Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

10/6/23 Friday

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.

EU Allowing Spying on Journalists Part of 'Normalized' Digital Surveillance

Earlier this week, the European Parliament rejected an attempt to ban governments from spying on journalists, but instead claimed it had passed what amounted to a "de facto ban" on spyware. The new clause includes language they say protects the confidentiality of journalistic sources. Rights groups denounced the decision, saying such safeguards can never be adequate because of a long history of abusing people's rights.

"It is going to be hard now to change this. Getting a full ban on spyware is basically dead now," said Chloé Berthélémy, a senior policy adviser at European Digital Rights. "The European parliament missed a unique opportunity to protect journalists against abusive state surveillance using nefarious spying tools. Recent scandals in France involving the surveillance and prosecution of several investigative journalists are a foretaste of future abuses across the EU."

The EP's decision comes two years after it was revealed that dozens of governments around the globe, including several in Europe, were using the Pegasus spyware to monitor the phones of journalists, activists, and politicians both in their own countries and in others. Pegasus is designed by the NSO Group, an Israeli company connected to the Mossad, Israel's foreign espionage agency.

Sputnik spoke with Nebojsa Malic, a Serbian-American journalist who is a senior writer at RT, about the EP's decision and the growing trend of "normalizing" electronic eavesdropping.

Asked if he knew if he'd been spied on as an anti-war journalist, Malic told Radio Sputnik's The Final Countdown on Thursday, "I would be shocked if I haven't been."

"I mean, I have family in the Balkans and I too could hear clicks on the phones when I would communicate with them over the years."

"It shouldn't be normal. It's become normalized," he said. "People are like, 'oh, well, of course you're going to be spied on,' but there's no reason we should accept this. Just because something is an observable reality doesn't mean it should be - sort of an inverse of what I usually say when discussing politics, 'just because you wish something is so doesn't mean it is.'"

"The EU has really been pushing hard for censorship and surveillance for the past two years - openly. I mean, let's remember that they're the ones who banned RT specifically, and Sputnik as well, off of YouTube and that YouTube decided to make that ban worldwide. They just outright banned it, censored it, they said, 'we're just going to censor this because we say so,'" Malic explained.

"Americans tend to not understand this because, okay, the First Amendment says free speech is near-absolute, and yet there's been this creeping notion of, 'well, you know, yes, but hate speech, and what about things that we dislike,' and it's just one of those 'no, it really should be absolute', that people don't understand here anymore. But the leap from that to the European governments having the right to ban whatever speech they dislike is just beyond most people on

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

this continent because they're just not used to it. Whereas in Europe, censorship has been a feature, not a bug, for centuries."

The amendment that was voted down would have removed a passage from the European Media Freedom Act that permits EU governments to surveil journalists.

"So notice how it is framed," Malic told the hosts. "They're saying that spying on everybody is fine, but the people who proposed the amendment, they're like, 'well, surely you don't want to spy on journalists?' And so you're you're basically carving out a special protected class of journalists, which I'm sure that the European commissars in charge of this stuff would adore, because they would then get to decide who is a legitimate journalist."

"And so this is one of those things that's - you know, the Soviet Constitution was the most perfect in the world on paper - in actual application, not so much. Europeans have all these laws supposedly protecting freedom of expression and freedom of the press - in practice, however, it's: if the government doesn't like you, they will censor you, they will arrest you, they will make up accusations like with Julian Assange and keep you in effectively in an oubliette for years while you're being slowly strangled by legal proceedings."

"Now, this particular moment, this is why I was skeptical of it to begin with, because [they say] 'well, blanket surveillance is fine - the type of stuff that Snowden exposed ten years ago - blanket surveillance is fine, but surely we don't want to do it to a specially protected journalist class that we wish to designate,' and that somehow didn't go through. Color me shocked."

Malic noted that while it's true that accredited journalists are already afforded special protections and privileges, such as at crime scenes and on battlefields, but pointed out that under US law, anybody can be a "citizen journalist" but not be afforded such protections.

"I'm sure there's plenty of people in this country who would like to have a special dispensation for the New York Times, or the Washington Post, or any sort of regime-friendly outlet, and zero protections for an independent blogger trying to document what's going on on the ground. But that's the kind of two-tier system that this kind of legislation would produce. You would effectively have protections for state media - or corporate media close to the state and serving the state - and anybody who's trying to criticize the state would have a barrier to entry. It's kind of like, as I mentioned, a feature not not a bug, that you basically had to have printing licenses, back in the old days of the after the printing press, which is invented because because rulers wanted to control the dissemination of information and you'd have to have a publishing license and it was essentially gatekeeping to make sure that only those who whose message the government approves would be allowed to disseminate it. And you'd think that, you know, in modern liberal democracies we were beyond that. But no, we were regressing to this kind of feudalism instead."

Still, at the end of the day, there's almost no such thing as being totally private in today's modern technological world where people use social media and browse the internet, Malic noted.

"Honestly, at the end of the day, three men can keep a secret if two of them are dead," he quipped. "There is no true security of information. Anything you say, as the Miranda rights litany goes, can and will be used against you. And I think, unfortunately, it would behoove us all to go about our lives, remembering that. Yes, there are technological platforms that claim to offer privacy, which everybody really should just go in with the assumption that, you know, this is merely friction as opposed to an obstacle, and that if the government or somebody else close to the circuits of power wants to get that information, they will be able to do so."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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.

Hunter Biden Claims Immunity, Seeks Dismissal of Federal Gun Charges

The case stems from three federal crimes related to Biden's 2018 purchase of a handgun, made at a time when he was barred from gun ownership due to a drug addiction.

Hunter Biden, the businessman son of US President Joe Biden, has pleaded not guilty to federal gun charges, telling the judge he would seek their dismissal due to an earlier plea agreement.

The charges allege Biden lied to the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) by claiming he had no addiction, when he was actually struggling with a cocaine habit. Biden faces a maximum of 25 years in prison if convicted on all three charges.

According to a Thursday filing in a Delaware US District Court, Biden's lawyers argued that a July plea deal or "diversion agreement that both parties signed remains in force, and he will seek to dismiss the indictment against him pursuant to the immunity provisions of that agreement."

Officials further argue that special counsel David Weiss was only "permitted to bring" one charge against Biden: the misdemeanor tax charges that have already been dismissed as a consequence of the collapse of the plea deal.

"If the special counsel no longer wishes to pursue that charge, it has the right to do that," Biden's lawyers wrote.

According to that deal, Biden would have pleaded guilty to two tax misdemeanors and entered a diversion program on the gun charge, in which he would have performed community service and accepted other limitations, such as a curfew, for a duration of time. It would also have given him broad immunity from further charges.

After two years of probation, the deal would have expunged Biden's record.

However, Weiss argued in another filing on Wednesday that the "proposed diversion agreement" hadn't been signed by a court official, so "it did not enter into effect."

Pre-trial motions are set for November 3, although it's unclear when Biden's next court appearance will be booked.

The trial has begun amid a congressional impeachment investigation focused in part on the relationship between President Biden and Hunter Biden's business life and suspicions about unethical behavior. No charges have been recommended in the probe thus 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.

Amazon Launches First Prototype Satellites for Project Kuiper Internet Service

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

In a bid to compete with SpaceX's Starlink, Amazon has prepared its own constellation of thousands of internet satellites for low Earth orbit.

The first of Amazon's Project Kuiper satellites, KuiperSat-1 and KuiperSat-2, were put into space atop an Atlas V rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Friday. They are to be the first of some 3,200 satellites that Amazon has already obtained US government permission to launch over the next decade.

In a blog post, the company said it hopes to use the satellites to "add real-world data from space to years of data collected from lab and field testing" as it prepares the rest of the Kuiper constellation for launch.

"We've done extensive testing here in our lab and have a high degree of confidence in our satellite design. But there's no substitute for on-orbit testing," Rajeev Badyal, Kuiper's vice president of technology, said in the release. "This is Amazon's first time putting satellites into space, and we're going to learn an incredible amount regardless of how the mission unfolds."

Amazon says the antennae on the Kuiper satellites can yield download speeds of up to 400 megabytes per second in field testing, although much of the so-called "protoflights" by KuiperSats 1 and 2 will focus on proving they can connect from space.

Amazon has plans to sink some $10 billion into the project, including paying out $7.4 billion to ULA, Arianespace, and Blue Origin - the lattermost of which is also owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos - over the next five years to launch those satellites. The massive set of deals reportedly spans 77 launches, with options for more.

The satellite internet constellation will be a direct competitor with Starlink, a service offered by SpaceX, which is owned by one of Bezos' rivals for world's richest man: Elon Musk. Starlink has a hefty head start, with some 5,000 satellites already in orbit and a bevy of contracts with the US government and others. Recently, SpaceX won a contract to supply the Pentagon with military versions of the Starlink satellites.

However, there are numerous other rivals on the massive internet satellite constellation front, including OneWeb and Telesat, and a planned program by the Chinese National Space Administration.

In recent years, such projects have ballooned the number of man-made satellites in orbit, creating concerns about space debris, collisions, vulnerability in warfare, and "sky pollution" from the visibility of the objects in the night sky.

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.

Hubble Discovery of New Fast Blue Optical Transient 'Poses More Questions Than it Answers'

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

The recent discovery of a Luminous Fast Blue Optical Transients (LFBOT) far from where the mysterious events have so far been located has left astronomers with more questions than answers.

On April 10, the Zwicky Transient Facility at Palomar Observatory in California detected an LFBOT designated AT2023fhn but nicknamed “The Finch,” following an eclectic naming pattern scientists have adopted for the confusing phenomena.

LFBOTs are kind of like supernovas or gamma ray bursts, but they’re much brighter than supernovae and they shine in bright blue light and also emit a lot of radio waves, ultraviolet rays, and x-rays, but not much else. They also only last for a few days, whereas supernovae typically last for weeks or months.

The first one was detected in 2018 and nicknamed “The Cow,” and only a handful have been seen since, each being given whimsical animal nicknames.

During the brief time The Finch stuck around, it was also observed by the Gemini South telescope in Chile, the Very Large Array radio telescope, and the Hubble Space Telescope and Chandra X-ray Observatory in Earth orbit.

Gemini was able to tell through spectral analysis that The Finch was about 20,000 degrees Celsius, well short of a supernova or even of a massive star but much hotter than our sun, for example. The light’s red-shift showed it occurred about 3 billion light-years away, which is why the Hubble’s massive eye was called on to check it out.

Until this point, LFBOTs had been associated with galaxies, but what Hubble found was astounding: The Finch was in intergalactic space, about 50,000 light-years from one large galaxy and 15,000 light-years from another smaller one.

Ashley Chrimes, a research fellow at the European Space Agency, is the lead author of a new paper describing the mystery, which was accepted for publication in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society journal and released on the preprint server arXiv.

"The more we learn about LFBOTs, the more they surprise us," Chrimes said in a statement. "We've shown that LFBOTs can occur a long way from the center of the nearest galaxy, and the location of the Finch is not what we expect for any kind of supernova."

“The discovery poses many more questions than it answers,” Chrimes added. “More work is needed to figure out which of the many possible explanations is the right one.”

Some theories floated in the news release are that LFBOTs could be the result of stars being torn apart by intermediate-mass black holes, or could be the result of a collision between two neutron stars in which one of them was a magnetar.

Officials noted the James Webb Space Telescope (JSWT), another space-based observatory with a far more powerful lens than the Hubble, could be used to look at The Finch’s location with much greater scrutiny. The scientists stated that JWST might find it occurred in a globular cluster in the outer halo of one of the nearby galaxies, which is the most likely place to find intermediate-mass black holes, too.

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.

Death Toll in Afghanistan Earthquake Reaches 120, Over 1,000 Injured

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

At least 120 were killed and more than 1,000 were injured as a result of an earthquake in western Afghanistan, AFP reported on Saturday, citing a local official. Earlier reports indicated that at least 14 people were killed and 78 were injured in the 6.4-magnitude quake.

At least 120 people are dead and another 1,000 people are injured following a 6.4-magnitude earthquake in the western city of Herat---near the Iranian border---at around 11:00 local time (06:30 GMT).

Four villages in the Zenda Jan district encountered the greatest severity of the earthquake, said Mohammad Abdullah Jan, the disaster authority spokesperson. The earthquake also produced three strong aftershocks in magnitudes of 6.3, 5.9, and 5.5, according to the United States Geological Survey.

At least 465 houses were destroyed and another 135 were damaged during the earthquake according to an earlier report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, but the new total could be greater.

"Partners and local authorities anticipate the number of casualties to increase as search and rescue efforts continue amid reports that some people may be trapped under collapsed buildings," the office added.

Victims of the earthquake became trapped underneath the rubble, according to a British news source. One video on social media showed a team of residents pulling a child's lifeless body from the rubble. A deceased man's body appeared to have been shielding her when the earthquake struck. The child was passed to one man, reported to be her father, who held the child's body and cried out.

"We were in our offices and suddenly the building started shaking. Wall plaster started to fall down and the walls got cracks, some walls and parts of the building collapsed." Herat resident and eyewitness Bashir Ahmad told news agency AFP.

"I am not able to contact my family, network connections are disconnected. I am too worried and scared, it was horrifying," he added.

"The situation was very horrible, I have never experienced such a thing," student Idrees Arsala, who was the last to evacuate his classroom during the earthquake, told AFP.

The World Health Organization in Afghanistan reportedly dispatched 12 ambulances to Zenda Jan in hopes of taking victims to hospitals.

“As deaths & casualties from the earthquake continue to be reported, teams are in hospitals assisting treatment of wounded & assessing additional needs,” the U.N. agency said on X (formerly known as Twitter). “WHO-supported ambulances are transporting those affected, most of them women and children.”

The Taliban* asked local organizations via X to assist victims in hard-hit regions with shelter, food, and transportation to hospitals.

“We ask our wealthy compatriots to give any possible cooperation and help to our afflicted brothers,” the Taliban* said on X.

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 of Maryland Listed as Hotbed for UFO Sightings

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

UFOs have fascinated Americans since the 1980s when conspiracies about a government coverup in Roswell, New Mexico, in the 1940s resurfaced in the public consciousness.
According to the National UFO Reporting Center, the US state of Maryland has returned 1,923 eyewitness reports of unidentified flying objects, called anomalous aerial phenomena, or UAPs, by the US military.
Maryland seems like it would be an unsurprising place to see strange lights in the sky. Not only does it border Washington, DC, on its northern side, but it is also home to Joint Base Andrews and the Naval Academy.
But other mid and southern Atlantic coastal states also have an unusually high number of sightings, according to data from the Defense Department's new UAP reporting portal.
In recent years, the US government has taken a more open stance on the phenomenon, admitting the objects exist and encouraging service members to come forward with accounts.
That openness was precipitated by the release of three videos of the phenomenon filmed by US Navy pilots that were unclassified by the government and confirmed authentic in 2020 after they were leaked years earlier.
Since then, several military pilots have spoken to the media about their encounters and a government whistleblower claimed the US government is in possession of multiple alien spacecraft and even recovered some bodies.
However, sightings are not limited to the United States; in fact, Japan and the Middle East have also served as hot spots for UFO sightings, according to the UAP reporting portal.
While descriptions of the objects vary, they have been noted in some videos to significantly outperform any human-made aircraft known to exist, but in other videos, they can be seen hovering or moving slowly. They have also appeared to vary in size and shape significantly.
One nearly universal characteristic is that the objects have no visible wings or exhaust plumes.
US military officials and other organizations like NASA have repeatedly said there is no evidence objects are extraterrestrial, but that hasn't stopped UFO believers from asserting the trove of videos, photos and eyewitness reports prove something is out there.

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 Moving Closer to Developing Underground Nuclear Tests Without Explosions

Scientists are one step closer to completing a project they say will help them determine the reliability of the US nuclear arsenal and help them better understand plutonium.
Scientists working on the 10-year, $1.8 billion Scorpius project say they are shipping key components needed to complete an underground test facility that will study the moments before a nuclear fission chain reaction that causes a nuclear explosion.
Currently, researchers use other materials, including tungsten, lead, copper and gold to run tests, but plutonium has unique properties that might throw off the results. In particular, plutonium has seven stages that can be created in lab settings without exotic equipment.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

“At very high pressures and temperatures its behavior may not be very well represented by surrogates,” David Funk the vice president for Enhanced Capabilities for Subcritical Experiments at the Nevada National Security Site said.

Other methods have been able to test plutonium’s “early implosion dynamic behavior” but the new facility in New Mexico will be able to test plutonium’s “late implosion dynamic behavior,” examining the moments just before a nuclear explosion would normally occur.

Once completed, the facility will be roughly 300 feet long and be buried 1,000 feet underground.

In the early years of the Atomic Age, nuclear tests were done above ground before eventually moving underground. In 1992, even underground testing of nuclear weapons was banned and the US nuclear arsenal hasn’t been tested since.

Critics argue physical testing of nuclear materials is not necessary to ensure the weapons will function. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), one of three laboratories tasked with ensuring the reliability, effectiveness and safety of the weapons, applied accelerated aging techniques to plutonium-239, the primary fissile material in nuclear warheads, and estimated they will “age gracefully” for the next 150 years. That study also assuaged concerns that helium bubbles caused by the decay of metals may affect the plutonium negatively.

However, some scientists have argued there is only so much you can determine using simulations.

“If you had a car in a garage for 30 to 50 years and one day you insert the ignition key, how confident are you that it will start?” Jon Custer, who leads the project for Sandia National Laboratories, another nuclear laboratory contracted by the US, asked. “That’s how old our nuclear deterrent is. It has been more than 30 years since we conducted an underground nuclear explosive test.”

But Jay Coghlan, of the watchdog group Nuclear Watch New Mexico, is not convinced the project is only designed to ensure the reliability of current weapons.

“All of this is about the future stockpile and future heavy modifications, if not outright new designs,” Coghlan said in 2020 when the project was at an earlier stage.

He and other critics argued then that new designs of nuclear pits (which hold nuclear warheads) have drifted too far from weapons tested before the ban that are used to validate simulations. He called this "code drift" and said changes are likely to make the weapons less effective because of that.

According to the National Nuclear Security Administration, the W87-1 warhead is being manufactured to replace the aging W78 warhead. The new nuclear pits are designed to accommodate the newer warhead.

The new facility could be completed as early as 2027.

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.

'I'm Staying': McCarthy Denies Reports He's Considering Resigning From Congress

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Following a near government shutdown, the House speaker was removed from his post after being accused of making a “secret side deal” with Democrats on Ukraine aid.
US Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) clarified on Friday that he has no intention to resign from the House of Representatives after earlier reports claimed the lawmaker was actively considering retiring from his post once a new House speaker was elected.
“No, I’m not resigning. I’m staying, so don’t worry,” McCarthy said to a small press gaggle after initial reports came out. “We’re going to keep the majority, I’m going to help the people I got here and we’re going to expand it further.”
When pressed, McCarthy said he still plans to run for reelection, adding that he spoke to both Reps. Jim Jordan (R-OH) and Steve Scalise (R-LA), two leading candidates for the speaker position.
According to the initial report, during a closed-door Republican meeting just hours after McCarthy’s removal, the former speaker told them he was “going to spend time with [his] family,” though much of what he said was being drowned out by shouting.
“I’ll do anything I can to help almost all of you,” McCarthy reportedly said at the meeting. “Don’t worry, I’ve raised a helluva lot of money in the last hour.”
McCarthy was ousted from his position on Tuesday after less than 10 months on the job, making him the first House speaker in US history to be removed from the post. The initial report claimed McCarthy plans to stick around at least until after the election for his successor is held. But while making his remarks, McCarthy was insistent he plans to stick around for much longer than that.
“Don’t read it by somebody else. I would tell you,” McCarthy told reporters.
He wouldn’t commit to endorsing a successor, only saying he would let them “go work.” He was asked about former President Donald Trump’s endorsement of Jordan. “Only members vote,” he replied. “I think members sit down and can make their decision.”
Though his name has been floated as a possibility, McCarthy previously insisted he has no intentions to seek the leadership role again.

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: Trump Told Australian Billionaire About Nuclear Submarine Capabilities

The FBI reportedly interviewed the billionaire as part of the investigation into Donald Trump's mishandling of classified documents after leaving the White House. In August 2022, the FBI raided Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate and seized more than 300 documents with classified markings.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Sources who spoke with US media have revealed that former US President Donald Trump gave details on the capabilities of US nuclear-powered submarines to an Australian billionaire who was a member of his Mar-a-Lago club.

That billionaire then allegedly shared the information with more than 45 people, according to the source. The individuals include a dozen current and former Australian officials, several of his own employees and a handful of journalists.

The sources are said to be people "familiar with the matter."

Anthony Pratt, who runs Pratt Industries, a US-based packing company, joined Mar-a-Lago shortly after Trump was elected president in 2016. He was reportedly interviewed by the FBI and prosecutors twice during the investigation into Trump's handling of classified documents after leaving the White House.

Pratt reportedly told investigators Trump never showed him any documents but the source says he did relay a conversation he had with the former president in April 2021.

According to the sources, Pratt says he told Trump that he believes Australia should start buying its submarines from the United States. Trump then leaned toward Pratt and told him two key details about US submarine capabilities: how many nuclear warheads they usually carry and how close they can get to Russian submarines without being detected.

It is unclear if the information Trump allegedly provided to Pratt was accurate or not, but investigators reportedly asked him not to repeat the information. The incident was reported to special counsel Jack Smith, who is heading the classified documents case, according to the source.

The indictment for the case did not mention the meeting between Pratt and Trump.

According to the source, Pratt admitted to investigators he told at least 45 people about the details Trump told him, including Australian officials who were in the process of negotiations over a potential purchase of US-made, nuclear-powered submarines. He reportedly said he relayed the information to showcase how he was advocating on Australia's behalf.

Australia did eventually purchase three Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines, though the Biden administration said they were not outfitted with nuclear warheads.

It is not clear if Trump was talking about that class of submarine or another type.

Previously, the Ohio-class submarines were the only underwater vessels in the US arsenal that carried nuclear warheads, but in 2019 Virginia-class submarines were also equipped with nuclear warheads.

A Trump spokesperson told US media that the "leak" their reporting was based on lacked "proper context and relevant information."

"President Trump did nothing wrong, has always insisted on truth and transparency, and acted in a proper manner, according to the law," the spokesperson added.

Pratt industries have not commented on the report.

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.

Another Brick in the Wall - Cartoon

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

The building of a wall along the United States' southern border has been a major political issue in the country dating back to former President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.
US President Joe Biden rekindled a fierce debate Thursday when his Department of Homeland Security announced it would move forward with the construction of 20 miles of border wall in Starr County, Texas.
"I want to address today's reporting relating to a border wall and be absolutely clear. There is no new administration policy with respect to border walls," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayokras.
The Biden administration says they're compelled to use funds allocated for the project under Trump's presidency, but claims they remain opposed to construction of a border wall on principle.
But the President is ignoring dozens of federal laws in order to continue a project that has been met with controversy since former President Trump first used executive power to kickstart the wall building in 2019. Immigration activists, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador criticized the move which is being viewed as an about-face on an issue that has spurred intense partisan debate.
The move comes amidst a surge of migration at the US-Mexico border and Democratic leaders in various cities calling for help in managing large numbers of immigrants settling in places like New York City and Chicago.
Migration from Latin America to the US has been steadily increasingsince the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1992. The economic pact abolished trade barriers between Mexico and the US, allowing US agribusiness firms to sell product in Mexico at the expense of small farmers there. Biden has announced funding to promote food security and development in Latin America, but free trade agreements with Mexico and Central American countries, where most migration to the US ultimately originates from, remain in place.

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.

'Teflon Don': Will Donald Trump Win by Waging War on American Institutions?

Observers saw shades of Trump's victorious 2016 campaign as the former president spoke to US media outside of a New York courtroom this week.
"It's a scam, it's a sham," said the former president to reporters huddled outside of a Manhattan courtroom. "It's a witch hunt and a disgrace." The tenor of his comments was familiar as he opined on the civil fraud case that saw him accused of inflating the value of his businesses by millions of dollars. But the subject of his ire was somewhat new.
A longtime critic of the United States' media and political establishments, former president Donald Trump has recently added the American judicial system to his list of targets in a campaign season that once again seems poised to position the iconoclastic businessman as an outsider candidate.
It's a role Trump is all too eager to play. He briefly waded into US politics in 2000, forming a presidential exploratory committee and promising to challenge the then-bipartisan consensus

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

around free trade, among other issues. He waged his 2016 campaign against perhaps the most well known living representative of the Washington political establishment (former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton). And he spent his turbulent four years as president constantly at odds with detractors from all sides of the political spectrum.

Now Trump can add judges and prosecutors to his long list of adversaries.

“Every time he’s in a courtroom, he’s campaigning,” said Joe Walsh, a former Republican congressman from Illinois who became a fierce critic of Trump from within his own party. “The courtroom has replaced his rallies and that’s what the next 14 months are going to look like. He’s a showman; he loves this s***. This will be his campaign and it could work.”

Trump’s civil case compounds his recent legal woes, which include 91 criminal charges from four separate indictments and another civil trial that saw the former president held liable for sexually abusing and defaming columnist E. Jean Carroll earlier this year. Then, as now, he decried the case as part of a witch hunt to derail his 2024 presidential candidacy.

The legal proceedings create an unprecedented dynamic in next year’s campaign. In any other election, with any other candidate, they might spell certain doom.

Yet Trump currently remains the overwhelming favorite to win his party’s presidential primary. Most recent polling shows him running even with Biden in the general election, if not leading him.

In 2020 Trump ran as an incumbent, forced to defend his political record and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. But recently, events have conspired to once again give him the aura of an outsider, running against a political figure who was first elected to national office in 1972.

In the context of 2024’s presidential contest, the judiciary becomes just another aspect of Trump’s audacious challenge to America’s political and social system.

Polling has long shown sharply declining trust in a broad swath of US institutions. Congress, the presidency, and the Supreme Court remain among some of the least-respected institutions in American public life, but most others fare no better.

Such wide skepticism could create the perfect environment for Donald Trump to triumphantly return to the White House. But whatever the outcome of next year’s contest, the American public may be ready for deep reform in almost every corner of society. Whether our institutions permit such change may dictate their very survival.

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.

Governor Newsom Rejects Proposal to Decriminalize Psychedelic Drugs in California

Gavin Newsom’s veto of the legislation marks a setback for campaigners in one of the country’s most socially liberal states amid falling support for drug liberalization in neighboring Oregon.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed legislation on Saturday that would have decriminalized possession of small amounts of hallucinogenic drugs in the state, claiming the issue required further research.

“California should immediately begin work to set up regulated treatment guidelines – replete with dosing information, therapeutic guidelines, rules to prevent against exploitation during guided treatments, and medical clearance of no underlying psychoses," Newsom said, explaining his rationale for the veto. “Unfortunately, this bill would decriminalize possession prior to these guidelines going into place, and I cannot sign it.”

The bill, recently passed by California’s Democratic Party-controlled state legislature, would have prevented arrest or prosecution of people possessing small amounts of dimethyltryptamine (DMT), mescaline, and psilocybin, the compound found in psychedelic mushrooms. Possession of the substances in small quantities would instead be treated as a civil violation similar to a traffic ticket.

The legislation would have opened the door for therapeutic use of hallucinogenic substances, recently approved by voters in ballot measures in Colorado and Oregon. Advocates have promoted supervised use of the substances to treat a range of mental disorders, including clinical depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

However, drug liberalization efforts have more recently seen increased opposition in neighboring Oregon’s largest city. Recent polling showed 56% of Portland residents want the city’s recently-passed drug decriminalization ordinance to be repealed.

The ballot measure decriminalized possession of small amounts of all drugs, including hard drugs like heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine. Advocates for the legislation say the drug treatment efforts mandated by the bill haven’t had the necessary time to go into effect.

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.

Melting Ice Reveals Rare Find: Horseshoe and Bridle Possibly Belonging to Viking Warriors

Warm temperatures in Norway uncovered the artifacts, including a horseshoe and bridle, under snow and ice.

“We just made an incredible discovery on the south side of the Lendbreen pass,” read a post on social media from Secrets Of The Ice, an archeology program based in Norway. “An iron horse bit, with parts of the leather bridle preserved!”

The news was posted Saturday by the archeology program based in Innlandet County. Researchers still need to conduct radiocarbon dating to be sure, but they believe the artifacts date to the Viking Age which lasted from 793 to 1066 AD. They say it’s uncommon to discover leather items because the material typically deteriorates over long periods of time.

“Inside the ice, the artifacts are in a gigantic prehistoric deep freezer,” said Lars Holger Pilø, co-director of the archeology program, explaining how the leather was preserved. “Once they melt out, the clock starts fast.”

“We have never found anything like it on our ice sites.”

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Warm temperatures in Norway have contributed to the discovery of other Viking artifacts in the area, including a shoe, a mitten, and a knife, as well horse bones and other horseshoes. A particularly warm summer this year led to the discovery for the first time of items in the Lendbreen gully, where archeologists found the bridle and horseshoe.

"The Vikings used horses for farm work and for transportation," said Holger Pilø. "Horses were an important part of Old Norse mythology, and were sometimes sacrificed and buried along with the dead. They weren't really used as cavalry – the Vikings fought on foot."

Archeologists in Norway anticipate further discoveries under mountain ice as anthropogenic climate change drives the gradual loss of glaciers in the country.

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

Afghan Earthquake Death Toll Soars to 2,445 as Scenes of Devastation Emerge

Taliban* government officials reported the growing death toll on Sunday as volunteers in the country race against time to rescue survivors.

Scenes of devastation emerged from war torn Afghanistan Sunday as volunteers urged international organizations to provide assistance in rescuing survivors.

"The tragedy is very huge, we cannot define it to you in simple words," said one volunteer from Zenda Jan, a district in Herat province in Western Afghanistan. "People are still trapped in the debris, they are alive, but we cannot reach them."

One video shared on social media showed a young girl being pulled from the rubble of a collapsed building, stunned and caked in gray dust. Her mother was found grasping the girl's hand, though it wasn't clear if she survived.

A Taliban* spokesperson told international media the earthquake measured a magnitude of 6.3 and pleaded for food, medicine and tents to house survivors. It appeared rescuers at the scene lacked professional training; volunteers called on international organizations to send trained rescue teams as Afghans buried under the wreckage tenuously cling to life.

Several aftershocks followed the quake, according to the United States Geological Survey, including magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5 tremors. Earlier estimates in the immediate aftermath of the event on Saturday had placed the death toll at over 100, but that number climbed rapidly as the country struggled to respond to the disaster.

"I am donating all of my[Cricket World Cup] match fees to help the affected people," said Afghan cricket player Rashid Khan on the X platform on Sunday. "Soon, we will be launching a fundraising campaign to call upon those who can support the people in need."

The United States occupied the landlocked Central Asian country of Afghanistan for nearly 20 years in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, although al-Qaeda** leader Osama bin Laden was eventually found hiding in neighboring Pakistan. The Taliban quickly returned to power after the US withdrew from the country; President Joe Biden seized $7 billion in assets from the country's central bank shortly thereafter.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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.

Republicans Point Fingers in Wake of Crisis in Israel as Party Feuds Over Foreign Policy

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley blamed the Biden administration for their dealmaking with Iran while other GOP contenders exchanged blows over America's role on the world stage.

Republicans' intra-party feud over American foreign policy intensified Sunday with various candidates for the party's presidential nomination exchanging views about the country's role in international affairs.

Former US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley appeared on US television to denounce the Biden Administration's diplomatic engagement with Iran, a common refrain among Republicans in the aftermath of Hamas' attack on Israel Saturday.

"I actually think it was irresponsible for Secretary Blinken to say that the $6 billion doesn't weigh in here," said Haley, referring to frozen Iranian funds the Biden administration released in exchange for five detained American citizens. "Hamas knows and Iran knows they're moving money around as we speak, because they know $6 billion is going to be released."

"You saw that when those planes full of cash sent by Obama to Iran… What happened was those funds were sent to Hezbollah in Lebanon. They were sent to Hamas in Gaza. They were sent to the Houthis in Yemen. They go and spread terrorism every time they get a dollar."

Republicans have criticized diplomatic efforts between the United States and Iran since the Obama administration, when Joe Biden served as vice president. The US has sanctioned the Middle Eastern country since the hostage crisis at the US Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

More recently, the Biden administration released frozen Iranian funds in a prisoner swap deal with the country. The deal stipulated the $6 billion could only be used for humanitarian purposes. But Republicans have pointed out the fungible nature of the assets, arguing the deal frees up resources for Iran to fund terrorist groups.

Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) echoed Haley's remarks on the X social media platform Sunday, claiming "Biden's negotiation funded the attack."

Meanwhile, former US Vice President Mike Pence joined Haley on the neoconservative wing of his party, finding fault with other Republicans' calls for foreign policy restraint.

"This is what happens when we have leading voices like Donald Trump and Vivek Ramaswamy and Ron DeSantis signaling retreat from America's role as leader of the free world," said Pence on Sunday, referring to the growing opposition towards sending funds to Ukraine within his party. "What happened this weekend was an unprovoked invasion by Hamas into Israel."

Foreign policy has emerged as a major debate for Republicans as some leaders within the US political party have called for a return to the muscular approach of the George W. Bush administration.

Former US president and 2024 contender Donald Trump became known as a critic of US foreign policy, famously calling the country's invasion of Iraq "a big, fat mistake." But the former Republican president has also advocated for improved relations with Russia and has claimed he has a "good relationship" with Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

The United States devotes more money to defense spending than the next 10 countries combined while funding more than 700 military basesaround the world.

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.

The Abusive Effects of US Politics on Young Americans

As moral panic over public schools sweeps the country, teenagers make tentative steps towards re-emerging as a political subject in the United States.

US Senator Elizabeth Warren reintroduced the Youth Voting Rights Act on Friday, a bill she promised would "ease many of the barriers young people face in voting." The draft legislation proposes a number of measures to encourage youth electoral participation, including requiring states to accept student IDs at polling places and establishing on-campus voting locations.

Amidst widespread moral panic over public education and the contentsof school libraries, the bill is a small step towards making young people political subjects rather than merely objects of parental anxieties.

"Children's oppression is the new problem that has no name," researcherMich Ciurria says.

Ciurria is one of a handful of academics who writes on youth liberation, a movement that emerged in the US in the liberal 1970s but has been mostly dormant since. She identifies a number of ways in which young people are oppressed, in a manner similar to other marginalized groups throughout history.

"Children who complain about their lot are called spoiled and ungrateful, and are often pathologized and medicated… Their alienation is stigmatized as brattiness, ingratitude, and mental illness."

"Today, children are in a similar position to women prior to women's liberation."

Psychologist Robert Epstein agrees, arguing that the "laziness" and "irresponsibility" frequently attributed to teenagers may be a response to their societal infantilization rather than inherent qualities of an "unformed teen brain."

In one study, Epstein found that "teens in the U.S. are subjected to more than 10 times as many restrictions as are mainstream adults, twice as many restrictions as active-duty U.S. Marines, and even twice as many restrictions as incarcerated felons."

In recent years, efforts have emerged that place young people at the center of activism, such as a movement against the so-called "troubled teen industry" of residential treatment programs that often subject kids to physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

And activists like Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, and David Hogg have emerged as powerful voices for social change while still teenagers. Last year, 10-year-old Caitlyne Gonzales became a reluctant but powerful advocate for gun law reform after suffering the trauma of seeing her classmates massacred in the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

In many countries throughout the world, young people have access to the ballot at age 16. Warren's bill doesn't go that far, although its mandated pre-registration of teenagers to vote may pave the way.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Warren would join US representatives Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) if she ultimately voices support to lower the voting age. In an era where "parental rights" and cries of "save the children" dominate conservative politics, it would be a welcome change for children to be granted some ability to save themselves.

"The problem with 'parental rights' is it perpetuates this idea that children are property and not autonomous human beings with their own feelings, needs and experiences," says organizer Zara Raven. "I personally prefer to talk less about parental rights and more about youth autonomy and youth liberation."

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.

'I Am Sickened': Larry Summers Lambasts Harvard Over Student Groups' Israel Statement

The former US Treasury Secretary and Harvard University president responded angrily to a joint statement of student groups at the Ivy League school, blasting his alma mater's lack of response.

Former Harvard president Larry Summers sharply criticized the university in a thread on the X platform Monday, faulting their lack of official response to a student statement holding the Israeli government "entirely responsible" for the current violence in the Middle Eastern country.

"In nearly 50 years of Harvard affiliation, I have never been as disillusioned and alienated as I am today," said Summers. "The silence from Harvard's leadership, so far, coupled with a vocal and widely reported student groups' statement blaming Israel solely, has allowed Harvard to appear at best neutral towards acts of terror against the Jewish state of Israel."

"Harvard is being defined by the morally unconscionable statement apparently coming from two dozen student groups blaming all the violence on Israel. I am sickened."

Summers, an economist who served as treasury secretary during the final years of the Clinton Administration and an advisor under President Barack Obama, was responding to a statement from more than 30 student organizations on the Harvard University campus.

The statement read, in part, "We… hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence. Today's events did not occur in a vacuum. For the last two decades, millions of Palestinians in Gaza have been forced to live in an open-air prison."

"Israeli officials promise to 'open the gates of hell,' and the massacres in Gaza have already commenced. Palestinians in Gaza have no shelters for refuge and nowhere to escape. In the coming days, Palestinians will be forced to bear the full brunt of Israel's violence."

Although polling shows a majority of people in the United States still view Israel favorably, Americans are becoming increasingly polarized on the issue by age. People over 50 in the United States are strongly favorable towards Israel, but 56% of people under 29 view the country unfavorably. Americans from age 30 to 49 are almost evenly split.

That division was on display in New York City on Sunday as dueling groups of pro- and anti-Israel protesters descended on Times Square. Activists from the Democratic Socialists of America and other progressive organizations chanted "Palestine will be free" as police separated them from pro-Israel protesters who came out in response.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Protests and vigils have been organized in response to events in Israel in cities throughout the United States and throughout the world.

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.

This Saturday, Rare 'Ring of Fire' Eclipse May Be Coming to a US City Near You

Albuquerque, New Mexico and San Antonio, Texas are among the cities in the viewing path of a rare type of solar eclipse this weekend, according to NASA.
This Saturday morning, people along a narrow band of territory stretching from Oregon to Texas will be able to witness a rare phenomenon known as a "ring of fire" solar eclipse.
The event is unique in that part of the sun will still be visible, according to a press release from NASA. As with a typical solar eclipse, viewers will see the moon briefly pass in front of the sun. But since the moon will be near its most distant point from Earth, it will appear smaller, with a shimmering circle of sunlight behind it.
It will be the first time an "annular" solar eclipse, as it's known, will be visible in the United States since 2012.
The next one isn't scheduled to be viewable from the US until 2039, although Americans will be able to see a total solar eclipse in April next year.
NASA stresses the importance of viewing the event through special glasses or via an indirect method to protect one's eyes from the light of the partially-visible sun. The space agency offers a resource on their website offering information about safe viewing methods.
The annular eclipse will also be observable in parts of Central and South America, with the viewing path passing through Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Brazil. People living in or traveling through Mexico will be able to see it from atop a Mayan temple at the Edzná archaeological site on the Yucatán Peninsula.

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.

RFK Jr Announces Independent Run for President in Challenge to US Party Establishment

The unorthodox political figure declared he is running as an independent candidate Monday morning in a speech that called for national renewal via a rejection of America's political order.
"We declare independence from the two political parties and the corrupt interests that dominate them and the entire rigged system… that have turned government officials into indentured servants for their corporate bosses."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

It's a statement that could have come from Bernie Sanders or, if not for the vaguely anti-capitalist rhetoric, perhaps Donald Trump. But in an era where figures on all sides of the ideological spectrum have found success running against establishment politics, it instead came from activist and environmental lawyer Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy has made his name in public life as a highly idiosyncratic figure. After a brief stint as an assistant district attorney in New York City, he drifted towards environmental activism. Followers of online anti-vaccine discourse may know him for his prominent activism around that issue, which critics say trends towards conspiracy theory.

On Monday, the heir to the influential Kennedy political brand cast himself as a champion of those estranged from US politics over a wide array of issues.

"Most of us agree that we should take care of our veterans," said Kennedy. "Most of us agree that we should seek peace abroad instead of war. We all agree that teachers should receive decent salaries and respect. We all agree that housing should be affordable and corporations should pay their fair share."

"And yet these universal yearnings stand alongside a broad agreement that our country has lost its way."

Kennedy seems to believe the political party of his father and uncle has lost its way as well. Since first announcing his presidential bid under the Democratic banner half a year ago, Kennedy registered as high as 20% in voter intention surveys for the party's primary.

But party figures, fearing his candidacy would weaken presumptive nominee President Joe Biden, strongly rejected him. Spurned by liberal media, Kennedy instead turned to independent online outlets, as well as Fox News.

In the process Kennedy gained a following among political conservatives, to the extent that Republicans now seem most fearful of the candidate's spoiler potential.

"We're gonna be dropping napalm after napalm on his head reminding the public of his very liberal views, dating back to 2012," said one Trump campaign operative last week. A Republican talking points memo claimed there is "very little daylight between RFK Jr and a typical Democratic politician," blasting his traditionally left-wing stances on issues like climate change, the economy, and abortion.

Kennedy does indeed voice many traditionally progressive views – such as blaming corporate America for the country's crisis in home affordability. He also unabashedly invokes some of the United States' most deeply-held cultural taboos, such as when he claimed there is "overwhelming evidence" his uncle President John F. Kennedy was killed in a Central Intelligence Agency plot.

Statements like that have caused some mainstream figures to dismiss Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as a "conspiracy theorist," but his willingness to tread where others may not could only increase his reputation as a truth teller in a time of political cynicism and deceit.

That the liberal scion of a family once considered synonymous with the Democratic Party could nonetheless build a large following among Republicans may suggest that it's not primarily ideology that divides us, but something imposed from above.

"People can disagree and still respect each other," saidKennedy on Monday. "You can be pro-choice and not think that pro-lifers are women hating zealots. You can support the second amendment and not think that gun control advocates are totalitarians who hate freedom."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

“It’s more than being independent of two existing parties. It’s also independence from tribal thinking.”

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

New Research Shows Pregnancy Can Alter The Structure of One’s Brain

Scientists once linked maternal behavior to hormones released during birth, but new research shows those changes take place during pregnancy as well.

New research conducted at the Francis Crick Institute in the United Kingdom is changing scientists’ understanding of the hormonal and emotional changes that take place during motherhood.

The study, published Thursday in the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, examined the brains of female mice. Late in pregnancy, the hormones estrogen and progesterone are released. Both hormones affect an area of the hypothalamus associated with parenting: estrogen by making neurons there more sensitive, and progesterone by constructing new synapses that facilitate activity in that region of the brain.

Scientists found the activity made the rodent mothers more caring and attentive towards their pups.

"We think that these changes, often referred to as 'baby brain', cause a change in priority,” said Jonny Kohl, the researcher who led the study. “Mothers need to perform robust parental behavior to ensure pup survival. What's fascinating is that this switch doesn't happen at birth – the brain is preparing much earlier for this big life change."

“We know that the female body changes during pregnancy to prepare for bringing up young… Our research shows that such preparations are taking place in the brain, too.”

Researchers found the changes in the brain helped alter maternal behavior as well as creating increased “plasticity” allowing mothers to more effectively learn through “trial and error.” The findings may have implications for understanding maternal mental health and treating conditions like postpartum depression.

The study adds to a growing body of research on the biological changes that take place during parenthood for both mothers and fathers. Research last year found fathers also develop increased “experience-induced brain plasticity” in the process of caring for an infant. Interestingly, caregiving fathers in regions of the world like Spain where men enjoy longer paternity leaves showed more pronounced changes to areas of the brain associated with parenting. Research has also shown that primary male caregivers in gay relationships show greater changes to these brain regions versus secondary male caregivers.

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 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

US Support for Israel May Set Off Total Middle East Upheaval - Former US Envoy

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The United States will support Israel in all actions it takes against Hamas in Gaza after the killing of over 1,000 Israelis in Saturday's incursion, but this will set off an anti-US wave across the Middle East and the wider Muslim world, former US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Chas Freeman told Sputnik.

Israel formally declared a state of war on Sunday, a day after Hamas invaded Israeli territory and committed the greatest slaughter of civilians in the 75 year history of the Jewish state. On Monday, Israel put the Gaza Strip under full blockade, with no food, gas or electricity supplies. Both Israel and Palestine have so far reported hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation.

"The United States will support Israel reflexively but this will set off a much wider anti-US reaction across the Middle East and the wider Muslim world," Freeman, who also served as assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs in the Clinton administration, said in an interview.

The crisis is unlikely to be confined to Israel and Gaza and will metastasize to other neighboring countries, Freeman warned.

"The geopolitical dangers could very well rapidly spread to Lebanon and Syria," he said.

The Israeli-US "pipedream" fostered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that relations with Saudi Arabia are going to normalize is now also "gone" for the foreseeable future, Freeman believes.

The Biden administration itself appears to have been caught off guard by the ferocious suddenness and success of Hamas' invasion, Freeman suggested.

"National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan last week made the truly idiotic claim that the Middle East region had reached a reassuring level of stability," he 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.

Families of Hamas Attacks Victims Complain About No Contacts With US, Israeli Officials

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - US citizens whose family members became victims of the Hamas attack in Israel said on Tuesday that they have had little or contact with US and Israeli officials about the whereabouts of their loved ones.

"So far, there has been little to no contact," one family member who did not provide his name told reporters.

The person said the family members gather in groups in their communities to support one another amid the uncertainty.

Nahar Neta, whose mother was taken by Hamas as a hostage, said he and his relatives had "zero communication" with Israeli officials.

"I think after more than three days, it is more than reasonable to request to have somebody from the Israeli government or the US administration approach us with any type of information that they may have on our family members," Neta said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

On Saturday, the Palestinian group Hamas launched surprise attacks on Israel, prompting Israel to declare a state of war the following day. On Monday, Israel put the Gaza strip under full blockade, cutting off food, gas and electricity supplies. Both Israel and Palestine have so far reported hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation in fighting.

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.

G-24 Urges IMF to Remain Quota-Based To Bolster Voice of Emerging Economies – Statement

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) should remain a quota-based organization which represents developing and emerging markets, a group of 24 states (G-24) said on Tuesday.

"G-24 members… reiterated their call for the IMF to remain a quota-based institution in order to bolster the voice and representation of emerging market and developing economies, who now account for a larger share of world GDP," the statement said.

The group members expressed their concerns with the progress of the IMF general quota review. They recommended further pursuit of governance reforms aimed at correcting regional underrepresentation of the fund.

G-24 stressed an urgent need to reform the current multinational system to address global challenges. The group called on the international community to reform the IMF short-term financing instruments and take other measures to increase financing for developing countries, as well as provide a durable debt resolution for them.

"Members welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's Inclusive and Effective Tax Reform agenda and called for a multilateral consensus to drive enduring progress on the initiative as it would foster a more just and balanced international tax system," the statement said.

G-24 met on the sidelines of the ongoing IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Morocco.

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.

Israeli Death Toll From War With Hamas Tops 1,000 - Embassy in US

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) – Israel's death toll from the ongoing conflict with Hamas has exceeded 1,000, the Israeli embassy in the United States said on Tuesday.

"1008+ Israelis murdered[;] 3418+ injured," the embassy wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Hamas has launched almost 5,000 rockets since Saturday, the mission 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.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Ukraine Contact Group This Week to Focus on Air Defense, Ammunition - US Envoy

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The Ukraine Defense Contact Group meeting this week will place a special emphasis on air defense and ammunition to help the country protect critical infrastructure as the conflict with Russia extends into a third winter, US Ambassador to NATO Julianne Smith said on Tuesday.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Brown will host an in-person meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group on October 11. The meeting will be followed by the NATO Defense Ministerial on October 12 at NATO headquarters.

"I anticipate that the emphasis [of the UDCG] will be mostly on air defense and ammunition. Although no doubt the Ukrainians will come in with a variety of other requests. I can't say with certainty what will come out of the actual meeting, it is always an organic meeting when ministers step forward and offer assistance in real time," Smith told a briefing.

She said it is impossible to predict exactly what types of assistance will be announced this time.

The ambassador said that air defense in particular is going to be critical during these winter months.

"We want to make sure that the Ukrainians this winter have the air defense assets they need," she said.

When asked if US support for Israel amid the war with Hamas could come at the expense of ongoing assistance for Ukraine, Smith said that the US does "not anticipate any major challenges" in this regard.

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.

IMF Expects Global Inflation to Decline to 6.9% in 2023, 5.8% in 2024 - WEO

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday that it expects global consumer price inflation to drop to 6.9% in 2023 and then expects it to fall to 5.8% next year.

"Global headline inflation is expected to steadily decline from its peak of 8.7 percent in 2022 (annual average) to 6.9 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook.

The projected inflation rates remain higher than the pre-pandemic annual average of approximately 3.5%, the IMF said.

The decrease in global inflation is driven by declining international commodity prices, as well as monetary tightening, the IMF 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.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

IMF Expects Oil Prices to Drop 16.5% in 2023, 0.7% in 2024 - World Economic Outlook

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday that it expects global oil prices to drop by 16.5% from 2022 to 2023, followed by a smaller drop of 0.7% in 2024.

"Futures markets suggest that crude oil prices will slide by 16.5 percent year over year to average $80.5 a barrel in 2023 (from $96.4 in 2022) and continue to fall in coming years, to $72.7 in 2026," the IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook.

Oil prices are expected to drop by 0.7% in 2024, according to the IMF projections.

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.

IMF Revises Ukraine's 2023 Growth Forecast to 2% - World Economic Outlook

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday improved its economic growth forecast for Ukraine in 2023 by 5 percentage points to 2%.

"The upward revision for the region for 2023 also reflects an increase of 5.0 percentage points to the forecast for Ukraine to growth of 2.0 percent," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO.

The IMF noted that the increase was caused by "stronger-than-expected" domestic demand growth. Firms and households are adapting to the situation in the country amid sharply declining inflation and stable foreign exchange markets, it 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.

IMF Raises Russia 2023 Growth Forecast by 0.7 Points to 2.2%, Expects Slowdown in 2024

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday improved its 2023 economic growth forecast for Russia by 0.7 percentage points to 2.2% but downgraded its 2024 projection to 1.1%.

"The forecast for Russia is for a rise from –2.1 percent in 2022 to 2.2 percent in 2023, with an upward revision of 0.7 percentage point for 2023," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.

The report attributed the rise in growth to a substantial fiscal stimulus, strong investment, and resilient consumption in the context of a tight labor market.

In 2024, the IMF expects the Russian economy to expand by 1.1%, 0.2 percentage points down from April's forecast.

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 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

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

IMF Lowers Growth Forecast for China by 0.2 percentage points to 5% in 2023 - WEO

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday lowered its economic growth forecast for China by 0.2 percentage points to 5% in 2023 and projected that the Chinese economy will grow by 4.2% next year, according to its latest World Economic Outlook report.

China's outlook "is revised downward by 0.2 percentage point for 2023 and by 0.3 percentage point for 2024 to growth of 5% in 2023 and 4.2% in 2024. With the property market crisis in that country, lower investment is the main contributor to the revision," the report said on Tuesday.

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

IMF Cuts Euro Area 2023 Growth Forecast by 0.2 Points to 0.7% – World Economic Outlook

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgraded its forecast for growth of the eurozone economy by 0.2 percentage points to 0.7% in 2023, according to a new World Economic Outlook (WEO) report published on Tuesday.

"Growth in the euro area is projected to fall from 3.3 percent in 2022 to 0.7 percent in 2023, before rising to 1.2 percent in 2024. The forecast is revised downward by 0.2 percentage point and 0.3 percentage point for 2023 and 2024, respectively, compared with July 2023 WEO Update projections," the report said.

The IMF also projects that the German economy will contract by 0.5% in 2023 instead of 0.3%, according to the report.

In France, the IMF predicts a growth of 1% instead of 0.8%, the report 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.

IMF Raises US Growth Forecast by 0.3 percentage points to 2.1% for 2023 – WEO

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund improved its forecast for US economic growth in 2023 by 0.3 percentage points to 2.1% and revised its 2024 forecast upward by 0.5 percentage points to 1.5%, according to a new World Economic Outlook (WEO) report published on Tuesday.

"In the United States, growth is projected at 2.1 percent in 2023 and 1.5 percent in 2024. The forecast is revised upward by 0.3 percentage point for 2023 and by 0.5 percentage point for 2024, compared with July 2023 WEO Update projections, owing to stronger business investment in the second quarter and resilient consumption growth, a reflection of a still-tight labor market," the report said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

The US unemployment rate will reach 4% by the last quarter of 2024, up from 3.6% in the second quarter of 2023 while April projections predicted 5.2%, according to the report.

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.

IMF Trims Global GDP Forecast For 2024 by 0.1 percentage point to 2.9% - WEO

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday lowered its global growth forecast for 2024 by 0.1 percentage point to 2.9% but left its projection for 2023 unchanged at 3%.

"Global growth is projected to fall from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in 2023 and 2.9 percent in 2024 on an annual average basis. There is a downward revision of 0.1 percentage point for 2024 compared with the July 2023 WEO Update projection," the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook (WEO).

The report added that about 90% of advanced economies would face lower growth this year,

"For advanced economies, the growth slowdown projected is significant — from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and 1.4 percent in 2024 — with no overall revision from the July 2023 WEO Update, amid stronger-than-expected US momentum and weaker-than-expected growth in the euro area," the IMF 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.

White House Says May Ask Congress for More Funding to Support Israel, Ukraine

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration may ask Congress to approve additional funding to better support Israel and Ukraine at the same time, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said.

"We believe both are are important, support to Ukraine needs to continue... it's a critical need, we're going to continue to make that case on Capitol Hill," Kirby said during a conference call on Monday. "If we need to go back to Capitol Hill for additional funding support for Israel, we will absolutely do that."

Earlier on Monday, US Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said the US military will need additional support from Congress to be able to provide security assistance to Ukraine and Israel at the same time.

Wormouth expressed hope that they will soon get the backing needed from Congress.

On Sunday, the United States announced it was providing Israel with security assistance that will begin arriving in the coming days.

US lawmakers also hope to immediately approve legislation to provide further security assistance to Israel, including to replenish its Iron Dome air defense system, but there is concern the lack of a House of Representative speaker may delay that process. The House of

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Representatives cannot engage in normal business until a new House speaker is elected.

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 Has Seen No Hard Evidence Iran Involved in Hamas Attacks on Israel - White House

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The United States has seen no hard evidence indicating that Iran was involved in the Hamas attacks on Israel over the weekend, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said during a conference call.

"We haven't seen hard, tangible evidence that Iran was directly involved in participating in or resourcing, planning, these sorts of complex attacks that Hamas pulled off over the weekend," Kirby said on Monday.

The US government cannot corroborate the reporting in the Wall Street Journal alleging Iran had a role in the Hamas attacks against Israel, but it is something they are looking into at the moment, Kirby said.

Israeli officials have also publicly stated that they cannot point to specific Iranian involvement in the Hamas attacks on Israel over the weekend, Kirby added.

On Sunday, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing high-ranking sources in the Hamas and Hezbollah movements, that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had allegedly assisted Hamas since August in the planning of the attacks against Israel and that Tran has green-lighted Hamas' actions at a meeting in Beirut on October 2.

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, European Allies Pledge to Support Israel's Efforts to Defend Itself - Joint Statement

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The leaders of the United States, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement in which they pledged to support Israel in its efforts to defend itself amid the escalation in Gaza.

"Today, we - President Macron of France, Chancellor Scholz of Germany, Prime Minister Meloni of Italy, Prime Minister Sunak of the United Kingdom and President Biden of the United States - express our steadfast and united support to the state of Israel and our unequivocal condemnation of Hamas and its appalling acts of terrorism," the joint statement said on Monday. "Our countries will support Israel in its efforts to defend itself."

Over the coming days, the coalition will coordinate together to ensure Israel is able to defend itself and to ultimately set the conditions for a peaceful and integrated Middle East region, the joint statement said.

The coalition also warned that any party hostile to Israel to avoid getting involved in the conflict, the joint statement added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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.

White House Says too Early to Tell Impact Hamas Attacks Will Have on Israel-Saudi Talks

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said it is too early too tell what the impact the Israeli-Palestinian escalation in Gaza will have on the ongoing Israel-Saudi talks to normalize relations.

"Too soon to say we've hit the brakes on this... I wouldn't go so far as to say we've given up on it or we don't have any interest in pursuing it," Kirby said on Monday.

The United States still believes that normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia is not only good for the people of those two nations but for the American people and for everybody else in the Middle East, and there is every intention to continue to encourage a process where normalization can occur, Kirby said.

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

UNRWA Fears Situation in Gaza to Get on Verge of Humanitarian Catastrophe

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is worried that the conflict in the Middle East will worsen and may bring the situation in the Gaza strip to a humanitarian catastrophe, UNRWA Director of Communications told Sputnik Juliette Touma told Sputnik.

"The humanitarian needs in Gaza, way before all of this started on October 7, were already very, very bad," Touma said. "Now with more people fleeing their homes and with the intensifying violence, we're fearing that the humanitarian needs, that the crisis will get far worse and that we are going to be on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza."

Touma noted that levels of poverty in Gaza are at above 60%, while unemployment rates among young people is one of the highest in the world.

"The dependency on food, for example, one point million people get food assistance from the UN, From UNRWA, the agency I work with, a lot of people go to our schools," she said. "In general, we had a very bad humanitarian crisis in Gaza due to the blockades, due to the several rounds of conflict. So the humanitarian needs have already been bad."

Earlier on Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a complete blockade of the Gaza strip, including a blockade of food, gas and electricity supplies.

Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz said that he had ordered an immediate stop to water supplies to the Palestinian enclave.

On Saturday, Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attacks against Israel from the Gaza strip. prompting Israel to declare a state of war. The Israeli and Palestine authorities have reported hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation in fighting.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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 Has No Intention to Send US Troops on Ground Amid Israel-Palestine Escalation - Kirby

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The United States has no intention to deploy US troops on the ground as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said during a conference call.
"There's no intention to put US boots on the ground," Kirby said on Monday.

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.

UNRWA Says 140,000 People Fled Homes Amid Escalation in Fighting, Shelters at 90% Capacity

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - About 140,000 people have left their homes amid the escalation of violence in the Middle East and shelters are at 90% capacity, UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Director of Communications Juliette Touma told Sputnik.
"Right now in our shelters - about 80 of them, or more than 80 of them. In fact, there are nearly 140,000 people taking shelter in our schools," Touma said. "These are UNRWA UN schools and we are at 90% capacity of our shelters. And so these are people who have fled their homes."
On Saturday, Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attacks against Israel from the Gaza strip, prompting Israel to declare a state of war. The Israeli and Palestinian authorities have reported hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation in fighting.

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

US Will Announce More Aid for Israel in Coming Days - White House

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The United States will announce additional assistance for Israel in the coming days, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said during a conference call.
"We will have more assistance to announce over the coming days to ensure that no enemies of Israel believe that they can or should try to seek advantage from the current situation," Kirby said on Monday.

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 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

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

Tightening of Gaza Blockade Will Make Already Very Bad Situation 'Far Worse' - UNRWA

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - The tightening of the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip by Israel will make the already bad humanitarian situation there much worse, UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Director of Communications Juliette Touma told Sputnik.

"Gaza has been under a severe blockade for the past 16 years with high levels of poverty, with dependence on UN agencies, including UNRWA, which is the UN agency for Palestine refugees," Touma said. "So, any tightening of the blockade is going to make things that are very, very bad, far, far worse, including for civilians, among them many women and children."

Earlier on Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a complete blockade of the Gaza strip, including of food, gas and electricity supplies. Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz said he had ordered an immediate stoppage of the water supply to the Palestinian enclave.

Touma pointed out that during the 16-year blockade of Gaza, Palestinians living there could not leave.

"It is very, very hard for them to go in and out. They need permits that they're given only for humanitarian reasons and very few just to go to work," Touma added

On Saturday, Hamas launched surprise large-scale attacks against Israel from the Gaza strip, prompting Israel to invoke Article 40 of its Basic Law for the country to enter a state of war. The Israeli and Palestinian authorities have so far reported hundreds of dead and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation in fighting.

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 Federal Agencies Monitoring For Any Domestic Threats Linked to Hamas Attacks

WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - US federal agencies are currently monitoring for any potential domestic threats to the US mainland in connection to the Hamas attacks in Israel, President Joe Biden said.

"The Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal law enforcement partners are closely monitoring for any domestic threats in connection with the horrific terrorist attacks in Israel," Biden said in a press release on Monday.

Earlier in the day, former US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy expressed concern about some 151 illegal immigrants encountered on the southern border with Mexico this year who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list.

In light of the Hamas attacks in Israel, McCarthy said there may be other illegal immigrants on the FBI terrorist watchlist who avoided arrest on the US-Mexico border and who may potentially plan to harm the United States.

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to requests from Sputnik for comment on this matter.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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.

At Least 11 Americans Killed in Hamas Attacks in Israel - Biden

(Updates with details in paras 3-5)
WASHINGTON, October 10 (Sputnik) - At least 11 US citizens have been killed in the recent attacks by Hamas in Israel, US President Joe Biden said in a press release.
"We now know that at least 11 American citizens were among those killed, many of whom made a second home in Israel," Biden said in the release on Monday.
Numerous other US citizens are still missing after the initial Hamas attacks and the US government is working with Israeli officials to obtain more information on their whereabouts, Biden said.
The US president pointed out that he believes it is likely the missing citizens may be among those being held hostage by Hamas.
Biden also said he directed his team to work with their Israeli counterparts on the hostage situation, including sharing intelligence and deploying experts from across the US government to consult and advise on the hostage recovery efforts.
The State Department is providing consular assistance as well as updated security alerts to US citizens who are currently in Israel, Biden said.Commercial flights and ground options are still available for Americans who want to leave the area, 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 Urges Israel to Avoid Civilian Casualties in War Against Hamas - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States urges Israel to avoid civilian casualties in the war against Hamas, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.
“We are always urging our Israeli partners, as we do any partner, to avoid civilian casualties,” the official told reporters.
The official emphasized that avoiding civilian casualties is something that Hamas absolutely did not do during its attacks in Israel in the past three days.
On Saturday, Hamas launched surprise large-scale attacks on Israel and the latter responded with aerial bombardments and fighting the Palestinian organization in numerous towns, resulting in the death of hundreds of people, including of many civilians. In addition, Israel announced a complete water, electricity and food blockade of the Gaza strip.
The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that at least 900 Israelis have been killed in the latest Israeli-Palestinian war.

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 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

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

US 'Deeply Concerned' by Hezbollah Opening Second Front in Middle East - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States is very concerned that Hezbollah has chosen to open a second front in the Middle East and is working to contain the conflict in Israel to the territory of the Gaza strip, a US Defense Department official said on Monday.

"We are deeply concerned about Hezbollah making the wrong decision and choosing to open a second front to this conflict. We are working with Israel and with our partners across the region to contain this to Gaza," the official told reporters.

Hezbollah and other groups should not question the US government's commitment to support the defense of Israel, the official said.

Earlier on Monday, Hezbollah said it has been shelling the Israeli military facilities after the three of its fighters were killed.

Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attack on Israel on Israel and the latter responded by aerial bombardments of Gaza and by fighting in various towns, resulting in the death of hundreds of people, including civilians.

Israel declared a state of war with Hamas and on Monday announced a complete water, electricity and food blockade of the Gaza strip.

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 Carrier Strike Group Will Reach Eastern Mediterranean 'Very Soon' - Defense Official

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The US aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford strike group deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean in response to the Hamas attacks on Israel will arrive in the region very soon, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.

"On the arrival of the Ford strike group, the short answer is very soon, but I don't want to talk specifics on this call," the official said during a conference call.

On Sunday, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced that the United States is deploying the Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean to bolster US regional deterrence efforts in response to the Hamas attacks on Israel.

The strike group includes the US Navy aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford, the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser Normandy and the Arleigh-Burke class guided missile destroyers Thomas Hudner, Ramage, Carney and Roosevelt.

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.

At Least 11 Americans Killed in Hamas Attacks in Israel - Biden

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - At least 11 US citizens have been killed in the recent attacks by Hamas in Israel, US President Joe Biden said on Monday.
"We now know that at least 11 American citizens were among those killed, many of whom made a second home in Israel," Biden said in a press release.

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 Capable of Supporting Ukraine, Israel as Well as Maintaining Own Readiness - Official

(Updates with more details, background in paras 3-6)
WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States is capable of providing support to Ukraine and Israel while at the same time maintaining its own military readiness, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.
"We are able to continue our support both to Ukraine, Israel, and maintain our own global readiness," the official said during a conference call.
The United States will continue to provide a significant amount of support to Ukraine while carefully ensuring it can also respond to other crises and contingencies, the official added.
According to the official, the United States is "confident" its weapon stockpiles around the world are enough to maintain US military readiness and support allies in need.
However, earlier on Monday, US Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said the US military will need additional support from Congress to be able to provide security assistance to Ukraine and Israel at the same time.
The Biden administration announced on Sunday that it was providing Israel with security assistance that would begin arriving in the coming days.

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 Has No Information to Back Report of Iran's Role in Hamas Attacks - Defense Official

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States has no information at this time to support a recent Wall Street Journal report linking Iran's alleged link to the Hamas attacks on Israel, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.
"Iran has provided support for years to Hamas and Hezbollah, but we have no information corroborating the specifics of the Wall Street Journal story at this time," the official said during a conference call.
On Sunday, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing high-ranking sources in the Hamas and Hezbollah movements, that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had allegedly assisted Hamas since August in the planning of the attacks against Israel and that they had allegedly been given a green light by Tehran to initiate the attacks during a meeting in Beirut on

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

October 2.

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 Capable of Supporting Ukraine, Israel as Well as Maintaining Own Readiness - Official

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States is capable of providing support to Ukraine and Israel while at the same time maintaining its own military readiness, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.
"We are able to continue our support both to Ukraine, Israel, and maintain our own global readiness," the official said during a conference call.

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 Surging Military Support to Israel, Including Air Defense Systems - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States is surging military support to Israel, including munitions and air defense systems, a senior Defense Department official said on Monday.
"We are surging support to Israel, that includes air defense and munitions," the official told reporters.
The Biden administration is contacting the defense industry to gain expedited shipment of pending Israeli orders for military equipment, the official 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.

Hamas-Israel War to Weaken Ukraine's Drive for More Arms, Money - Ex-UK Envoy to Syria

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The outbreak of war between Hamas and Israel will divert the world's attention from the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and seriously weaken support for equipping Kiev with more arms from the collective West, former United Kingdom Ambassador to Syria and Middle East expert Peter Ford said on Monday.
"Ukraine will be impacted in several ways," Ford said. "The world does not have the bandwidth of attention to focus on two wars and it is the limping Ukraine war which will lose out."
The ambassador said the new conflict in the Middle East, coming on top of the ongoing war in Ukraine, will also cause global food and energy prices to soar, seriously threatening the stability of the global economy.
"War jitters causing spikes in commodity prices aggravating existing economic problems in the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

world economy will reduce capacity and appetite for funding Ukraine's insatiable appetite for arms," Ford said.

US and European Union strong support for Israel will be offset by the developing world sympathy for the Palestinians and this will generate further serious political and strategic divisions across the world, Ford said.

"The emerging polarization of world opinion over Gaza will accentuate NATO's isolation," Ford added.

Earlier on Monday, US Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth said the US military will need additional support from Congress to be able to provide security assistance to Ukraine and Israel at the same time.

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 - Biden, Steinmeier Celebrate Shared History, Values on German-American Day - White House

(Adds detail from readout of meeting, background in last two paras)

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - The presidents of Germany and the United States honored German-American Day, marking a history of camaraderie and mutual respect between the two nations, the White House announced.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. welcomed President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany to the White House on October 6, 2023, to mark the occasion of German-American Day. The presidents underscored the strong ties between our countries and our people, including the over 40 million Americans who claim German heritage and strengthen the diverse fabric of the United States," the White House said in a statement on Friday.

Since 1683, German-Americans have shaped US history, fighting in the Revolutionary War, engaging in debates during the Continental Congress and being the first to print the Declaration of Independence, the statement said.

Generations later, Americans aided Europe, dismantling the Nazi regime there and enabling German prosperity via the Marshall Plan as well as assisting in the fall of the Berlin Wall, the statement said.

In addition, German-Americans continue to enhance US societal and cultural values, the statement also said.

"Building on our shared history, common values and work together as NATO allies, our partnership is essential to our efforts to address global challenges, from climate change and food insecurity to the defense of human rights and democracy," the statement added.

The alliance and mutual support between Germany and the United States have been crucial in managing global crises and supporting international allies, such as Ukraine, according to the statement.

The White House in a readout of their bilateral meeting later in the day said the two leaders discussed their ongoing efforts to provide Ukraine with security, economic, and humanitarian assistance.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Biden has struggled to get new funding for Ukraine through Congress. And in the wake of the ouster of Kevin McCarthy as House speaker, his administration reportedly lacks a strategy going forward. The White House is no longer pursuing the $24 billion for Ukraine aid included as part of a supplemental funding request, The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

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.

Ford Furloughs 495 More Amid UAW Strike's Ripple Effects - Spokesperson

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - Ford Motor furloughed an additional 495 employees at various plants due to the ongoing United Auto Workers (UAW) strike, spokesperson Dan Barbossa told Sputnik.

"Our production system is highly interconnected, which means the UAW's targeted strike strategy has knock-on effects for facilities that are not directly targeted for a work stoppage. In this case, the strike at Chicago Assembly Plant has directly impacted some operations at Cleveland Engine Plant, Lima Engine Plant and Sterling Axle Plant," Barbossa said on Friday.

Barbossa said approximately 495 employees, including 372 from the Cleveland Engine Plant, 94 from the Lima Engine Plant and 25 from the Sterling Axle Plant, have been directed not to report to work.

However, the layoffs are not a result of lockouts but are repercussions of the strike occurring at the Chicago Assembly Plant, as these trio of facilities have been compelled to diminish the production of components typically sent to the Chicago Assembly Plant. Consequently, Ford's overall total swells to an estimated 1,800 employees affected by layoffs correlated with the strike.

Almost 19,000 US auto workers at various Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis facilities are striking due to unsuccessful wage negotiation attempts, with the UAW seeking a 46% pay raise and a 32-hour work week, among other terms.

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.

Saudis Willing to Increase Oil Output as Part of Effort to Finalize Israel Deal - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - Saudi Arabia is willing to increase oil production as part of an effort to finalize a deal to normalize relations with Israel, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing US and Saudi officials.

The report said on Friday that Saudi Arabia would increase oil production early next year if crude oil prices are too high, but does not represent a long-term agreement to cut prices.

A Saudi decision to increase oil production would aim to win over the US Congress as Riyadh seeks a defense pact with Washington in exchange for normalizing relations with Israel, the report said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

A defense pact may need congressional approval, the report also said.
Saudi Arabia wants billions of dollars in US weapon sales and help creating a civil nuclear program, the report added.
The United States hopes to broker a Saudi-Israel deal within the next six months, according to the report.

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, Steinmeier Celebrate Shared History, Values on German-American Day - White House

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - The presidents of Germany and the United States honored German-American Day, marking a history of camaraderie and mutual respect between the two nations, the White House announced.
"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. welcomed President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany to the White House on October 6, 2023, to mark the occasion of German-American Day. The presidents underscored the strong ties between our countries and our people, including the over 40 million Americans who claim German heritage and strengthen the diverse fabric of the United States," the White House said in a statement on Friday.
Since 1683, German-Americans have shaped US history, fighting in the Revolutionary War, engaging in debates during the Continental Congress and being the first to print the Declaration of Independence, the statement said.
Generations later, Americans aided Europe, dismantling the Nazi regime there and enabling German prosperity via the Marshall Plan as well as assisting in the fall of the Berlin Wall, the statement said.
In addition, German-Americans continue to enhance US societal and cultural values, the statement also said.
"Building on our shared history, common values and work together as NATO allies, our partnership is essential to our efforts to address global challenges, from climate change and food insecurity to the defense of human rights and democracy," the statement added.
The alliance and mutual support between Germany and the United States have been crucial in managing global crises and supporting international allies, such as Ukraine, 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.

US Expelled Russian Diplomats With No Explanation, 'Banally Taking Revenge' - Antonov

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - Two Russian diplomats are being expelled from the United States without any explanation as the State Department is simply taking revenge with another confrontational act, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said in a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

statement.

A source from the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday confirmed to Sputnik that the United States had decided to expel two Russian diplomats and called the decision "unfounded."

"I can confirm that a few days ago the US authorities made this latest confrontational attack and declared 'persona non grata' two diplomats of the Russian Embassy in Washington," Antonov said. "However, the following fact is surprising: when presenting the note on the expulsion, colleagues at the State Department assured us for some reason that they did not intend to advertise this story and share details with the press."

The US administration, he added, wanted to show that the recent expulsion of American diplomats from Russia for "subversive activities has not gone unanswered."

"It is noteworthy that when I asked during a meeting at the State Department to explain what exactly our colleagues were accused of, the interlocutors were unable to provide any arguments unless one counts the reference to the fact that, they say, the authorities of the host country are not obliged to explain anything. Thus, in fact, we are dealing with banal revenge, which does not honor American diplomacy," Antonov 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.

Former US House Speaker McCarthy Says Will Keep Seat, Consider Reelection Bid

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Kevin McCarthy said during remarks at the Capitol that he intends to remain in office for the remainder of his term and may seek reelection, following information that the former speaker may resign after getting ousted from the leadership role in the House of Representatives.

“I’m not resigning. I’ve got a lot more work to do,” McCarthy said on Friday.

McCarthy also said that he will stay his entire term and is considering running for reelection.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives vacated McCarthy as speaker in a historic first. House lawmakers must now select a new speaker before resuming normal legislative business.

Congressmen Jim Jordan and Steve Scalise are among the leading contenders for the vacant position.

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.

Trump's Legal Issues Likely to Complicate Him Being House Speaker - Expert

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) - Legal issues US President Donald Trump is currently facing are likely to complicate his potential election and serving as House Speaker to replace the ousted Kevin McCarthy, international consultant Earl Rasmussen told Sputnik.

Earlier this week, the US House of Representatives, for the first time in its history, ousted the speaker. House Republicans are expected to narrow down their choice next week as to who will

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

lead the party in the lower chamber. On Thursday, Trump said he was asked to serve as interim speaker until the Republicans find a permanent replacement for McCarthy.

"His current, albeit highly questionable, legal issues may complicate him actually being the Speaker," Rasmussen, former Vice President of the Eurasia Institute, said. "I think it would be better for him to avoid the congressional quagmire and rather focus on resolving the court challenges and campaigning for president."

Earlier Friday, Trump endorsed House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan as the next Speaker. Jordan and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise are among the top candidates.

Rasmussen said the situation should have never occurred, pointing out that a small group of "radical Republicans" initiated the entire process because McCarthy tried to push legislation to avoid a government shutdown.

"While several points of the rebel group are valid, their actions led our country to the edge of the cliff. Speaker McCarthy, as Speaker, is responsible for the House to ensure necessary legislation is passed and if necessary to seek compromise in order to ensure the functioning of our government," Rasmussen said.

He pointed out that McCarthy proposed a "good compromise" by withholding further US funding to Ukraine from the legislation.

When asked about possible consequences of McCarthy's ouster, Rasmussen projected that it may lead to further division in the Congress. Moreover, this may concern not only Republicans but also Democrats, he added.

"Unfortunately, we will likely see a continued dysfunctional Congress, and this in the midst of critical budget decisions and increasing tensions around the world," he said.

McCarthy was ousted from his speakership on Tuesday after he relied on Democratic votes to get a short-term spending deal passed to avert a government shutdown. The move to oust McCarthy was led by Congressman Matt Gaetz, who had accused McCarthy of making a "secret side deal" with President Joe Biden.

Trump is facing numerous charges over allegations of meddling in the 2020 election and unauthorized retention of classified materials, 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.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, October 7 (Sputnik) -

US-RUSSIA DIPLOMATIC ROW

* The United States declared two Russian diplomats persona non grata in a reciprocal move after Moscow expelled two US diplomats in September, the US State Department told Sputnik on Friday.

* A source from the Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed to Sputnik that the United States had decided to expel two Russian diplomats and called the decision “unfounded.”

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* Russia has requested a UN Security Council meeting on October 13 regarding the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Friday.
* Russia does not strike civilian targets, but only military infrastructure facilities, places where military personnel and representatives of the military leadership gather, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, commenting on allegations that civilians were killed in the village of Hroza as a result of Russia's attack.
* Ukraine and its Western allies have requested a meeting of the UN Security Council with regard to the missile strike on the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region, Polyanskiy said.
* The naval aviation of Russia's Black Sea Fleet destroyed two watercraft and 13 Ukrainian saboteurs in the Black Sea during an attempt to land on the coast of Crimea, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.
* Russian air defense systems have destroyed and suppressed as many as 320 Ukrainian drones using electronic warfare means from September 29 to October 6, the Russian Ministry of Defense said.

UZBEKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS

* Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that he will participate in the ceremony of launching of Russian gas supplies to Uzbekistan via Kazakhstan on Saturday together with his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
* Russia and Uzbekistan will continue developing interaction in the defense field and military cooperation, according to a joint statement adopted after the meeting between Putin and Mirziyoyev.
* Russian Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov and his Uzbek counterpart, Jurabek Mirzamakhmudov, signed an agreement on expanding cooperation in the field of oil supplies.
* Relations between Russia and Uzbekistan have reached a new level, and there is progress in all areas, Mirziyoyev said.
* Relations between Russia and Uzbekistan are developing very successfully and they are of allied nature, Putin said.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

* Russia is not discussing withdrawal of its peacekeepers from Karabakh with Azerbaijan or Armenia, a diplomatic source told Sputnik on Friday.
* The UN International Court of Justice announced that will hear the case concerning Armenia's lawsuit against Azerbaijan on racial discrimination due to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh on October 12.

RUSSIAN CITIZEN DETAINED IN CYPRUS

* The Russian Foreign Ministry has summoned Cypriot Ambassador to Moscow Kypros Giorgallis in connection with the forceful detention of a Rossiyskaya Gazeta journalist on the island, a source familiar with the situation told Sputnik on Friday.
* The Russian Foreign Ministry lodged a strong protest to the ambassador of Cyprus in Moscow, Kypros Giorgallis, in connection with the forceful detention of a Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

journalist and a provocation against an employee of the Russian embassy.

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.

Former House Speaker McCarthy Confirms He Is Not Resigning From Congress - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy said he will not resign from Congress, NBC affiliate KGET News reported on Friday.

According to the report, McCarthy said he will finish his current term as a Congressman and run for re-election.

Earlier this week, the US House of Representatives, for the first time in its history, ousted McCarthy as speaker. House Republicans are expected to narrow down their choice next week as to who will lead the party in the lower chamber.

Republican Congressman Jim Jordan and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise are among the top candidates to be the next speaker.

Earlier in the day, President Joe Biden said he will try to work with whoever is the next House speaker, but clarified that some potential candidates will be easier to work with than others without specifying who he meant.

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.

Oil Rebounds From 2-Day Rout, Still Suffers Worst Week Since March

NEW YORK, October 6 (Sputnik) - Crude prices rose for the first time in three days on Friday but still finished with their worst week since March, underscored by a rally in the dollar which dented international demand for commodities priced in the US currency, including oil.

New York-traded West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for delivery in November settled up 48 cents, or 0.6%, at $82.79 per barrel. That was a rebound from the 8% slump of the past two sessions, although the US crude benchmark hit a new five-week low of $81.53 during the day.

London-traded Brent for the most-active December contract settled up 54 cents, or 0.6%, at $84.58, returning to the positive after also seeing a drop of some 8% between Wednesday and Thursday. Like WTI, the global crude benchmark made a fresh five-week low during the session, falling to $83.50.

For the week, WTI finished down 9% while Brent lost 11%. It was the worst week since March for both.

Crude prices rose as risk appetite returned to Wall Street on Friday, with the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq indexes all posting gains on the day, despite the US Labor Department reporting 336,000 new non-farm payrolls for September. That was the highest jobs growth for a month since January's 517,000, and was way above the 187,000 seen in August and the average 170,000 forecast for last month by Wall Street economists.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

"This is a problem as it validates the recent move up in Treasury yields," economist Adam Button wrote on the ForexLive forum. Following the release of the jobs number, money market traders assigned a 30% probability of the Federal Reserve hiking rates by a quarter point in November, double the odds they gave a week ago.

The Fed has repeatedly pointed to an overheated labor market and wage growth, aside from soaring energy prices, as reasons for inflation remaining well above 3% per year versus its target for 2%.

The central bank has hiked interest rates 11 times between March 2022 and July 2023, adding 5.25 percentage points to a prior base rate of just 0.25%, to contend with inflation which reached 40-year highs of above 9% in June 2022.

Before this week's tumble in oil prices, crude hit one-year highs of more than $97 a barrel for Brent and above $95 for WTI.

While oil moved higher with stocks on Friday, the dollar and Treasury yields saw limited gains, probably on profit-taking by currency and bond traders who had front-run the jobs numbers.

The US Dollar Index, which pits the greenback against six other currencies, hovered at 106.2, up on the day, but off from the 11-month high of 107.35 earlier this week. Yields, benchmarked against the US ten-year Treasury note, hit a 16-year high of 4.89.

Despite Friday's rebound, some were not convinced that the selloff in oil was over, particularly if the dollar and yields started ramping again on talk of a Fed rate hike after the blow out number for non-farm payrolls in September.

"Crude prices are trying to find a floor now that the macro backdrop shows the US economic resilience is not going away," analyst Ed Moya said. "Oil's major correction is almost over but this last surge in the dollar post-NFP could see WTI crude eye the $80 level."

Sunil Kumar Dixit, commodities chartist at SKCharting.com, had a similar view, saying if WTI did not continue finding buyers next week, it could drop to between $81 and $77 per barrel.

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.

Trump Denies Revealing Secret Data on US Nuclear Subs to Australian Billionaire

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump on Friday refuted claims that he had allegedly shared sensitive information about the country's nuclear submarines with an Australian billionaire businessman who was a member of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club.

"The ridiculous story put out today about me talking to a Mar-a-Lago member about U.S. Submarines, is false and ridiculous," the former president said on his media platform, Truth Social.

Trump blamed the allegations on "corrupt prosecutors trying to interfere" with the 2024 Presidential election, and affirmed his support for the US Military.

"I will always promote the Greatness of America—and its Military Equipment. The alternative would be for Allies, and others, to buy from Russia, China, or elsewhere. I like creating jobs in America, which was one of my most successful achievements as President," he added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

The statement comes just after it was reported by ABC that Trump had allegedly shared sensitive information about the US's nuclear submarines with billionaire Anthony Pratt, who reportedly told Federal prosecutors that he had raised the topic of US submarines in conversation with Trump at Mar-a-Lago in 2021. Pratt allegedly told prosecutors that this is when Trump disclosed top secret information, including the exact number of nuclear warheads carried by US submarines and how close they can approach Russian submarines without detection.

Trump currently faces four indictments at the state and federal level that include charges for mishandling classified information. Trump has maintained his innocence throughout the investigations, however, and characterizes the charges as election interference.

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.

Iowa Police Contradict Ramaswamy's Claims of Being Targeted by Protestors in Car Crash

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Iowa police on Friday rejected claims by Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy that protestors had intentionally targeted and damaged his presidential campaign vehicle in Grinnell.

"Our investigation has revealed no evidence to substantiate that information," the Grinnell Police Department said in a release.

The police department added that the accident, in which a local woman accidentally backed into Ramaswamy's vehicle while leaving a parking spot, did not appear to have been planned ahead of time or nefarious in nature.

Ramaswamy's campaign, however, suggested that Thursday's crash was caused by protestors angry over the candidate's recent comments about ceasing aid to Ukraine.

According to the release, the driver, a 22-year-old local woman, did not know Ramaswamy, did not attempt to flee the scene, and was not in the area to protest.

There was no footage of the accident, and Ramaswamy's campaign has said that he did not witness the crash.

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.

UAW Inches Towards Agreement with GM - President

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - The United Auto Workers (UAW) President Shawn Fain, on Friday, confirmed pivotal progress in talks with General Motors (GM), successfully averting a potential walkout at GM's plant in Arlington, Texas.

"We were about to shut down GM's largest money maker in Arlington, Texas. The company knew those members were ready to walk immediately... GM has now agreed in writing to place their electric battery manufacturing under our national master agreement," Fain said during a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

bargaining update.

Furthermore, President Fain acknowledged the current advancements but warned of the possibility of intensified strike actions targeting all truck plants, emphasizing the union members' willingness to apply impactful pressure on the major three automotive manufacturers if they do not continue making progress.

"We're not going to wait around forever. We're not here to start a fight, we're here to finish one and to are counterparts the Big Three, we'll see you at the bargaining table. Tomorrow we're going to join our striking union family out in Chicago for a stand up rally. Today we [UAW] made GM say yes when they'd rather say no. Next up is Ford and Stellantis," Fain added.

Approximately 19,000 American automotive employees across Ford, GM, and Stellantis are engaging in strikes following unsuccessful negotiations. The UAW has been advocating strongly for a 46% salary increase and a 32-hour working week, among other demands, in these stalled discussions.

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 Weighing Resignation After Being Ousted as House Speaker - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Kevin McCarthy is considering resigning before the end of his term after the House of Representatives ousted the lawmaker as speaker, Politico reported on Friday.

McCarthy is weighing whether to resign from his seat in Congress before the end of his term, the report said, citing two people familiar with the matter.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives ousted McCarthy as speaker in a historic first, leaving the lower chamber of Congress leaderless.

McCarthy plans to stay in his seat at least through speaker elections, which are set to begin next week, the report said. House lawmakers are unable to conduct normal legislative business, such as passing appropriations bills, until they select a new speaker.

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 Considers Three-Way Swap With Poland, Ukraine to Bolster Their Air Defense - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is considering a three-way swap in which Poland receives the US Iron Dome air defense system while Warsaw sends some of the country's air defense systems to Ukraine, Politico reported on Friday citing US Sen. Chris Van Hollen.

According to the report, Van Hollen discussed the plan in a closed-door briefing with Pentagon officials on Wednesday.

Poland received Patriot missile defenses from the United States last year.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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 Indicts Ex-Officer for Trying to Share Sensitive Information With China - Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - The United States has indicted a former US military officer for attempting to provide sensitive information to China, the Justice Department announced on Friday.

"A former US Army sergeant whose last duty post was Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in western Washington was arrested today on an indictment charging him with two federal felonies: attempt to deliver national defense information and retention of national defense information," the Justice Department said in a statement.

Joseph Daniel Schmidt, 29, will appear in the US District Court for the Northern District of California later on Friday and will then be brought to the Western District of Washington for further court proceedings, the statement said.

Court records reveal that Schmidt had access to secret and top-secret documents during his military service from January 2015 to January 2020.

"After his separation from the military, Schmidt allegedly reached out to the Chinese Consulate in Turkey and later, the Chinese security services via email offering information about national defense information," the statement said. "Schmidt remained in China, primarily Hong Kong, until this week when he scheduled to fly to San Francisco. He was arrested at the airport."

If found guilty, Schmidt may face a sentence of up to ten years in prison and a $250,000 fine, the statement 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.

Biden Hails Iranian Activist Narges Mohammadi for Winning Nobel Peace Prize

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden in a statement on Friday congratulated Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi on winning the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize and urged Tehran to release her from prison.

"I join with people around the world in congratulating Narges Mohammadi on being awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize and in celebrating her unshakable courage," Biden said.

Despite her being held unjustly in the Evin prison, the world still hears "the clarion voice" of Mohammadi calling for freedom and equality, Biden said.

"I urge the government in Iran to immediately release her and her fellow gender equality advocates from captivity," Biden added.

Earlier on Friday, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that it had decided to award the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize to Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Mohammadi is a human rights activist who campaigned for prisoners' rights and the abolition of the death penalty in Iran. The Iranian authorities first arrested her in 1998 for criticizing the government, according to the organization Front Line Defenders.

In May 2016, a Tehran court sentenced Mohammadi to 16 years in prison for her activism working on human rights. Mohammadi was released in October 2020 and was re-arrested a year later.

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 Speaks With Turkish Counterpart After Drone Incident in Syria - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a telephone call with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan, following a drone incident between the two countries, said the United States and Turkey need to coordinate and deconflict their activities.

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke today with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan," the State Department said in a press release. "The Secretary and the Foreign Minister underscored that the United States and Turkiye share a common objective of defeating terrorist threats. Regardless of where the threats are based—in Syria, Iraq, or elsewhere—they undermine the security of the United States, Turkiye, and our Allies.

Blinken highlighted that there is a need for Turkey and the United States to coordinate and deconflict their activities, according to the release.

Earlier this week, a US F-16 fighter jet shot down an armed Turkish drone in northeast Syria that was operating near US armed forces and Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces.

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.

Saudi Arabia Advocates for Nuclear-Free Zones in Middle East - Minister

UNITED NATIONS, October 6 (Sputnik) - Saudi Arabia advocates for establishing zones free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and believes that goal is achievable, Saudi Arabian Minister Plenipotentiary Majdi Moharran said on Friday.

"My country [Saudi Arabia] believes that the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction is a step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons is not difficult to achieve," Moharran said during a meeting of the United Nations First Committee.

The Saudi minister pointed out that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review conferences have consistently emphasized the need for Israel to join the accord and subject its nuclear facilities to a comprehensive safeguards system to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.

"Saudi Arabia calls for states to commit to these safeguards agreements signed with the IAEA

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

[International Atomic Energy Agency]," Moharran said.
If such states want to show there are no unannounced nuclear programs, they must address all pending issues in this regard, Moharran 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.

UN Chief Stresses Importance of Test Ban Treaty to Enter Into Force - UN Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, October 6 (Sputnik) - The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres emphasized the need for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to enter into force and called on all states to ratify the treaty, the UN Spokesperon Farhan Haq said on Friday.
"All I can say about that is the Secretary General has consistently stressed the need for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty," Haq told a briefing. "He strongly urges all states that have not ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to do so without reservations or conditions, especially those whose ratification is required for the treaty's entry into force."
In the meantime, the UN Chief urges all nuclear weapon states to public really reaffirm their moratoriums against nuclear testing and their commitment to the CTBT, he added.
During the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club on Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Moscow could mirror Washington's stance, withdrawing the ratification of the treaty from the lower house of the parliament.
Russian parliamentary speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said on Friday that the lower house will consider withdrawing the ratification of the document at its earliest session as a mirror response to the United States.

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.

Virgin Galactic Completes Fourth Commercial Spaceflight on Friday

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Virgin Galactic on Friday completed its fourth commercial spaceflight from the US state of New Mexico, the company said in a statement.
"The Galactic4 mission will mark our ... fourth commercial spaceflight," the company said.
Friday's launch marked the company's ninth overall spaceflight and its fifth for 2023.
The space vehicle launched at 12:23 p.m. EDT on Friday over Spaceport America in southern New Mexico and returned to base at 12:43 p.m. EDT.

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 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

UNSC to Discuss Hroza Strike on Monday at Request of Ukraine, West - Russian Mission

UNITED NATIONS, October 6 (Sputnik) - Ukraine and its Western allies have requested a meeting of the UN Security Council with regard to the missile strike on the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Friday.

"The Ukrainians and the Westerners who support them requested a meeting in connection with the missile attack on the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region. It is scheduled for 10:00 New York time [14:00 GMT] on Monday, October 9," Polyanskiy wrote on Telegram.

On Thursday, Ukraine accused Russia of killing dozens of people in an alleged missile strike on a cafe and a shop in the village of Hroza.

In response to the allegations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that Russia does not strike civilian targets in Ukraine, but only military infrastructure facilities, as well as places where Ukrainian troops and military leadership gather.

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 Will Try to Work With Who Ever Becomes Next House Speaker

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Friday that he will try to work with who ever becomes the next House speaker after Kevin McCarthy was ousted earlier this week.

"Whomever the House Speaker is, I'm going to try to work. They control half the Congress," Biden said during a press conference.

Biden said he imagines some potential nominees will be easier to work with than others.

Congressman Jim Jordan seems like a front runner in the run for the next House speaker after he received an endorsement from former President Donald Trump.

Trump still holds a strong influence over the Republican Party amid his 2024 presidential bid.

House Minority Leader Steve Scalise is another strong candidate for House speaker, but he his health is in question after he was diagnosed with a blood cancer known as multiple myeloma.

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.

UNSC to Meet October 13 Regarding Supply of Western Weapons to Ukraine - Polyanskiy

UNITED NATIONS, October 6 (Sputnik) - Russia has requested a UN Security Council meeting on October 13 regarding the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine, Russian Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyanskiy said on Friday.

"We immediately requested a meeting on the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine, which will take place at 15.00 New York time (22.00 Moscow time) on Friday October 13th," Polyanskiy

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

said via Telegram.

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 Must Decide Speaker Internally, Not With TV Debate - Congressman Hern

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Kevin Hern said on Friday that House Republicans must decide internally on a new speaker, not through a televised debate.

"I still haven't made a decision on my candidacy for speaker, but I know one thing for sure. I will not be participating in the televised debate. We need to make this decision as a conference, not on TV," Hern said in a statement via social media platform X.

Earlier on Friday, US media reported that Fox News would host a televised debate of House speaker candidates, including Hern, Congressman Jim Jordan and Congressman Steve Scalise.

Scalise has also reportedly said that he will not participate in the debate. Jordan reportedly said that he needs to meet with the rest of the House Republican conference first.

Earlier this week, the US House of Representatives ousted Congressman Kevin McCarthy as speaker in a historic first, leaving it leaderless amid efforts to pass government funding measures before November 17. House lawmakers are unable to conduct normal legislative business until they select a speaker.

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 Expels 2 Russian Diplomats in Response to Expulsion of 2 US Diplomats - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - The United States declared two Russian diplomats persona non grata in a reciprocal measure after Moscow expelled two US diplomats in September, the US State Department told Sputnik on Friday.

"In response to the Russian Federation's specious expulsion of two US Embassy Moscow diplomats, the State Department reciprocated by declaring persona non grata two Russian Embassy officials operating in the United States," the department said in a statement.

On September 14, Russia declared two employees of the embassy of the United States in Moscow, Jeffrey Sillin and David Bernstein, persona non grata, and ordered them to to leave the country within seven days.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said Sillin and Berstein carried out illegal activities by maintaining contact with Russian citizen Robert Shonov, who was accused of confidential cooperation with a foreign state for working to harm the national security of the Russian Federation for financial compensation.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 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.

Iran Urges US Not to Oppose Development of Biological Weapons Convention - Diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, October 6 (Sputnik) - Iran urges the United States to remove its reservation and not oppose the development of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Iran mission to the United Nations third counsellor Mohammad Ghorbanpour Najafabadi said on Friday.

"We urge the United States to not only destroy its reservation ... but also refrain from opposing the development of the BWC, especially in response to reports of its involvement in the development of biological weapons," Najafabadi said during a meeting of the United Nations First Committee.

Najafabadi said Iran is concerned about the threat posed by Israel, which is not a part of the BWC or the Chemical Weapons Convention.

"As such, we have similar expectation from the international community to hold this regime accountable by exceeding and implementing these two conventions," he said.

According to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the BWC acts as a barrier against the creation, production, attainment, conveyance, hoarding and utilization of biological and toxin weapons. The BWC emerged as the inaugural multilateral disarmament agreement that prohibited weapons of mass destruction.

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 Could Meet China's Xi Next Month Though Nothing Has Been Set Up Yet

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Friday there was a possibility of a meeting between him and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping next month, though talks between them have not been set up yet.

"There is no such meeting set up, but it is a possibility," Biden told reporters at the White House, in response to a question on whether there was a chance of talks between them in November.

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.

Russian 'De-Ratification' of CTBT Would Not Bring US Any Closer to Ratifying Treaty - ACA

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Russia revoking the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) will not move the United States any closer to ratifying the accord, Arms Control Association (ACA) Executive Director Daryl Kimball said on Friday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

"Russian 'de-ratification' of the CTBT would not bring the United States any closer to ratification of the treaty, which requires a super-majority of 67 out of 100 Senators. That legislative body is currently divided on highly partisan lines. Generally speaking, politicians do not change their votes under pressure from foreign governments," Kimball said in a press release. "To the contrary, it is more likely that de-ratification of the CTBT by the Duma would raise questions about whether Russia plans to resume nuclear explosive testing, which would make some US Senators more hesitant about approving US ratification."

On Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin raised the possibility that Moscow could revoke the ratification of the CTBT as Washington has yet to ratify the treaty.

Kimball said the potential CTCB de-ratification by the Duma - the lower house of the Russian parliament - would also contradict recent and past Russian statements and pledges regarding the treaty and the nuclear testing moratorium.

Earlier on Friday, Russian Parliament Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said the Council of the State Duma will consider withdrawing the CTCB ratification at its earliest session as a "mirror response" to the United States.

"We strongly urge states parties to the CTBT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which also bans nuclear tests, to call upon President Putin to reaffirm full support for the CTBT and the moratorium on nuclear testing, not to take Russia and the world backward to a dangerous era of tit-for-tat nuclear threats and nuclear arms racing," Kimball said.

The CTBT is a multilateral treaty that bans nuclear weapons test explosions and any other nuclear explosions for civilian and military purposes. The treaty did not enter into force because eight countries, including the United States, have not ratified the accord.

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 Export Restrictions on 49 Entities, Including 42 From China - Commerce Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - The United States has added 49 entities to its export restrictions list, including 42 from China, for allegedly providing support to the Russian military in violation of the existing sanctions, according to a new rule by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security published on Friday.

"In this rule, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) amends the Export Administration Regulations by adding 49 entities under 52 entries to the Entity List. These entries are under the destinations of the People's Republic of China (China) (42), Estonia (1), Finland (1), Germany (1), India (3), Turkey (2), United Arab Emirates (1), and the United Kingdom (1)," the text of the rule read.

The US government has determined that the entities have been acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States, the document 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

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

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

Trump Endorses Jim Jordan for US House Speaker

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump on Friday endorsed House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan to be the next House Speaker.

"He will be a GREAT Speaker of the House, & has my Complete & Total Endorsement!," Trump wrote on his social platform TruthSocial.

He said that Congressman Jordan "has been a STAR long before making his very successful journey to Washington, D.C.," representing Ohio's 4th congressional district.

Jordan, Trump continued, is "respected by all" and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom during his presidency. The former president also listed Jordan's sports achievements and education degrees.

Kevin McCarthy was ousted from his speakership on Tuesday after he relied on Democratic votes to get a short-term spending deal passed to avert a government shutdown.

The move to oust McCarthy was led by Congressman Matt Gaetz, who had accused McCarthy of making a "secret side deal" with President Joe Biden on Ukraine aid.

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

Biden's Pick of Hunter's ex-Colleague for Special Counsel Raises Concern - Oversight Panel

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden nominating an individual who worked with Hunter Biden at a law firm involved with Ukrainian energy company Burisma raises concerns, House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer told Fox News Digital on Friday.

On Tuesday, the Biden administration announced the nomination of Hampton Dellinger as special counsel. The Office of Special Counsel is in charge of protecting whistleblowers and also deals with Hatch Act violations.

"President Biden's decision to appoint Hunter Biden's former colleague as head of the Office of Special Counsel raises concerns that he's trying to protect his son instead of whistleblowers," Comer said.

In September, the House oversight committee asked the State Department to provide information on US foreign policy decisions surrounding the dismissal of Ukrainian prosecutor Victor Shokin when Joe Biden was vice president in the Obama administration and his son Hunter Biden served on the board of directors of Burisma.

Comer pointed out that the special counsel's office is responsible for investigating whistleblower retaliation at many federal agencies. He said that nominating a "Biden family crony" to the position "does not instill confidence that the law will be enforced fairly."

This is the second time when Biden picked Dellinger for a government position. In 2021, he nominated him as assistant attorney general overseeing the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Before his government career, Dellinger worked at Boies Schiller Flexner alongside Hunter. The company had represented Burisma where Hunter Biden had served on its board of directors, Fox News reported.

Hunter Biden's electronic correspondence showed that he worked with that company and met Dellinger and his colleagues privately in March 2014, the report said.

Other emails revealed that Hunter Biden maintained an active correspondence related to Burisma with different Boies Schiller Flexner employees over the course of 2014 and 2015, it added.

Media reports indicated in August that Hunter Biden coordinated with Democratic Party strategists and Burisma leaders to help end corruption probes by Shokin into Burisma.

In an interview with Fox News in August, Shokin expressed confidence that Biden family members allegedly received bribes from sources in Ukraine to help shut down his corruption investigations.

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 Jobs Up 336,000 in September, Rising 80% More Than in August in New Concern For Fed

(Adds details and context, paragraphs 4-11)

WASHINGTON, October 6 (Sputnik) - US jobs growth smashed forecasts again in September, with the 336,000 new positions reported by the Labor Department coming in at 80% above August numbers, suggesting new inflationary pressure for the Federal Reserve to contend with.

It was the highest jobs creation since January's 517,000, and came in way above the 187,000 growth in August and the average 170,000 number forecast for September by Wall Street economists.

The Fed hiked interest rates 11 times between March 2022 and July 2023, adding 5.25 percentage points to a prior base rate of just 0.25%, to contend with inflation which reached 40-year highs of above 9% in June 2022.

The central bank has repeatedly pointed to an overheated labor market and wage growth, aside from soaring energy prices, as reasons for inflation remaining well above 3% per annum versus its target for 2%.

US average hourly earnings have virtually grown without stop since they began creeping up in July 2020 right after the labor market began springing back from the loss of some 20 million jobs right after the initial outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Oil prices hit one-year highs of above $97 a barrel for global crude benchmark Brent, before retreating sharply this week as Treasury yields spiked.

The runaway jobs market is a complicated issue for the Fed, which is tasked with ensuring both "maximum employment" and "manageable inflation" for Americans.

While policy-makers the world over typically celebrate on seeing good jobs numbers, the Fed is in a different predicament. The central bank wishes to see an easing of conditions that are a little "too good" now for the economy's own good — in this case, unemployment at more than

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM

50-year lows and monthly wages that have grown at annual rates of 4% to 5% since July 2021. Such job security and earnings have cushioned many Americans from the worst price pressures since the 1980s and encouraged them to continue spending, further feeding inflation. The Fed's mandate for maximum employment means an unemployment rate below 4%. That has been achieved since January 2022, with last month's rate remaining at 3.8%. Its goal for inflation remains elusive though. Before the COVID-19 breakout, US prices expanded at less than 2% a year. The pandemic and trillions of dollars of relief spending by the government had, however, triggered runaway inflation since mid-2021.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/10/2023 11:37:45 AM