 million people having already left, the UNHCR added.

Violent clashes between Sudan's regular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces broke out in April. The parties to the conflict have since introduced a number of temporary nationwide ceasefires since, but none has helped settle the conflict.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Military Test-Launches Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile - Statement

(Updates with more details in paras 3-5)
WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The US military on Wednesday announced that it test-launched an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.
"An operational test launch of an Air Force Global Strike Command unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 1:26 a.m. PT," the US military said in a statement.
A joint team of Air Force Global Strike Command Airmen and 30th Space Launch Delta Guardians launched the missile, which was equipped with three re-entry vehicles in the routine test, the statement said.
"This test launch is part of routine and periodic activities intended to demonstrate that the United States' nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter twenty-first century threats and reassure our allies. Such tests have occurred over 300 times before, and this test is not the result of current world events," the statement added.
The missile's reentry vehicle flew 4,200 miles to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean and test verified the accuracy and reliability of the weapon system, according to the statement.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RECAST - US Imports of Russian Goods Drop to $242Mln in July - Census Bureau

(Recasts lede to read $411.7 million, not $411.7)
WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States imported $241.7 million worth of goods from Russia in July, down from $411.7 million in June, according to data published by the US Census Bureau on Wednesday.
At the same time, US exports of goods to Russia increased by almost $5 million to $35.6 million in July.
In total, the US imported over $3 billion worth of goods from Russia in the first seven months of the year. Exports of goods to Russia over the same period amounted to $363.9 million.
This brings the US trade deficit with Russia in 2023 to $2.7 billion, according to the data.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Imports of Russian Goods Drop to $242Mln in July - Census Bureau

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM

WASHINGTON, September 6 (Sputnik) - The United States imported $241.7 million worth of goods from Russia in July, down from $411.7 in June, according to data published by the US Census Bureau on Wednesday.

At the same time, US exports of goods to Russia increased by almost $5 million to $35.6 million in July.

In total, the US imported over $3 billion worth of goods from Russia in the first seven months of the year. Exports of goods to Russia over the same period amounted to $363.9 million.

This brings the US trade deficit with Russia in 2023 to $2.7 billion, according to the data.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/07/2023 10:20:40 AM