Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

9/19/23 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.

Yellen Says US on 'Sustainable Course' as National Debt Hits $33 Trillion

In the time since 2001, the US federal government has never run a surplus, thanks to the spending hikes but also massive tax cuts, which in US politics are commonly credited with increasing economic activity and bettering the lives of citizens.

The US Treasury Department revealed the national debt reached $33 trillion on Monday, marking a milestone amid tense political negotiations over spending in Washington.

The debt is made up of a mixture of intergovernmental holdings and debt owed to the public via savings bonds. It has grown steadily over the years as borrowing against the government has been used to fund government operations, accelerating since the early 21st century amid a slew of new US wars, governmental programs, and economic crises into which the federal government has stepped to stabilize and restart the economy.

The national debt has become a major political battleground, with Republicans who are ideologically opposed to further federal spending on various programs refusing to agree to lift the debt ceiling - a congressional spending limit - without Democrats agreeing to considerable budget cuts. The most recent showdown in the spring of 2023 saw the federal government come within days of defaulting on its debt before the two parties agreed to a deal that would allow the government to spend more money servicing its debts.

The close call led to a further downgrade of the US government's credit rating, raising new fears of an economic downturn in the future as lenders might come to see the government as a risky investment.

Another budget showdown in Washington playing out this week is part of the fallout of the June debt ceiling deal, as lawmakers struggle to agree on a set of spending bills that are necessary to keep the federal government operating beyond September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Without a deal, major parts of the federal government will be forced to halt operations until new spending can be arranged.

Speaking to US media on Monday, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said she was comfortable with the current state of the federal budget.

"Certainly greater deficit reduction is possible," Yellen said. "The president has proposed a series of measures that would reduce our deficits over time while investing in the economy and this is something we need to do going forward."

"We have to make sure that we do keep deficits under control going out," she also said. "The statistic or metric that I look at most often to judge the fiscal, our fiscal course is net interest as a share of GDP [gross domestic product]. And even with the rise we've seen in interest rates, that remains at a very reasonable level of around 1%, but we'd need to be careful about what we do going forward in order to make sure we stay on this sustainable course."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

McCarthy Delays Vote on Advancing 30-Day Funding Resolution as Gov't Shutdown Deadline Nears

Only a handful of days remain before the US government runs out of money and must shut down much of its everyday activities by the end of the month.

US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has postponed a vote on a stopgap spending bill amid his attempts to appease a small but powerful right-wing faction of the Republican Party as a government shutdown looms.

The procedural vote originally scheduled for Tuesday afternoon would have approved a 30-day government funding bill, moving it to the Senate and opening the door for wider talks. Some sort of funding bill must be passed by September 26 to avert a shutdown on September 30, but in lieu of agreement on larger appropriations bills, lawmakers have focused on passing a short-term funding bill to give them more time to negotiate.

Reports in US media did not indicate when the vote would be held.

But even that has so far evaded federal lawmakers as a small faction of one dozen Republican Representatives aligned with former US President Donald Trump have used the GOP's extremely narrow majority to position themselves as legislative kingmakers in the lower chamber since the new Congress was sworn in in January.

Without their approval, McCarthy's leadership over Republicans and the House of Representatives as a whole is effectively impossible.

The most recent legislation, proposed by Republicans over the weekend, would fund the government until October 31 and includes a 1% cut in current spending levels across the entire federal government for that time, with some departments suffering worse than others. However, the dissident Republicans want to press for even deeper cuts, and are demanding more precise numbers on top-line budget items.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen took aim at McCarthy on Monday, telling US media the speaker "needs to find a way to do his job."

"There's absolutely no reason why we should have a government shutdown," she said. "Democrats in both the House and the Senate and Republicans in the Senate are ready to pass appropriations bills or a continuing resolution to keep the government open and operating for the American people."

"Speaker McCarthy needs to find a way to do his job, which is to pass a continuing resolution," Yellen added.

The Treasury chief rarely comments on US domestic politics, but has repeatedly intervened this year to criticize Congress' bickering over issues that could affect federal finances, including the impending shutdown and the debt ceiling fight earlier this year, in which the federal government came within days of defaulting on its debt.

The bitterness of that fight, and its 11th hour resolution, led to Moody's downgrading of the federal government's credit rating in August, reflecting a view that lending money to the US

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

government is an increasingly risky move. A previous debt ceiling fight in 2011 triggered a similar reaction by Moody's, at the time its first-ever downgrading of the US' credit.
While a shutdown after September 30 would not be as catastrophic as a debt default, it could still have major economic repercussions as spending grinds to a halt, and could damage the political reputations of one or both parties for failing to agree on such an elementary congressional procedure.
Once the short-term funding is agreed upon, lawmakers will still have only a few weeks to agree on a dozen massive appropriations bills that have taken months to assemble, with strong debates raging about how much Republicans can get away with cutting from the budget. While the GOP has a slim majority in the House, the Democrats control the Senate, making negotiation 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.

'Of Course He Was Paying': Former Ukrainian Business Leader Accuses Top Zelensky Adviser of Bribery

A top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is facing renewed corruption allegations after an exiled Ukrainian business leader claimed the man worked for him for years as a go-between handling payments to Ukrainian officials.
"Tatarov used to solve all issues with law enforcement" - that's what Oleh Maiboroda, the former executive director of Ukrbud Development, one of Ukraine's largest construction companies, told Western media on Tuesday about Oleh Tatarov.
Once a lawyer, Tatarov now serves as Zelensky's top adviser on law enforcement and security agencies, a position he's held since 2020. However, according to Maiboroda, Tatarov was running bribes for him for the five years before he took the job for Zelensky.
The lawyer's connections across the Ukrainian legal system, from police officials to judges and prosecutors, made him the perfect man to smooth over the approval processes for Ukrbud's many promising construction projects.
"Of course he was paying," Maiboroda said. "He was giving them money so these arrangements were done … He knew about law enforcement and warned us to be careful about saying almost anything on the phone."
The former Ukrainian business leader showed to Western media a list of bribes allegedly paid by Tatarov, totaling some $1.8 million.
Maiboroda has himself fled Ukraine and currently lives in Vienna, where he hopes to stay safe from corruption charges against him in Kiev.
Tatarov is no stranger to such accusations, either: a previous case, brought by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and Anti-Corruption Action Center's (AntAC), claimed he had bribed a forensic expert on behalf of Ukrbud, even going so far as to publish the WhatsApp conversation in which Tatarov agreed to the bribe. However, the case was closed in April 2022 on procedural grounds.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

“The discussion on the incumbent president’s values is over,” Vitaly Shabunin, the head of AntAC’s executive board, said in 2021. “Volodymyr Zelensky shares Tatarov’s values. This means that Zelensky ... doesn’t see any problems in Tatarov’s corruption-related crimes.”
Zelensky has stood by his man through the tribulations, refusing to fire or even to condemn Tatarov despite citizen petitions like the one AntAC organized, with more than 25,000 signatories.
Kiev, which hopes to join the European Union and NATO, has struggled with endemic corruption that promises to not just frustrate its admission hopes, but which endangers the flow of Western weapons and financing to Ukraine as well. To that end, Zelensky has made statements condemning corruption and pledging to crack down, and sweeping firings have “cleaned house” across bureaus such as the Defense Ministry, where the firings have reached the highest ranks.
Last month, Zelensky fired all 24 of Ukraine’s regional military recruitment offices, which are awash with accusations of corruption, including that dozens of recruitment officers have accepted bribes to exempt eligible men from being drafted into the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
Earlier this month, Oleksiy Reznikov was fired as defense minister, and on Monday, Zelensky fired all six deputy defense ministers. Reznkov’s replacement, Rustem Umerov, is himself under investigation for what NABU calls “gross violation of labor laws” and that he and his deputies "took actions aimed at concealing the facts of theft of state property" while he was head of the State Property Fund (SPF).
No accusations of corruption have been brought against any of the former ministers, but the AntAC spoke of the terminations as a “positive step” toward cracking down on corruption and improving accountability.
“The ministry of defense is one of the least reformed ministries in our country, and it is not able to cope with the challenges of the war,” AntAC executive director Daria Kalenyuk told a US newspaper on Monday, adding it was timed to coincide with Zelensky’s trip to Washington, DC, where the president hopes to shore up US support for his government.
A small but growing faction of the Republican Party is openly questioning US support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia. While some have demanded audits and better accountability for the tens of billions of dollars in aid flowing to Kiev, others have demanded the support halt entirely, especially in light of the disastrous Ukrainian counteroffensivethis past summer.
“Many countries are sending major resources to Ukraine, and rightly so, but governments and populations will soon lose patience for that if there are not signs that the government is serious about fighting corruption,” an anonymous Western diplomat in Kiev told British media.
“If Ukraine expects its international partners to stay the course, it needs to show the world it’s serious about building real institutions and stamping out corruption,” the diplomat 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 National Debt Grew by 84 Times in 100 Years

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

On Monday, the US National Debt rose above $33 trillion, a level 84 times higher than it was a century ago, when the value of the US dollar is adjusted for inflation.
Sputnik's infographics illustrates the precipitous rise of the debt, which includes a mixture of intergovernmental holdings and debt owed to the public via savings bonds, showing how it rose in fits and starts before the 21st century, roughly corresponding to US wars and economic crises.
Some of the biggest increases came during World War II, from 1941 to 1945, and from 1983 to the mid-1990s, when taxes were cut amid a massive military buildup against the Soviet Union.
However, the most dramatic feature is the sharp spike after 2000, when the US War on Terror, which included the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan beginning in 2001 and Iraq beginning in 2003, accompanied major increases in government spending in the areas of security, intelligence, and healthcare.
In the 14 years between 1998 and 2012, the debt grew by $10 trillion, and in the next eight years grew by that amount again, hitting $30 trillion as the COVID-19 pandemic was starting in 2020.
Another $3 trillion has been added since, mostly due to Covid-related expenditures and efforts to restart the US economy after the pandemic social shutdowns.
The US federal government has never run a budget surplus since 2001 - the results of which can be plainly seen. Now, lifting the debt ceiling and approving more spending bills have become tense political battlefields in Washington, threatening the functioning of the government itself and its ability to service the massive National Debt.

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.

Country for Old Men? People Aged 80 And Above Make Up Top 10% of Japan for First Time

An earlier report analyzing Japan's stalled population growth determined that by 2060, the number of citizens was projected to plummet to some 86.7 million from over 125 million.
Officials have warned the next few years could prove pivotal in improving the nation's declining figures.
Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications issued a report on Monday confirming an aging population as an ongoing concern in the world's third-largest economy.
The report, released as Japan celebrates its Respect for the Aged Day, placed the number of people in Japan over 80 at nearly 12.6 million among a population of 124 million. Meanwhile, the number of people over 65, which the country defines as "elderly," reached more than 36 million.
"Japan has the highest percentage of elderly population in the world," the ministry noted, acknowledging the challenges an aging citizenry poses to the country, including "declining birth rates… depopulation, financial deficits, and various other problems."
Perhaps chief among the issues raised is the imperative to maintain a workforce sufficient to support the country's various social programs. Pension obligations, health care, and other

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

services demand more funding as Japan's population ages, but a graying society means fewer people are able to generate income and pay taxes.

Japan has struggled to maintain economic growth after once being expected to win the title of the world's largest economy in the 1980s. The government has responded by urging mothers and the elderly to re-enter the workforce. Now, a quarter of all elderly people in Japan are employed, compared to 18.6% in the United States.

But the measure is expected to only temporarily alleviate the problem, compounded by the famously conservative country's reluctance to encourage immigration. Japan's fertility rate of 1.3 remains far below the approximate rate of 2.1 deemed necessary to stabilize the population. Meanwhile deaths have outpaced births for more than a decade, a trend which seems likely to continue. Japan is "on the brink of not being able to maintain social functions," warned Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in January.

South Korea is eventually expected to surpass Japan as the most elderly nation in the decades to come as an aging population remains a concern in various Asian countries, as well as much of the Global North.

Japanese companies have countered the crisis by investing in technological innovation, with automaker Toyota making efforts to increase efficiency in electronic vehicle manufacturing. A more playful response to the country's demographic challenges has emerged in the phenomenon of "dementia cafes" staffed by elderly employees.

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.

Scientists Warn Mass Extinction Event Could Signal 'Collapse of Civilization'

Earth may be experiencing a "sixth mass extinction" threatening entire branches of the "Tree of Life," according to a new article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal.

Professors at Stanford and the National Autonomous University of Mexico released a sobering study on Monday detailing the impact of human actions driving mass extinction.

"We are in the sixth mass extinction event," begins the paper authored by researchers Gerardo Ceballos and Paul R. Ehrlich. "Unlike the previous five, this one is caused by the overgrowth of a single species, Homo sapiens."

"The episode… is much more threatening, because beyond that loss, it is causing rapid mutilation of the tree of life," state the authors, using English naturalist Charles Darwin's metaphor for the living world. "Entire branches (collections of species, genera, families, and so on) and the functions they perform are being lost."

The study was among the first attempts to analyze the issue by examining extinction at the level of genera over the past centuries. Genera, the plural of genus, is the level of classification of living things broader than species, but narrower than family.

The researchers expected to find that entire genera of beings are becoming extinct less rapidly than individual species, but were surprised to find the rates were similar.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

“The current generic extinction rates are 35 times higher than expected background rates prevailing in the last million years,” wrote Ceballos and Ehrlich.
The authors undertook their study by examining records of extinct species from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They chose to focus on vertebrates (species with a backbone) due to greater availability of data, then categorized each species into its proper genus.
The authors’ findings indicated a shocking 73 genera became extinct in just the last 500 years, a process that should’ve taken 18,000 years in the absence of human influence.
A number of human actions are identified as contributing to the phenomenon, including poaching, habitat loss, and pesticide use. The role of climate change is also examined, another crisis the researchers say is closely related.
"The extinction crisis is as bad as the climate change crisis. It is not recognized," said Ceballos.
A number of startling events recently demonstrated these dual crises during a summer in the Northern Hemisphere, described by NASA as the “hottest since global records began in 1880.”
Rising ocean temperatures have contributed to mass die-offs observed among birds, fish, and sea lions. Recently, vanishing polar ice contributed to the collapse of entire colonies of emperor penguins in Antarctica.
An ongoing crisis regarding a decline in populations of bees and other insects has also been reported for several years.
The authors caution the consequences of extinctions are difficult to predict because the interrelations between living beings are so complex. "If you take one brick, the wall won't collapse," said Ceballos. "You take many more, eventually the wall will collapse.”
"What happens in the next two decades will very likely define the future of biodiversity and H. sapiens," the authors warn. “Immediate political, economic, and social efforts of an unprecedented scale are essential if we are to prevent these extinctions and their societal impacts.”
“People say that we are alarmist by saying that we expect a collapse. We are alarmist because we are alarmed.”

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.

Israel Debuts New ‘Barak’ Tank With AI Capabilities

In the Hebrew Bible, Barak was the name of an audacious ruler and military commander who led an attack against Canaanite forces at the city of Hazor. The word also means “lightning” in Hebrew.
Israel’s Defense Ministry announced the incorporation of a new tank into its Armored Corps on Tuesday, claiming it operates with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
Media reported several advanced capabilities comprise the new “super tank’s” functionality, including enhanced targeting systems, “improved firing abilities that allow precise targeting in daylight and at night,” radios, and night vision cameras.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Artificial intelligence augments functions such as the targeting system, which Israel claims synthesizes “data processing and independent scanning abilities.”
The technology assists each of the tank’s four operators in completing their tasks while also offering additional information about surroundings and opposition forces nearby. An advanced missile system and high-tech helmet for the tank’s commander is also featured.
“The new era ushered in by the ‘Barak’ tank is an extraordinary leap and a clear expression of the technological capabilities that continually enhance and secure the qualitative advantage of the [Israel Defense Forces], both in defense and offense,” said Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.
“I extend great appreciation to the engineers and professionals of MANTAK, the Ground Forces, and all those involved in this project.”
Artificial intelligence is increasingly finding use in military applications, augmenting functions such as target recognition and route finding. Iran recently unveiled AI-powered miniature tank robots and has claimed to produce drones that utilize the technology. Meanwhile, the US Army has developed remote-controlled ships utilizing AI.

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.

Report: US Justice Department Widens Probe Into Alleged Perks Musk Received From Tesla

A report has suggested that federal prosecutors may be pursuing potential criminal charges amid an ongoing investigation into the business practices of Tesla and its CEO Elon Musk.
A newly surfaced report has revealed that US federal prosecutors are digging into the personal benefits that billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk may have received through Tesla, going all the way back to 2017.
The exclusive report points out that the timeframe offered dates further back in time than was previously known, adding that the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York has also sought information about transactions between Tesla and other “entities” connected to Musk.
The prosecutors, the report says, have also referenced the involvement of a grand jury.
The findings come three weeks after news first broke that the US Department if Justice was reportedly investigating Tesla’s use of company resources on a house for Musk.
The US Attorney's Office was reported to have sought information about personal benefits paid to Musk, including how much Tesla spent on the project, destined for Austin, Texas, and what it was intended to be used for. The project was known internally as “Project 42.”
The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has also opened a separate civil investigation into the project.
Despite tweeting that he would own “no house” in May of 2020, the outlet earlier detailed “Project 42” was an all-glass home for Musk to live in. By July, the paper also reported that Tesla board members conducted an internal investigation on whether or not company resources were misused. The result of said investigation has not yet been reported.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

On the platform X, which Musk owns, he wrote: “Just want to reiterate that there is no glass house (metaphors don’t count lol) built, under construction or planned! I’m not building any house of any kind anywhere. Period.”
The Justice Department and the SEC have been cracking down on several other companies regarding executive perks, the report said. The SEC regulations require public companies to disclose perks and other personal benefits to top executives if the total value of those benefits is $10,000 or more. Reimbursement on personal benefits can include reimbursement for private security, housing allowances or airplane use.
Transactions above $120,000 in which an executive officer or other related party has a material interest must also be disclosed, according to regulations.
Tesla has said that they do not generally provide perks or other personal benefits to their top executives.
“Companies have been paying attention to the SEC’s enforcement efforts and tightening their controls in this area, which is likely resulting in changes to perks or increased disclosures,” said Stephen L. Cohen, a lawyer at Sidley Austin. “But I believe there is also a view at the SEC that the public cares about executive perks.”

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.

YouTube Blocks Russell Brand From Ad Revenues Amid Sexual Assault Claims

Despite having over six million followers, the British comedian and former TV personality will no longer be able to capitalize on the advertising and paid promotions in and around his videos on the platform.
Video-sharing giant YouTube blocked big-time comedian-turned-influencer Russell Brand on Tuesday from making money from his videos after several women came forward three days earlier with allegations of sexual assault and rape.
Brand has denied the allegations in a statement on X, and has not yet been charged with any criminal offenses.
“If a creator’s off-platform behavior harms our users, employees or ecosystem, we take action to protect the community,” a spokesperson for YouTube said. “When a creator is suspended from the YouTube Partner Program, they are prohibited from using a new or alternate channel to circumvent our enforcement decision.”
The BBC has also distanced themselves from Brand by removing some of his work from their streaming archive. Additionally, a women’s charity that worked with Brand has also ended their association with him.
“The BBC does not ban or remove content when it is a matter of public record unless we have justification for doing so,” a BBC spokesperson said. “We’ve reviewed that content and made a considered decision to remove some of it.”
The office of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak also made a statement, saying the allegations against Brand were “very serious and concerning” and encouraged people to come forward if they believe they are victims of sexual assault.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

“The [prime minister] has been clear that there should never be any space for harassment regardless of where it is found,” the statement said.

Brand is still available for his 1.4 million followers on video-sharing sit Rumble, as well as on X, formerly known as Twitter, where he has 11.2 million followers, and 3.8 million on Instagram which is owned by Facebook*.

The allegations were made in a joint investigation brought forward by three British news outlets including: the Sunday Times, the Times, and Channel 4’s Dispatches.

During the time period on which the allegations are based, Brand had a high-profile career as a comedian and actor at BBC Radio 2, Channel 4, and in Hollywood films.

At least four women are alleging they were sexually assaulted between 2006 and 2013. One woman said Brand raped her in his Los Angeles home in July of 2012. She said on the same day that she went to a rape crisis center—which was confirmed by the Times via medical records— Brand had said he was “very sorry” for causing distress.

Another woman claimed she was 16 when Brand assaulted her while he was in his early 30s. She says he referred to her as “the child” during what was an emotionally abusive and controlling relationship. She says that looking back, he “engaged in the behavior of a groomer,” according to one report.

A third woman said Brand assaulted her while they were working together in Los Angeles. She said she repeatedly told Brand to get off of her, and when he finally did he was angry and threatened to take legal action if she told anyone about her allegation. A fourth woman alleged sexual, physical, and emotional abuse at the hands of Brand in the UK.

In response to the allegations, the Metropolitan Police said on Monday they received a report of an alleged sexual assault in central London in 2003. Officials said they were in contact with the victim and were providing her support. "We continue to encourage anyone who believes they may have been a victim of a sexual offence, no matter how long ago it was, to contact us,” the police said.

The Los Angeles Police Department on Sunday said they had not been notified "of any incidents, reports or allegations regarding Russell Brand or any of the accusers."

While the identity of the women has remained anonymous, a former partner of the star has spoken out. Georgina Baillie, who had an on-off relationship with Brand, said she found some of the evidence against him “compelling,” though she said he never assaulted her.

"I don't know what happened there - I don't know because I wasn't there. He never did anything like that with me, everything was more than consensual, I promise," she said. "I've seen some of the evidence and I do find it quite compelling, to say the least."

Other complaints have been made regarding Brand and his conduct over the years. One of the accusers said his attitude towards women was an “open secret” both in the radio and TV world. Allegations were also made that Brand would undress in the studio while working as a presenter on BBC Radio 6 Music. Dispatches also claimed Brand also made sexual remarks on air about a newsreader, which he had then been told to apologize for by the BBC production staff, according to a report.

Those who worked on Channel 4 shows also alleged Brand would ask staff to approach young female audience members so he could meet them after filming, and that some were later upset by how he treated them.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Other employees and coworkers of Brand also alleged they either felt as though they were working as a “pimp” for him, while one staff member claimed Brand flashed his penis at her and insinuated that she could give him oral sex in his dressing room.
As a result of the accusations, Brand has since postponed a series of upcoming comedy shows in the UK, and he was dropped by his management agency Tavistock Wood.

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.

Researchers Discover First Possible Mountaintop Crater in China

Researchers have speculated that the meteorite at the center of the creation of China's Front and Rear Baijifeng peaks dates back to the Jurassic Period, according to findings.
Two mountain peaks in China - Front Baijifeng and Rear Baijifeng - were found to have essentially been created by the impact of a meteorite which fell from the sky hundreds of millions of years ago, making it the first confirmed mountaintop crater.
Researchers at the Center for High Pressure Science and Technology Advanced Research in Shanghai “set out to find” the origin story of rocks known as “celestial stones” at the Baijifeng Mountain, located in northeastern China, not far from the North Korean border.
“We set out to find out the real story behind this accumulation of rock fragments”, the team, led by researchers Ming Chen and Ho-Kwang Mao, wrote. “Our investigation has revealed for the first time the presence of an impact structure on Baijifeng Mountain.”
After examining the rock fragments they found their make-up to consist of sandstone and granite, both of which contain small quartz minerals. The authors then found specific deformations usually caused by heat and pressure.
The deformations are “widely accepted as diagnostic evidence for shock metamorphism and terrestrial impact structures,” the authors write. As such, it indicates they came from a meteorite impact site which spans about 4,600 feet (1,400 meters) and formed the two peaks known as Front Baijifeng and Rear Baijifeng.
“During the impact cratering,” the researchers write, “a large amount of rock would have been excavated and ejected to form this new geological structure. The collision would have greatly changed the original terrain of the target, forming two new peaks, namely, Front Baijifeng and Rear Baijifeng.”
The researchers are unsure of when the crater was actually formed, but believe the meteorite could have hit the mountain after the Jurassic Period—between 150 million and 172 million years ago. But in any case, they will have to do further tests to confirm whether a meteorite really was responsible for changing the shape of the mountain.

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 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Says Talks With Lavrov at UNGA Not Scheduled Yet

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told Sputnik on Wednesday that he has not yet set a time to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.
"It's not scheduled yet," Byramov said when asked whether he planned to meet Lavrov.

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.

Azerbaijan's Top Diplomat Says Will Attend UNSC Meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh on Thursday

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told Sputnik he will personally participate in a UN Security Council meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh on September 21.
"Yes, I will," Bayramov 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.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Says No Talks Planned at Moment With Armenia at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told Sputnik he does not expect any talks at the moment with the Armenian delegation on the margins of the UN General Assembly amid the ongoing tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh.
"It is not envisaged at the moment," Bayramov said, when asked if he expects any meetings with the Armenian delegation.

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.

Grossi Tells Sputnik He Will Visit ZNPP Before End of The Year

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) – IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik on Wednesday that he hopes to visit the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant by the end of the year.
"Before the end of the year, maybe," Grossi said, when asked about his plans for his next visit to the ZNPP.
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 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

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

Grossi Tells Sputnik Will Discuss His Next Visit to Moscow With Lavrov Today

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi told Sputnik on Wednesday that he will discuss his next visit to Russia when he meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov later in the day on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.
"I hope so," Grossi said, when asked whether he would visit Russia again this year. "I will be seeing Minister Lavrov today, and we will be discussing that."

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.

Sierra Leone's Top Diplomat Says Direct Flights With Russia Not Economically Viable

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Freetown and Moscow have not had any discussions regarding direct flights between the two countries because at the moment it does not seem economically viable, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.
"No, we have not started any discussions yet," Kabba said.
Kabba explained that at the moment it would not be economically viable to run direct flights between Sierra Leone and Russia considering there is a small number of travelers between the two countries. According to Kabba, people traveling between Sierra Leone and Russia must get a connecting flight in Europe.
Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Russia Mohamed Yongawo previously stated Freetown desires to resume direct flights with Russia, suggesting it could become an alternative destination for Russian tourists.

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.

Sierra Leone Hopes to See Lukoil Return to Further Exploration - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Sierra Leone would like to see Russian oil giant Lukoil return to the country to resume exploration, Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik.
"At the moment, Lukoil hasn't come back to further... the exploration. But I wish to see Lukoil coming back to Sierra Leone," Kabba said on the margins of the UN General Assembly.
Freetown's ambassador to Russia, Mohamed Yongawo, told Sputnik Sierra Leone would be happy with Lukoil's participation in the development of oil fields in the country.
Lukoil in 2015 pulled out of an exploration project in Sierra Leone due to lack of results.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

RosGeo Can Help Sierra Leone Better Understand the Country's Mineralization - Top Diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Russian geological firm RosGeo can became a reliable partner to help Sierra Leone better understand the country's mineralization once Western sanctions are lifted against the company, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.
"I'm very sure that when all the dust is settled, RosGeo is a reliable partner and a very competent geophysical and geological company that can help us understand our mineralization better," Kabba 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.

Freetown Invites Alrosa to Invest in Sierra Leone When Sanctions Lifted - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Sierra Leone invites Alrosa to invest in Sierra Leone once Western sanctions are lifted against the Russian diamond mining firm, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.
"When the sanctions are lifted, Sierra Leone has an avalanche of mining opportunities," Kabba said. "We invite Alrosa to come back and look at the opportunities in Sierra Leone."

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.

Sierra Leone's Good Relations With Russia Will Remain Despite Sanctions - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Freetown's good relations with Moscow will remain unchanged regardless of Western sanctions, Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.
"We have our bilateral relations, and we're going to keep those intact," Kabba said regarding whether Western sanctions impact relations between Sierra Leone and Russia.

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.

Freetown Wants Moscow to Invest in Agricultural Projects in Sierra Leone - Top Diplomat

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Freetown wants Moscow to invest in agricultural projects in Sierra Leone considering Russia has the technology to help enhance the African country's production, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

"Well, it's agriculture, generally it will be the grain of wheats," Kabba said regarding what projects it wants to immediately begin with Russia. "Russia has got the technology. So that's what we're looking forward for."

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.

Sierra Leone Started Talks With Moscow on Imports of Russian Fertilizer - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Sierra Leone has begun discussions with Moscow on matters related to imports of Russian fertilizer, Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

"We have started conversations with our Russian counterparts and we're going to deepen that relationship," Kabba said when asked if he's had talks with Russia on the issues of fertilizers.

Kabba added that he will visit Moscow at the end of the year to further discuss how Russian fertilizer, including Russian seeds, beans, and technology, can be imported.

In August, Sierra Leone's Ambassador to Russia Mohamed Yongawo said Freetown would like to receive Russian fertilizers, but not necessarily free of charge.

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.

Freetown to Back Any ECOWAS Choice on Possible Military Action in Niger - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Sierra Leone will support any decision the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) makes regarding potential military intervention in Niger amid the ongoing coup, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

"We have not taken any position whether we do military... we will stand with anything that comes from ECOWAS, which will be our collective responsibility," Kabba said.

The ECOWAS has different layers of assessing the situation in Niger, Kabba said.

Sierra Leone, Kabba added, is a beneficiary of the bloc's activities and hopes there will be a diplomatic solution that can immediately put an end the coup.

The coup in Niger took place on July 26. President Mohamed Bazoum was ousted and detained by his own guard, led by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani. Following the coup, the ECOWAS suspended all cooperation with Niger and threatened intervention if the rebels did not reinstate Bazoum.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

World Must Resolve Ukraine Crisis Exacerbating Food Insecurity - Sierra Leone Top Diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - It is important the international community takes steps to help resolve the conflict in Ukraine because it has exacerbated global food insecurity, Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

"It's very important that the world comes to the table and finds a reasonable way of solving the conflict that has exacerbated this food insecurity," Kabba said regarding the suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

The African continent is bearing the brunt of the impact of the Ukraine conflict, including the energy and food crisis, Kabba said. Sierra Leone depends on imports of energy and food, the foreign minister added.

The spillover effects of the Ukraine conflict on Sierra Leone is quite grave for the country and has affected every facet of its society, according to Kabba.

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.

Sierra Leone Open to Russians, 'Good' Option for Tourists to Visit - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Sierra Leone is open to Russians and a good option for travelers to consider visiting, Foreign Minister Timothy Kabba told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

"Sierra Leone is open and it's a good alternative for tourism," Kabba said. "Our position is very clear: our international cooperation is without exclusions, and Russia is a good and reliable partner."

Sierra Leone can offer perhaps one of the world's best touristic experiences to Russians, Kabba said.

Kabba highlighted Sierra Leone's beautiful beaches and tropical climate.

The foreign minister suggested Russians should consider visiting Sierra Leone when there is cold weather in Russia and bask in the African experience in a very unique way.

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.

San Francisco Authorities Issue Air Quality Advisory Due to Wildfire Smoke - Statement

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District said in a statement that it has issued an air quality advisory due to smoke from wildfires in Northern California and Oregon.

"The Air District is issuing an air quality advisory for wildfire smoke through Wednesday, September 20. Smoke from fires in Northern California and Oregon is expected to impact air quality throughout the Bay area, causing air quality to reach high-moderate on the US EPA's Air Quality Index," the statement said on Tuesday.

The advisory urges residents to protect themselves by staying indoors and ensuring their windows and doors are closed, the statement said.

The advisory also recommends that residents affected by the smoke set their air conditioning units and car vent systems to re-circulate the air to prevent outside air from entering, the statement added.

Pollutant levels are not expected to surpass national health standards and there is no Spare the Air Alert currently in effect, 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.

Blinken Tells Pashinyan US Fully Supports Armenia's Independence, Territorial Integrity

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan that the US supports Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a readout of the call.

Earlier, the State Department said Blinken in a another phone call urged Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliev to stop all military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The Secretary expressed the United States' deep concern for the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and underscored that the United States is calling on Azerbaijan to immediately cease hostilities and return to dialogue immediately. He told Prime Minister Pashinyan the United States fully supports Armenia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity," Miller said on Tuesday.

9/19/2023 6:03:17 PM -04:00

Raisi Says at UN General Assembly Iran Opposes War Anywhere, Including in Europe

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that Teheran stands against war anywhere in the world and attributed the conflict in Ukraine to the United States.

"We do not stand [in favor] nor support any war anywhere, not in Europe, not anywhere. We do not see any war to benefit any side in Europe," Raisi said in a speech at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

Raisi suggested that the war in Ukraine is part of a long-term plan by the United States to weaken European nations.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

"Any type of tension and fanning the flames of violence in Ukraine has been done by the United States of America in order to weaken the European countries, and this is a long-term plan," Raisi said.

In addition, Raisi said Iran supports initiatives aimed at ceasing hostilities and resolving conflicts, including the one in Ukraine, through political means.

"We fully announced our support for such an initiative," Raisi 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.

Blinken Urges Azerbaijan to Cease Military Actions in Nagorno-Karabakh - US State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke over the telephone with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliev and urged him to stop all military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh, the State Department said.

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev today to urge Azerbaijan to cease military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh immediately and deescalate the situation," the State Department said in a release on Tuesday.

Blinken emphasized that there is no military solution to the situation and the parties must resume dialogue to resolve the outstanding differences between Baku and the ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, 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.

Kazakh President at UNGA Says Logic of Nuclear Agenda 'Must Be Reversed'

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during a speech at the UN General Assembly called for a reversal in the logic of the nuclear agenda and urged cooperation on the path to a world free of such weapons.

"Perhaps the most disruptive is the threat of use of nuclear weapons. 30 years ago, Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced the fourth largest inherited nuclear arsenal. That's why the logic of the nuclear agenda must be reversed," Tokayev said on Tuesday. "Only mutual trust and cooperation between nuclear powers on the path to a world free of nuclear weapons can produce global stability."

Tokayev proposed inviting nations to join in creating a new security paradigm, fostering a fair economic environment, and promoting environmental sustainability.

He also stressed the significance of open dialogue between the global south and the global north in addressing the world's challenges.

Tokayev reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and expressed support for the development of new disarmament mechanisms for

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

complete nuclear disarmament by 2045.

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 Provides $247 Mln In Humanitarian Assistance In Sub-Saharan Countries – USAID

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – The United States is going to provide an additional $247 million in humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, Deputy Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Isobel Coleman said on Tuesday.

"I am very pleased to announce today that USAID is meeting in $247 million additional commitment to humanitarian assistance for ten Sub-Saharan African countries," Coleman told reporters.

She stated that many of the recipients of that support are the most vulnerable and poorest countries in the world. Coleman reiterated Washington's commitment to cooperating with partners across the globe to support resiliency and meeting their urgent needs.

The USAID official also said that she met with a group of businessmen earlier in the day to talk "about prosper Africa." She pointed out that the US is eager to increase trade and investment in the continent.

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 No Clear Path to Restoring Black Sea Grain Agreement - USAID

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United States does not see a clear path to revive the exports grain agreement, formally known as the Black Sea Initiative, but urges countries to push Russia back into the deal, US Agency for International Development (USAID) Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman said.

"Unfortunately, there is no clear path back, but we do encourage countries of the world that are quite dependent on food from Ukraine to continue to push for the reopening of the Black Sea Initiative, re-institutionalizing it, and to push Russia to go back into the deal," Coleman said on Tuesday.

Coleman accused Russia of attacking and destroying critical export infrastructure on the Black Sea during the special military operation in Ukraine.

"This is nothing less than weaponizing food," she said.

Coleman pointed out that Russia rejected a number of concessions related to the grain exports agreement.

The United Sates has supported the United Nations' efforts to revive the grain agreement, Coleman said, adding that Turkey is playing a helpful role in trying to find a solution.

The agreement provided for a humanitarian maritime corridor in the Black Sea to enable

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

exports of Ukrainian and Russian grain and fertilizer amid the special military operation.
Moscow did not renew its participation in the agreement in mid-July after warning numerous times that the provisions pertaining to facilitating Russian grain and fertilizer had not been fulfilled.
In addition, Russian officials have repeatedly said that most of the grain had been taken by the wealthy countries primarily in the European Union and only a small portion had ended up in poor and food insecure countries.

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 at C5+1 Meeting Promises Increased US Security Funding to Central Asia - White House

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden said during a meeting with his Central Asian counterparts at UN headquarters in New York City that the United States will increase the amount of security funding to the region.
"We are strengthening our counterterrorism cooperation, including increased U.S. security funding to Central Asia," Biden said on Tuesday.
The United States and the five Central Asian republics will also strengthen their economic connectivity by establishing a new business platform and establish a new critical minerals dialogue, Biden added.
C5+1 is a diplomatic platform that includes five Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan – and the United States. The platform was launched in 2015 to enhance cooperation among the six countries.

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.

Hungarian President Echoes Elon Musk Concern About Demography During UNGA Speech

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Hungarian President Katalin Novak said on Tuesday during her speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) that demographic decline is a greater cause of concern than the so-called climate crisis, echoing the views previously expressed by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk.
"Elon Musk may be right when he says that the demographic decline is a more serious problem than the climate crisis. Little attention is paid to the real and irreversible change of the world. If there is no child, there is no future," Novak said.
Musk had previously said the population collapse due to low birth rates is a much bigger risk to civilization than global warming.
Novak said Hungary's approach to address the demographic crisis emphasizes the commitment to strengthen and support families.
Hungary has made a substantial investment in a comprehensive family support system, which

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

has had a positive economic impact on the country, Novak said.
"We strongly believe that the right to raise children does not belong to the state, nor to NGOs [non-governmental organizations], nor to the media, or the knowledge industry, but to parents," Novak 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.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) -

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that a reform of the UN Security Council is needed to reflect the current state of the world.
* The international community must recommit to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and end the current erosion of arms control treaties, Guterres said.
* Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he has a new plan for the release 1 million tonnes of grain to countries in dire need after the UN- and Turkey-brokered Black Sea Initiative expired.
* Colombian President Gustavo Petro proposed that the United Nations host peace conferences on Ukraine and Palestine as soon as possible.
* US President Joe Biden said Russia is the only obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.
* The United States is determined to continue pushing to expand the UN Security Council to have more voices and perspectives at the table, Biden said.

ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN TENSIONS
* Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh recorded numerous ceasefire violations by Azerbaijan along the entire line of contact, the Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.
* Azerbaijan will continue anti-terrorist measures in Nagorno-Karabakh until armed groups there lay down their weapons, the presidential administration.
* The Russian embassy in Armenia has been blocked by protesters and it is impossible to carry out its work, the diplomatic mission told Sputnik.
* Russia regrets the civilian casualties in Nagorno-Karabakh after the resumption of hostilities, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.
* Russia remains committed to cooperation with Armenia, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.
* The primary goal to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is to ensure the right of Armenians and Azerbaijanis to coexist on Azerbaijan soil, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

SHOIGU VISITS IRAN

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

* A Russian delegation led by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu arrived in Tehran on Tuesday for talks with the military leadership of Iran, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* Shoigu and Iranian Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri discussed the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria and Afghanistan.
* Relations between Russia and Iran in the field of defense area are developing well and the intensity of meetings on the highest level has increased, Shoigu said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE
* Russia's air defense systems destroyed a Ukrainian aircraft-type drone over the Belgorod region and another drone in the Bryansk region, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.
* Ukraine lost up to 400 soldiers in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia directions over the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* The United Kingdom made a new pledge to deliver additional "tens of thousands" artillery shells to Ukraine, Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said.
* US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said he urged US allies during the Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting to dig deep and donate air defense systems and munitions to 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.

House Moves to Begin Talks With Senate to Reconcile US Defense Policy Bills

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives agreed on Tuesday to begin negotiations with the Senate to reconcile their respective versions of next year's defense programs and policy bills.
The House in a 393-27 vote agreed to start negotiations with the Senate to work out differences and craft a final version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that both chambers will pass.
The House and Senate version of the NDAA authorize approximately $886 billion in defense funding and set policies on how the funds can be spent.
Earlier in the day, the US House of Representatives rejected a rule to advance consideration of the fiscal year 2024 Defense Department appropriations bill, ahead of a potential government shutdown at the end of the month due to a lack of government funding.
The defense appropriations bill is needed to pass to appropriately support defense programs and policies included in the NDAA.

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 to Host Pacific Island Leaders at White House on Monday - Press Secretary

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden will host Pacific Islands leaders at the White House on Monday during their second summit aimed at addressing regional priorities, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement on Tuesday.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will host Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders at the White House on September 25, 2023 during the second US-Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Summit taking place September 25-26. During this year's summit with Pacific Island leaders, President Biden will reaffirm the US commitment to our shared regional priorities and deepening our cooperation around them," the statement said.

President Biden will use the summit to reassert US commitment to regional priorities and address issues including the climate crisis, economic growth, sustainable development, health security and illegal fishing, the statement said.

On Monday, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma said this year's summit would be part of intense activity aimed at boosting US influence and standing in the Pacific region.

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.

Equatorial Guinea's Grain Prices Rise Amid Black Sea Deal Suspension - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Equatorial Guinea is seeing grain prices across the country increase as a result of the suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister Simeon Oyono Esono Angue told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"Yes, the price," the country's top diplomat said when asked whether the suspension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative impacts Equatorial Guinea.

The Guinean official, who spoke on the margins of the UN General Assembly, noted that at the moment he does not have any meetings scheduled with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

He also welcomed Russia's plans to open an embassy in Malabo as soon as this year. It will pave the way for more cooperation between the two countries, the minister 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.

Equatorial Guinea Hopes to Boost Cooperation With Russia Once Embassy Opens - Top Diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Equatorial Guinea welcomes Russia's plans to open an embassy in Malabo as it will pave the way for more cooperation between the two countries, Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister Simeon Oyono Esono Angue told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Russia is set to open embassies in Equatorial Guinea and Burkina Faso as soon as this year,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

the Russian Foreign Ministry said in August.

"Russia should come to Malabo to open the embassy," the Guinean official said on the margins of the UN General Assembly. "We want it to open as soon as possible."

Guinea's top diplomat stressed that the two countries have good relations, especially in agriculture and defense.

The opening of the embassy will pave the way for more cooperation, he 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 House Rejects Rule for 2024 Defense Spending Bill as Shutdown Approaches

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives on Tuesday rejected a rule to advance consideration of the fiscal year 2024 Defense Department appropriations bill, ahead of a potential government shutdown at the end of the month due to a lack of government funding.

House lawmakers rejected the combined rule, which included the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, in a vote of 212-214.

In June, the House Appropriations Committee passed a draft of the defense appropriations bill, which would provide $826.45 billion in new discretionary spending. The legislation includes a pay raise for US military servicemembers and investments in security cooperation with Taiwan.

Congress must pass government funding measures such as appropriations bills, a continuing resolution or an omnibus before the end of the month to avoid a government shutdown.

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.

IAEA Chief Says Will Meet With Russia at UNGA to Discuss Situation at Zaporizhzhia NPP

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told Sputnik he will meet with the Russian delegation on the margins of the UN General Assembly on Wednesday to discuss the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

"There is a range of issues. Russia is a very important and crucial partner for the IAEA and, of course, there is an issue around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is under the control of the Russian Federation. And we have a permanent mission there looking after the safety and security of this nuclear power plant. So there are many issues we need to discuss," Grossi said.

On Monday, Grossi told Sputnik that he will meet separately with Russian and Ukrainian officials on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week in New York City. He said that the security situation at the plant has improved, but remains fragile.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

McConnell Says Backs US House Speaker McCarthy's Bid to Delay Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday that he supports US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's bid to avoid a government shutdown before the end of the month.

McCarthy and other House Republican lawmakers are pushing legislation to extend government funding through October 31 to give Congress more time to pass appropriations bills.

"I support what the Speaker's trying to accomplish, because he's trying to avoid a government shutdown and he's trying to help with an appropriations process so that we have something close to a normal process," McConnell said during a press conference. "So, we're pulling for the Speaker and hoping we can move forward."

McConnell said that he still hopes to pass a series of so-called minibus spending bills in the Senate and 12 separate appropriations bills in the House of Representatives.

The Senate will wait to see what happens in the House and then act accordingly, McConnell added.

Congress must pass some form of government funding, such as a temporary funding measure, standard appropriations bills, a series of minibuses or an omnibus, before the end of the month to avoid a shutdown.

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 'Running Dry' on Funding to Keep Ammunition Flowing to Ukraine - Democratic Senator

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US government is running out of funding to maintain its flow of ammunition for the Ukrainian military and the proposed Continuing Resolution (CR) by House Republicans to continue funding the government would be disastrous for Kiev's efforts to maintain its counter-offensive, Democratic Senator Chris Murphy said at a presser on Tuesday.

"We are running dry of funding to keep ammunition flowing to the Ukraine army," Murphy told reporters. "It is so irresponsible, so dangerous for the House Republicans to be showing to the world the potential abandonment of this key ally... We desperately need to continue our work to make sure the Ukraine has everything it needs.

Republicans control the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of Congress, which controls financial appropriations and the CR drafted by the Republican majority has no provisions to pay for any more military aid especially ammunition to Ukraine.

Murphy said it is "the worst possible time" for House Republicans to be signaling they are contemplating not supporting the funds for Ukraine. This is a critical moment for Ukraine, he

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

added, the counter offensive is slow, but is making progress.

Ukraine launched its latest counteroffensive in early June. Three months later, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Ukrainian counteroffensive had failed, with Ukraine suffering 71,000 casualties. Several Western officials also admitted that the Ukrainian counteroffensive had not been successful 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.

US House Oversight Committee Says Will Hold First Biden Impeachment Inquiry September 28

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US House Oversight Committee will hold its first hearing on its impeachment inquiry into US President Joe Biden on September 28, the panel said on Tuesday.

"Next Week, Our Committee Will Hold First Biden Impeachment Inquiry Hearing," the Oversight Committee said in a statement via X. "September 28."

Earlier this month, US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced that he directed House lawmakers to begin an impeachment inquiry into Biden to enable further investigation of alleged crimes.

The Oversight Committee has been investigating alleged bribery and influence peddling involving the Biden family and foreign entities. However, Biden denies having discussed foreign business affairs with his son, Hunter Biden.

Former US Justice Department prosecutor Ronald Sievert told Sputnik that although there is likely not enough evidence to impeach Biden at this point, there is ample evidence to open an impeachment inquiry into the allegations.

Witnesses at the Oversight Committee hearing next week are expected to include a financial expert to discuss Biden family bank records and a constitutional expert to justify the launch of an impeachment inquiry, panel Chairman James Comer said, according to a CNN report. However, witnesses are still being finalized, Comer 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.

Erdogan Urges EU During UNGA Speech to Fulfill 'Long-Neglected' Obligations Toward Turkey

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday called on the European Union to swiftly meet its long-neglected obligations with respect to Turkey.

"We expect the European Union to quickly start fulfilling its long-neglected obligations towards our country, especially the ambiguous attitude against Turkey should be stopped once and for all," Erdogan said during the UN General Assembly general debate.

Erdogan said the increasingly complex nature of global and regional challenges points to the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

need for EU-Turkey relations "to move forward on a healthy basis more than ever before."
Ankara has long criticized the European Union's attitude toward and treatment of Turkey for being inconsistent and, at times, not quite forthcoming in pursuing good relations despite proclamations to the contrary.
The criticism has pertained to a wide array of issues, including Turkey's bid for EU membership, trade, visas for Turks to access the European Union and the bloc's obligations under the 2016 deal to manage the refugee crisis, among others.

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 Security Council Meeting on Karabakh Scheduled for September 21 - Source

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 19 (Sputnik) - A United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in Karabakh is scheduled for September 21, a UN source told Sputnik.
The United Nations is now holding the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly and many high-ranking officials walk through the UN halls. As of now, it is unclear if any of them will participate in the meeting.

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.

World Must Pressure Russia, Ukraine to Resolve Conflict - Colombian President

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - The international community must pressure Russia and Ukraine to bring an end to their ongoing conflict, Colombian President Gustavo Petro told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.
"The world needs to pressure them [Ukraine and Russia]," Petro said when asked what role Latin American nations can play to facilitate peace talks on Ukraine.
According to Petro, the Colombian delegation does not have any plans to meet with Russian or Ukrainian officials this week in New York.

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 Should Be Included In Any Peace Initiatives on Ukraine - Colombian President

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Russia should be included in any peace initiatives to end the Ukraine conflict, Colombian President Gustavo Petro told Sputnik on the margins of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.
"Of course, peace is made between the enemies," Petro said when asked whether Russia

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

should be part of any peace talks on Ukraine.

Moreover, Petro said he supports efforts by Brazil and other countries seeking to facilitate peace in Ukraine. He reiterated Colombia's proposal that the international community hold peace conferences to address the conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine.

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.

Congressman Gaetz Asks US House Speaker McCarthy to Sign Subpoena for Hunter Biden

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Matt Gaetz said on Tuesday that he has drafted a subpoena for President Joe Biden's son, Hunter, and urged House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy to end the months of inaction by signing the document.

"After eight months of inaction, I have taken the liberty of drafting a subpoena to Hunter Biden. It simply requires your date and signature. Millions of Americans are wondering if you're serious," Gaetz said via the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

The subpoena requests that Hunter Biden turn over any and all records of contracts, agreements, financial agreements and communications with his father between 2008 and the present as well as all communications pertaining to his contacts with foreign and domestic business partners.

The subpoena also demands that Hunter Biden participate in a formal deposition and testimony under oath before the US Senate Judiciary Committee.

Last week, a US federal court indicted Hunter Biden on three federal firearm-related charges for making false statements about using illegal drugs at the time he purchased a firearm. He is expected to face federal tax charges for alleged failure to pay taxes in 2017 and 2018.

All the charges were set to be resolved by a plea deal and pre-trial diversion agreement but the arrangement fell through before a resolution could be reached.

The move by Gaetz comes after the Congressman threatened to force McCarthy out of office if he failed to move forward with the impeachment of President Joe Biden.

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.

Turkey to Step Up Diplomatic Efforts to End Conflict in Ukraine - Erdogan

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Turkey will redouble efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday.

"We will step up our efforts to end the war through diplomacy and dialogue on the basis of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity," Erdogan said at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Turkey as a pioneering country in terms of proposed initiatives aimed at enhancing peace and stability, support UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' call for a new agenda for peace, Erdogan added.

The Turkish president further added that he hopes ongoing talks involving Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the UN to revive the expired Black Sea Grain Initiative will lead to countries in need to benefit from the negotiations outcome.

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.

Erdogan Says Ankara Supports Baku's Operation in Karabakh

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Ankara supports Azerbaijan's operation in Nagorno-Karabakh and is committed to regional stability and the principle of coexistence, including for Armenians, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during the UN General Assembly General Debate on Tuesday.

"To seize this opportunity fully, we have launched a process with Armenia aiming at good neighborly relations and a full normalization. In the same spirit we have supported the negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia from the very beginning. However, Armenia is not taking the utmost opportunity of this historical chance. We expect the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to be signed between the two countries as soon as possible and promises to be quickly fulfilled, especially the opening of the Zangezur corridor and Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan. Any other status imposed will never be accepted," Erdogan said.

Erdogan also said the primary goal should be coexistence of Azerbaijanis and Armenians in Karabakh.

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.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Says Will Meet With Lavrov at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told Sputnik he will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the UN General Assembly sidelines to discuss bilateral and international issues.

"Yes, I will," Shoukry said, when asked if he will meet with Lavrov.

When asked if the talks will feature the Black Sea grain deal and Ukraine, he said the topics will include "bilateral issues and regional and national issues of concern," as well as "all the issues on the international arena."

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 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

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

Blinken Calls for Immediate End of Hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh Amid Renewed Clashes

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a statement on Tuesday called upon Azerbaijan to immediately cease all military actions in Nagorno Karabakh after Baku launched an operation on the border with Armenia earlier in the day.

"The United States is deeply concerned by Azerbaijan's military actions in Nagorno-Karabakh and calls on Azerbaijan to cease these actions immediately," the statement said. "We call for an immediate end to hostilities and for respectful dialogue between Baku and representatives of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh."

Earlier in the day, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said that Baku had launched "local-level anti-terrorist activities" in Nagorno-Karabakh aimed at restoring the constitutional order. It added that the Azerbaijani armed forces used high-precision weapons, allegedly targeting Armenian forces in the region. Yerevan described the operation as aggression and reiterated that it had no military presence in Nagorno-Karabakh.

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 Discusses Ukraine, Global Institutions Reform With UN Chief - White House

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and discussed matters concerning Ukraine and efforts to reform global institutions so that they become more effective, the White House said on Tuesday.

"The leaders also discussed efforts to reform and strengthen multilateral institutions to make them more inclusive and effective and better equipped to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and address global challenges like climate change and fragility," the White House said in a press release.

Biden and Guterres met on the margins of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York City.

The two officials discussed upholding the United Nations' foundational principles, with a particular focus on Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, the release said.

Biden and Guterres also discussed other pressing global issues, including the need to address rising poverty and to mobilize additional resources for sustainable development, the release 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.

Erdogan Says World Bigger Than 5 Permanent Member States of UN Security Council

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that the UN Security Council (UNSC) has lost its role as security guarantor and the world is bigger than the five permanent member states of the UNSC, who have turned it into their battleground.

"The Security Council has ceased to be the guarantor of world security and has become a battleground for the political strategies of only five countries," Erdogan said. "We say once again, with all of our hearts, the world is bigger than five and a better world is possible," he added.

Erdogan emphasized that no one country is safe from the challenges facing the world regardless of its geographical location.

Consequently, Erdogan pointed to the importance of reforming the existing institutions tasked with ensuring security, peace and prosperity throughout the world.

A new global governance architecture that represents origins, beliefs and cultures must be built, Erdogan 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.

Serbian President Says May Meet With Russian Delegation at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic told Sputnik he is not ruling out a meeting with the Russian delegation during the UN General Assembly's high-level week.

"I still don't know, but it's possible," Vucic 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 State Department Says 'A Lot of Work To Do' to be Competitive in Africa

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US has a lot of work to do to remain competitive in Africa, the State Department said on Tuesday.

"This is something that we work on every day, globally, but including in Africa, to make the case for the rules-based international order and how Africa especially can benefit from it. We have a lot of work to do here, and especially in the context of Wagner operations in Africa," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick testified at a House Armed Services Committee hearing.

Resnick was responding to a question regarding how African countries would react if China invaded Taiwan.

A House representative noted that some African countries chose to remain uninvolved or to continue to engage with Russia following the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

US Charges Investment Firm Tied to Russian Billionaire for Failing to Register - Regulator

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States charged New York's Concord Management and its owner for providing unregistered investment services to its only client, an alleged wealthy former Russian official, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said on Tuesday.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission today announced charges against Concord Management LLC of Tarrytown, New York, and its owner and principal, Michael Matlin, for operating as unregistered investment advisers to their only client - a wealthy former Russian official widely regarded as having political connections to the Russian Federation," the statement said.

The SEC complaint, filed in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, stated that Matlin founded his company in 1999 and served this former official, whose name is not disclosed in the statement, from at least 2012 through March 2022 by sourcing, arranging, and monitoring hundreds of investments worth billions of dollars. The commission also noted that Matlin and Concord had to register as investment advisers but never did it.

"As of January 2022, Concord and Matlin allegedly managed investments for their sole client with an estimated total value of $7.2 billion in 112 different private funds," the statement said.

In March 2022, the client was sanctioned by the UK and the European Union. However, the SEC alleged that a month before, in February 2022, Matlin and Concord helped him to redeem investments and sell his securities portfolio, according to the document.

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 Republicans Reveal Proposal to Balance Budget in 10 Years, Cut Spending

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - A group of US House Republican lawmakers revealed a plan on Tuesday to balance the United States' budget over the course of a decade by cutting spending and fostering economic growth.

"You can't grow out of a $33 trillion debt hole – but $16 trillion in order to balance – you can't just grow out of it. But you need to be able to grow faster than your spending, you've got to grow faster than inflation plus population. This budget does that," US House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington said during a press conference.

The legislation establishes a budget for fiscal year 2024 and sets forth budgetary levels for fiscal years 2025 through 2033 in an effort to achieve a balanced budget in a decade.

The budget returns the United States to pro-growth, pro-work and pro-energy policies to reignite the country's economy, Arrington said. The budget keeps 2024 discretionary funding levels at $1.47 trillion, mirroring figures from House appropriations bills, and limits spending

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

increases to 1% per year.

However, the House Republican budget proposal is unlikely to receive support in the Democrat-majority Senate and has received pushback from House Democrats on the Budget Committee.

"Democrats will fight back against these cruel cuts, we will fight back against these extreme budget ideas, and we will always fight to invest in the American people," Budget Committee Ranking Member Brendan Boyle said in a statement on the Republican budget proposal.

The proposal comes as lawmakers attempt to fund the US government before the end of the month to avoid a shutdown.

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.

Turkey Proposes Plan to Release 1Mln Tonnes of Grain After Black Sea Deal Failed - Erdogan

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that he has a new plan for the release 1 million tonnes of grain to countries in dire need after the Black Sea Initiative expired.

"We have a new plan, whereby another 1 million tonnes of grain will be released to the countries in dire need around the world. Our aim is to make the greatest possible contribution to world peace and prosperity in the face of the conflicts around us," Erdogan said.

The Turkish president also said the failure to implement the grain agreement and all its clauses has left the world with a new crisis at hand.

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.

France Requests UN Security Council Meeting Amid Escalation in Karabakh - Sources

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - France has requested a UN Security Council meeting following an escalation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan launched a military operation on the border with Armenia, two sources at the UNSC told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said that Baku had launched "local-level anti-terrorist activities" in Nagorno-Karabakh aimed at restoring the constitutional order. It added that the Azerbaijani armed forces used high-precision weapons, allegedly targeting Armenian forces in the region. Yerevan described the operation as aggression and reiterated that it had no military presence in Nagorno-Karabakh.

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 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

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

Middle East Will Suffer Until Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Resolved - King of Jordan

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - The Middle East will live through continued hardships as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not resolved, Jordanian King Abdallah II said during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

"My friends, our region will continue to suffer until the world helps lift the shadow of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the central issue in the Middle East," King Abdallah II said.

Building a regional security and development architecture that does not include a solution to the conflict, will make it hard to resolve the conflict, he said.

Without a clear path for Palestine's future, converging toward a political solution is impossible, he said.

King Abdallah II noted that five million Palestinians live "under occupation," deprived of human rights, freedom of movement and without a say in their own lives.

"Every UN resolution since the beginning of this conflict recognizes the equal rights of the Palestinian people to a future of peace, dignity, and hope," he said.

Securing peace, dignity and hope is at the core of the two-state solution and the path to lasting peace, he added.

The king raised the issue of the world not being able to maintain trust in global justice in light of the fact that 2023 was the deadliest year for Palestine in the past 15 years, complete with the continual confiscation and destruction of Palestinian property.

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.

Jordan's Ability to Host Syrian Refugees, Deliver Services 'Surpassed Limits' - King

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Jordan's ability to host Syrian refugees and provide them with the services they need is running short and will not be able to accommodate more, King Abdullah II said on Tuesday as he addressed the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

"Today, Jordan's capacity to deliver necessary services to refugees have surpassed our limits. Syrian refugees' future is in their country, not in host countries. But until they are able to return, we must all do right by them. And the fact is, refugees are far from returning. On the contrary, more Syrians are likely to leave their country as the crisis persists, and Jordan will not have the ability nor the resources to host and care for more," the King said.

King Abdullah II said refugees make up one-third of Jordan's population of 11 million.

A political solution to the Syrian crisis in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 proposed by Jordan must be reached, the King said, adding that Amman's approach set a detailed roadmap for the progressive resolution of the situation and its consequences.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 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.

Pentagon Sees No Deterrence Value in Changing US Policy on Taiwan - Senior Official

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - Changing the United States' policy of strategic ambiguity toward Taiwan would not offer additional deterrence against a Chinese invasion of the island, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner said in a congressional testimony on Tuesday.

"We see the PRC [People's Republic of China] anticipating the US response to an invasion of Taiwan; they train against it, they assume it's going to happen. And therefore we don't think there would be additional deterrence value in changing our position away from strategic ambiguity," Ratner told the US House Armed Services Committee.

Ratner warned that the Taiwanese people would bear a "political cost" in case the United States does change its position.

Ratner's comments came in response to statements by some lawmakers that there is a need for a more explicit US defense of Taiwan in the face of increased Chinese pressure.

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.

Top US General Says Ukraine Has No Intention 'Whatsoever' to Stop Fighting During Winter

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said that Ukrainians have no intention "whatsoever" to stop fighting during the winter as Kiev's summer counteroffensive has not brought desired results.

"In the conversations I've had, there's no intention whatsoever by the Ukrainians to stop fighting during the winter," Milley said during a press conference following the 15th meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. "They have the strategic initiative right now, and they intend to continue to do that until the end state is achieved."

On Sunday, Milley gave a grim forecast on Ukraine's counteroffensive, saying that it will not result in the complete return of all lost territories.

Ukraine launched its latest counteroffensive in early June. Three months later, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Ukrainian counteroffensive had failed, with Ukraine suffering over 71,000 casualties. Several Western officials have also admitted that the Ukrainian counteroffensive has not been successful.

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 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

US Envoy Kerry Says Climate Dialogue Important With Every Country, Including Russia

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - US Special Presidential Envoy John Kerry told Sputnik it is important to have dialogue on climate with every country, including Russia.
"It's important with every country," Kerry said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, when asked if it is important to have dialogue with Russia on climate.
Kerry, however, said he does not have any immediate meetings scheduled with Russia, including during the UNGA's high-level week.
"Not that I know of, I don't think we've heard from them," Kerry said, referring to the Russian delegation.

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.

UPDATE - US Concerned About Delays in Contracting for Arms Committed to Taiwan - State Dept.

(Updates with details in para 5)
WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is concerned about delays in contracting for weapons committed to Taiwan, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick said during a congressional hearing on Tuesday.
"The delays that we have seen in contracting are of concern...we will need to improve contracting times to be able to address any delays in the process," Resnick told the House Armed Services Committee.
The Biden administration has been working with the US defense industry to ramp up their production of weapons committed to Taiwan, Resnick said.
Resnick added that the US defense industry is looking for predictability.
US Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner added that the predominance of existential delays are tied to industrial base production challenges, many which could be solved by investing more in production lines to increase speed and capacity.
Earlier this month, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner said the United States is finding creative ways to support Taiwan's defense amid its backlog in foreign military sales to the self-governed island.
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 is work underway on Capitol Hill to build appropriations upon that authority too, Ratner 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 Gov't Shutdown Would Delay Foreign Military Sales to Taiwan, Others - State Dept.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - A US government shutdown would delay foreign military sales to US partners, including Taiwan, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick said during a congressional hearing on Tuesday.

Congress must pass a continuing resolution, appropriations bills or an omnibus package before the end of the month in order to avoid a federal government shutdown on October 1.

"With respect to our defense industry in the context of a shutdown...in the past the Bureau of Political Military Affairs has been unable to process new licenses for any partner, including Taiwan, has been unable to process new foreign military sales for any partner including Taiwan, except in the context of an emergency. This is something we would like to avoid," Resnick said.

Resnick said the State Department has not issued guidance yet on dealing with a potential government shutdown.

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.

Colombian President Suggests UN Hold Peace Conferences on Ukraine, Palestine

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - Colombian President Gustavo Petro in his UN General Assembly address proposed that the UN host peace conferences on Ukraine and Palestine as soon as possible.

"I propose to you ending the war, so that we have time to save ourselves. I propose to you that the UN host as soon as possible two peace conferences. One on Ukraine. The other on Palestine," Petro said on Tuesday.

The president said his focus on peace conferences for Ukraine and Palestine does not mean they are the only conflicts worth of attention, but it would be a way of showing others how to accomplish peace.

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 Concerned About Delays in Contracting for Arms Committed to Taiwan - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is concerned about delays in contracting for weapons committed to Taiwan, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick said during a congressional hearing on Tuesday.

"The delays that we have seen in contracting are of concern...we will need to improve contracting times to be able to address any delays in the process," Resnick told the House Armed Services Committee.

The Biden administration has been working with the US defense industry to ramp up their production of weapons committed to Taiwan, Resnick said.

Resnick added that the US defense industry is looking for predictability.

Earlier this month, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

said the United States is finding creative ways to support Taiwan's defense amid its backlog in foreign military sales to the self-governed island.

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 is work underway on Capitol Hill to build appropriations upon that authority too, Ratner 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.

'Vested Interests' Urging Violence Can Not Derail US-India Partnership - Envoy to US

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - A small minority urging violence against India in the United States reflects only "selfish and vested interests" and cannot succeed in derailing the broad and growing relationship between Delhi and Washington, Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu said on Tuesday.

"[Calls to commit violence only came from] a very small minority of elements instigated by selfish and vested interests who tried to aggregate violence or propagate separatism or legitimize terrorism against India in the United States," Sandhu told an audience at the Hudson Institute. "Violence or the threats of violence by such actors cannot be condoned."

Sandhu was speaking after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday accused the government of India of ordering the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh community leader in British Columbia in June. India has called the accusation "absurd."

However, Sandhu did not specifically refer to the Sikh community or to Trudeau's actions.

"I am confident these vested interests with hardly any credibility or support base cannot detract progress in the bilateral partnership which is rooted in the development and prosperity of the people," he said.

Sandhu added that the United States and India were at "a watershed moment" in the development of their bilateral partnership.

9/19/2023 11:38:59 AM -04:00

Austin Says Asked Allies to Check Stockpiles for More Artillery Shells for Ukraine

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Tuesday that during a meeting with counterparts from allied countries at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, he challenged them to check stockpiles of 155mm artillery ammunition, air defense systems, and interceptors and send those to Ukraine to prepare it for the upcoming winter.

"Today, I challenged my fellow ministers to once again look into their stockpiles of 155-millimeter ammunition, and key air defense systems and interceptors to ensure that we are all giving everything that we can to prepare Ukraine for the upcoming winter," Austin said during a press conference.

Ukraine is almost fully reliant on the supply of artillery shells by Western allies and partners as it uses about 6,000 rounds daily which is 4,000 less than what Kiev would like to fire on a daily

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

basis, according to Ukrainian MP Oleksandra Ustinova cited by CNN.

CEO of Rheinmetall Armin Papperfer believes that Ukraine requires at least 1.5 million artillery shells per year to approach Russia's consumption level of between 20,000-60,000 shells per day, according to a report by CNN.

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.

Brazilian President Says Worlds Sustainability, Prosperity Are Impossible Without Peace

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) – Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Tuesday as he addressed the UN General Assembly's 78th session that for the world to achieve successful sustainability and prosperity there must be peace.

"Mr. President there will be no sustainability or prosperity without peace. Armed conflicts are an offense to human rationality. We know the horrors and suffering produced by all wars. Promoting a culture of peace is a duty for all of us," Lula said.

The President said that building peace will not be an easy task as it will take vigilance and persistence, stressing that the old unsolved disputes as well as new threats who are now gaining force, are disturbing.

Lula added that the ongoing armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine has also exposed the UN Security Council's (UNSC) faulting ability at enforcing the Charter of the United Nations.

"We do not underestimate the difficulties in achieving peace," he said, adding that no long-lasting solution will be possible unless it is based on dialogue.

Moreover, Lula noted that the use of unilateral sanctions in addition to not achieving their designated purposes, cause harm to civilian populations and complicates conflict mediation processes.

The Brazilian leader said the international community must chose between supporting expanded conflicts, increasing inequalities and the erosion of the so-called "rule of law" or to seek the renewal of multilateral institutions dedicate to promoting peace.

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 Believes Taiwan Military Capabilities Must Increase to Match China Threat - Resnick

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - Taiwan's military capabilities must increase to match the threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) prompted by Beijing's increased pressure on the island, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick said in a congressional testimony on Tuesday.

"While our policy toward the PRC has not changed, PRC pressure against Taiwan has increased and therefore, Taiwan's capabilities must also increase to match the threat," Resnick told the US House Armed Services Committee.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Resnick reiterated that the US national defense strategy has identified China as a posing a "pacing challenge" to the United States.

While the United States has taken multiple actions to boost Taiwan's defense capabilities, Resnick said that there was still "more work to do."

Such work, however, would involve expanding US industrial capacity; providing Taiwan with additional security assistance and authorities; and reiterating the United States' support for democracy.

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 Expects to Deliver Harpoon Missiles to Taiwan in Coming Years - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is working with the US defense industry to expedite the delivery of Harpoon missiles to Taiwan in the coming years, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security Mira Resnick said during a congressional hearing on Tuesday.

"The harpoons are expected to be delivered in the coming years," Resnick told the House Armed Services Committee. "We have worked with industry to be able to expedite that, they are next in the production line."

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 Exercise in Armenia to Conclude on Sep 20 as Scheduled Amid Clashes – Army Spokesman

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) – The US-partnered training exercise in Armenia is not affected by renewed clashes in Karabakh after Azerbaijan launched its military operation there and will conclude as scheduled on Wednesday, US Army Europe and Africa spokesman Terry Welch told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"Our partnered training exercise in Armenia, which met its objectives to build new relationships at the tactical level and increase interoperability for peacekeeping operations, will conclude tomorrow as scheduled," Welch 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.

US Does Not Assess Any Risk to Its Soldiers in Armenia Amid Clashes - Army Spokesman

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The US military personnel taking part in the training exercise in Armenia are not at risk amid the escalation of the situation in Nagorno Karabakh after Azerbaijan launched a military operation in the region, US Army Europe and Africa spokesperson Terry Welch told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"We are aware of reports that Azerbaijan is conducting operations near the border of Armenia. We do not assess there to be any risk to our soldiers at this time," Welch 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.

McCarthy Says US House Will Vote on Legislation to Fund Government on Thursday

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that lawmakers will hold a vote on Thursday on legislation to temporarily fund the federal government and avoid a shutdown.

On Monday, House Freedom Caucus Chair Scott Perry said the group of Republican lawmakers negotiated a framework with McCarthy and other party members to fund the government.

"Yeah," McCarthy said during a press conference, when asked whether he is committed to holding a vote on the negotiated bill on Thursday. "The number one thing to do is try to get 218 [votes] for it, and sometimes you have a vote, it helps you to be able to get there."

On Monday, the House Rules Committee advanced a rule for consideration of the bill, dubbed the Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act. The legislation would extend US government funding through October 31 to give lawmakers more time to pass regular appropriations bills, as well as enhance border security by resuming construction of a border wall.

However, the measure still faces opposition from some Republican members, including Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene. Gaetz said he will oppose any measure except single-subject spending bills with open amendments and spending caps.

Congress has until the end of the month to pass appropriations bills, a stopgap measure or an omnibus to avoid a government shutdown.

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 Russia Alone Stands in Way of Peace in Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that Russia is the only obstacle to a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict as he addressed the UN General Assembly's 78th session

"Russia alone bears responsibility for this war. Russia alone has the power to end this war

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

immediately, and it's Russia alone that stands in the way of peace, because Russia's price for peace is Ukraine's capitulation, Ukraine territory and Ukraine's children," Biden said.
The US, its allies and partners will continue to stand with Kiev as long as Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom are threatened by Russia, he 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.

McCarthy Says Will Meet With Zelenskyy on Thursday, Ask About Accountability of US Aid

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said on Tuesday that he will meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later this week as part of a bipartisan meeting and will question him about accountability of US-provided aid.
"There is on Thursday," McCarthy said during a press conference, when asked whether there would be a bipartisan meeting with Zelenskyy. "I have questions for him: where's the accountability on the money we already spent, what is the plan for victory? I think that's what the American public wants to know."
Zelenskyy is visiting the United States to attend the UN General Assembly High Level Week in New York and will also meet with Biden and congressional leaders in Washington. Zelenskyy will then head to Toronto to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, according to Canadian media.
The Ukrainian president visit comes as Congress considers spending legislation to try and avert a government shutdown before the end of the month. Some Republican lawmakers have expressed opposition to including any new funding for Ukraine in the legislation.
The Biden administration has approximately $5.75 billion remaining in available funding for Ukraine as of August 29, according to the Defense Department.

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 Imposes Iran-Related Sanctions, Targets Entities in China, Russia - Treasury Department

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States imposed sanctions on people and entities in Iran, Russia and China for allegedly assisting the Islamic Republic's drone and military aircraft production, the Treasury Department said on Tuesday.
"Today, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned seven individuals and four entities based in Iran, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, and Türkiye in connection with Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and military aircraft development," the Treasury Department said in a press release.
The entities targeted include Iran's HESA and its alias company Shahin Co, China-based Shenzhen Jiasibo Technology Co. and Russia-based Delta-Aero Technical Service Center LLC,

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Joint Stock Company Scientific Production Enterprise Aerosila and Joint Stock Company Star.

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 at UNGA Says US Will Continue to Push for Expanding UNSC

UNITED NATIONS, September 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is determined to continue pushing for expanding the UN Security Council to have more voices and perspectives at the table, President Joe Biden said during his speech to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.
"Last year, I announced the United States will support expanding the Security Council, increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members … The United States has undertaken a series of consultations with many member states. We will continue to do our part to push more reform efforts forward," Biden said.
The world needs to be able to "break the gridlock that too often stymies progress and blocks consensus in the council," the US president said.
"We need more voices, more perspectives at the table," he 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.

Austin Says Urged Allies to Dig Deep, Donate Air Defense, Munitions to Ukraine

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Tuesday that he urged allies at the Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting to dig deep and donate air defense and munitions to Kiev.
"At today's meeting, I urged allies and partners to dig deep and donate whatever air defense munitions they can, as Ukraine heads into another winter of war," Austin told reporters after the meeting.

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 in UNGA Speech Will Pledge Continued Support to Ukraine – White House

WASHINGTON, September 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly will pledge continued support for Ukraine from the United States and its allies, according to excerpts of his speech released by the White House on Tuesday.
"That is why the United States together with our Allies and partners around the world will continue to stand with the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their sovereignty and

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM

territorial integrity – and their freedom," Biden will say.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 09/20/2023 11:59:15 AM