Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

10/13/23 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.

Putin on Israel-Palestine Conflict: Russia Ready to Help Its Citizens Evacuate When Appropriate

According to the latest reports, nearly 1,800 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed in six days of Israeli bombing, as Israel prepares for a ground invasion of the densely-populated territory. Another 1,300 have been killed in Israel in attacks launched from Gaza, which included rockets and a guerrilla assault.

Amid the latest deadly violence in the Middle East, Russian President Vladimir Putin called for all powers not to lose sight of the needs of non-combatants, who form the vast majority of people involved.

Speaking to the media in Moscow on Friday after returning from a trip to Kyrgyzstan, Putin said of the conflict in Israel and the Gaza Strip: "Of course, we understand the logic of events, but despite all the escalation on both sides, I still think that, of course, we need to think about the civilian population."

The Russian leader noted that Israel has faced an unprecedented attack over the weekend, when Hamas militants broke through the Gaza border fence and killed hundreds of Israeli civilians in nearby settlements, but said that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), which have bombed Gaza continuously for six days, had acted brutally.

"Not all people [in the Gaza Strip] support Hamas, by the way. Not all of them. Should everyone suffer? Including women and children? Well, surely, hardly anyone will agree with this," Putin said.

He added that the Palestinian people have a right to expect the creation of an independent Palestinian state, based on past promises made going back to the 1994 Oslo Accords.

Putin also said that like other states with citizens in Israel or Gaza, Russia was ready to help its citizens evacuate when appropriate.

"We are ready at any time when there are the right conditions for this. There are bombings every day," he said.

Russia Ready to Mediate

A day prior, while in Bishkek at a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State, Putin urged that Moscow was ready to help mediate in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"Collective efforts are more than needed in the interests of an early ceasefire and stabilization of the situation on the ground," he said. "I would like to emphasize that Russia is ready to coordinate with all constructively minded partners. We proceed from the belief that there is no alternative to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through negotiations."

"The most important thing is that civilian casualties will be absolutely unacceptable ... The main thing now is to stop the bloodshed," he added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

His comments come after the United States, Israel's closest ally and a partner with the Palestinian government in the ongoing peace process, gave its unconditional support to the Israeli government in responding to the attacks by Hamas.

Also on Friday, the Palestinian ambassador to Moscow, Abdel Hafiz Nofal, said that the international community needed to revive the Middle East Quartet, a group that includes Russia, the US, the United Nations, and the European Union, which has helped mediate peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians for decades. He added that Russia and China could play an important role in the process.

2 Million Under 'Complete Siege'

Israel seized control over the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the 1967 Six-Day War, ruling it as a non-self-governing territory until 2006. After the Second Palestinian Intifada, or national uprising, Israel agreed to withdraw all troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, and the first elections were held there, which were won by Hamas, an Islamist militant group that has pledged to destroy the Zionist state.

A de facto blockade of Gaza began shortly after the Hamas victory, through which Israel and Egypt have strictly controlled the entry of goods into the territory, including electricity, food, and fuel. Gazans without a permit are not allowed to cross the border, and those who attempt to do so are commonly met with deadly violence by the IDF. The controls have been decried by human rights groups and the United Nations as a form of collective punishment that is in "flagrant contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law."

Following Hamas' breach of the border fence on Saturday and assault on nearby Israeli settlements, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant announced "a complete siege" of Gaza, cutting off all electricity, fuel, food and water to the enclave. On Friday, Israel ordered 1.1 million Palestinians living in northern Gaza - half the territory's population - to leave within 24 hours as it prepares to launch a ground assault against Hamas bases in the area.

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.

Jim Jordan Clinches GOP Nomination for US House Speakership

US Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) on Friday managed to obtain the Republican nomination to serve as the speaker of the US House of Representatives, marking the latest development since the chamber was thrown into chaos following the McCarthy ouster.

Jordan bested fellow speaker candidate Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA) with a vote of 124-81, media reports have indicated.

However, it remains unclear if the Ohio lawmaker and Freedom Caucus member has the 217 votes needed to ascend to the speaker's chair in a chamber-wide vote. Republicans control a slim 4-seat majority, but have struggled to maintain unity between competing party factions since winning that majority in the November 2022 elections.

A break in that unity helped spell the downfall of the former Speaker, US Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), in an October 3 vote. The motion to vacate the speaker's chair was brought by another Republican, Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz, a member of a small right-wing dissident faction who felt

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

McCarthy had betrayed his earlier promises by forging a deal to avoid a shutdown of the federal government on September 30.
In the debate prior to the vote on McCarthy's ouster, Jordan was among those who spoke in his favor. However, he has secured the endorsementof former US President Donald Trump,
Prior to Jordan's nomination by the House GOP Caucus, Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) withdrew his nomination after realizing he didn't have the House-wide votes to win.
Asked about Jordan's prospects for victory, McCarthy said "he's in a much stronger position" than Scalise was. "He'll get there. I don't see a problem with him getting there," McCarthy added.
Former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) predicted earlier on Friday that if the GOP nominated Jordan for speaker, "they will be abandoning the Constitution. They'll lose the House majority and they'll deserve to."
"Jim Jordan was involved in Trump's conspiracy to steal the election and seize power," she said, referring to the events of January 6, 2021. "He urged that [former US Vice President Mike] Pence refuse to count lawful electoral votes."
While in office, Cheney served as number-2 on the House select committee that investigated the insurrection, earning the last enmity of party leadership that resulted in her losing her reelection campaign in 2022.
The House is compelled to choose a new speaker before it can continue with other business, including the passage of a slew of key budget bills that were due on September 30, but which McCarthy's deal provided another 45 days to complete.
When McCarthy became speaker in January 2023, it took 15 rounds of voting before he was able to secure a majority.

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.

Rare Earths Miner: European EV Industry Can't Compete With China Without Subsidies

As the European Union attempts to move its energy sources away from dependency on fossil fuels, electric vehicles (EVs) will play an increasingly large role. However, the bloc's insistence on independence from Russian and Chinese suppliers for key EV parts, most especially for their high-tech batteries, has created new troubles.
Talga Group, a mining firm specializing in the materials used to assemble EV batteries, which include rare earth metals as well as minerals like graphite, has launched several projects in Europe recently, including a massive factory to produce anodes for lithium-ion batteries and a potential lithium mine location in Sweden. However, Talga CEO Mark Thompson recently told US media that the industry needs a lot more help if it expects to compete with China's massive EV market, which has begun a new move to export EVs.
"We're not seeing the speed and support necessary," Thompson told a US paper on Friday about EU subsidies. "The problem is there's funding for the battery factories, but not for what makes the batteries in the factory. So they've gone downstream and funded that, with nothing to feed those plants except imported materials from China."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

“I wouldn’t say ‘no’ to some protection for us to be honest. I think if Europe really wanted to clean up batteries and the supply chain, they would actually focus on the graphite and the minerals in the battery. It’s more expensive to operate here,” he continued.

“Our project can compete on a global basis. However, in the last few years, China has been heavily subsidizing the production of synthetic graphite. They’ve been subsidizing the buildings and the products themselves, and that has distorted the market a lot. They have crashed the price of raw materials down to the point where no new projects are getting built in the Western world.”

China has been the world’s largest supplier of rare earth metals for more than 20 years, with 42.3% of all exports in 2018. Despite their name, rare earth metals proliferate in the Earth’s crust, but require highly pollutive methods of extraction and refinement. The materials are necessary for the manufacturing of electronic devices from smartphones to EVs. But as the West has increasingly positioned itself in opposition to China, following Washington’s strategic shift toward “great power competition” with Beijing and Moscow, it has aroused fears that China could use this and other economic “choke points” to ravage Western markets in retaliation for threatening moves made against it, to say nothing of the consequences of war breaking out.

Thus, Western governments have sponsored new domestic factories for microchips and other devices, encouraged firms to move their operations from China or East Asia into the US or Europe, and pushed for new minesand expansion of mines on their home soil.

China is also the world’s largest EV market, following the government’s plan to totally phase out gas-only cars by 2035. As a result, EVs are expected to constitute 35% of all car sales in China this year, and could exceed 60% of global EV sales, and EV makers from around the world have sought access to the lucrative market.

Chinese EV makers have also made moves into foreign markets, including a deal to build EVs in Saudi Arabia and to export to several Southeast Asian countries.

However, China isn’t the only threat to Europe’s green energy transition plans: American subsidies for its own green industries, including EV manufacturing, have had a distorting effect in Europe as well.

“On top of that, you have subsidies for renewable power and so on. Europe is dwarfed by the numbers we see in the US,” the CEO of Norwegian energy firm Nel told US media earlier this year about the company’s decision to build a new factory for hydrogen fuel cells in the US instead of Europe.

French President Emmanuel Macron has also sharply criticized the US policy, saying that "If Europe does not respond, accelerating the 'greening' of the US economy will mean the deindustrialization of Europe.”

Europe is also under extra pressure to quickly develop its green energy supplies because of its decision to boycott Russian energy exports as retaliation for Russia’s special operation in Ukraine, which aims to de-Nazify Kiev, which sought to be a potential base for NATO weapons. The sudden end of Russian gas, coal, and oil imports has caused prices to spike in Europe, driving mass protests, political shifts, and even deindustrialization as businesses flee the high operation costs.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 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.

France Goes to Highest Terror Threat Level After Teacher Killed in Mass Stabbing Attack

A man of Chechen origin is in French custody on suspicion of stabbing a teacher to death at his former high school and seriously wounding three others in a stabbing attack in Arras on Friday. The incident comes almost exactly three years after the killing of another teacher by a Chechen extremist.

Following a deadly attack in the northern city of Arras on Friday, the French government has raised the country's terror threat metric to its highest level.

"In the current context and following the terrorist attack in Arras, I have decided to raise the Vigipirate [France's national security alert system] to the highest level of attack emergency," French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said on Friday.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said there was no specific threat, but said there was ''an extremely negative atmosphere'' amid claimed threats by extremists in connection with the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas, a Palestinian militant group based in the Gaza Strip.

The minister added that authorities have detained 12 people near schools or houses of worship since Hamas' attacks on several Israeli border settlements on Saturday, which killed hundreds of civilians. Security has been boosted at French Jewish sites around the country throughout the week.

A man of Chechen origin is in French custody on suspicion of stabbing a teacher to death at his former high school and seriously wounding three others in a stabbing attack in Arras.

The man was reportedly under surveillance by French authorities who suspected he had come under the sway of a radical Islamist ideology. Just a day before the attack, he had been detained for questioning based on his phone calls, which were being monitored, but investigators found no weapon or specific indicator of a threat of an attack by the man, according to Darmanin.

''There was a race against the clock. But there was no threat, no weapon, no indication. We did our job seriously," Darmanin said in a French television interview.

The man and his brother have both been detained.

The slain man was Dominique Bernard, a French language teacher at the Gambetta-Carnot high school. According to reports, Bernard was killed after intervening to save the lives of others.

Two of the other victims, another teacher and a security guard, had suffered serious injuries and were hospitalized.

Speaking to the nation, French President Emmanuel Macron said France had been "hit once again by the barbarity of Islamist terrorism."

"Nearly three years to the day after the assassination of Samuel Paty, terrorism has hit a school again and in a context that we're all aware of," Macron said in comments at the high school.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

"The choice has been made not to give in to terror," he said. "We must not let anything divide us, and we must remember that schools and the transmission of knowledge are at the heart of this fight against ignorance."

Paty, a geography teacher in the Paris suburb of Éragny-sur-Oise, was killed and beheaded by Abdoullakh Anzorov, an 18-year-old Chechen Muslim refugee, on October 16, 2020. Anzorov was reportedly motivated by claims Paty had shown her class cartoon depictions of the Prophet Mohammed created by the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in 2012 that had aroused fury in the Muslim community.

Anzorov was shot and killed by police in the encounter that followed Paty's murder, but since then, 10 others have been charged with conspiring with and assisting the killer, including an imam, family members of the killer, and students at the school.

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.

Mysterious Fast Radio Bursts May Come From 'Starquakes' - Study

A 'starquake' is a theorized event when the surface of a neutron star experiences a sudden shift, not unlike the tectonic plates that cause earthquakes on planetary bodies.

The mysterious and insanely powerful bursts of radio waves that travel across the universe may come from starquakes, a hypothesized event where a star's surface shakes not unlike the surface of the Earth during an earthquake.

The phenomena, called Fast Radio Bursts (FRB) have remained a mystery to science. FRBs are extremely powerful bursts of radio wave energy that only last for a few milliseconds, but in that time they release as much energy as the sun does in three Earth days.

Typically, FRBs occur sporadically, making them extremely difficult to study. But in recent years a few breakthroughs have increased our understanding of FRBs.

First, scientists discovered several repeating FRBs, allowing astronomers to watch them consistently. Then in 2020, the first FRB from within the Milky Wave was observed, allowing officials to pinpoint the specific star it came from.

That star was a magnetar, a type of neutron star that is the leftover collapsed core of a supermassive star that went through a supernova event. Magnetars are unique among neutron stars for their powerful magnetic field, which makes them the most powerful magnetic object in the known universe.

While stars are often described as a ball of flaming gas, those gravitational forces make the cores of neutron stars the densest objects in the universe.

Astronomers Tomonori Totani and Yuya Tsuzuki of the University of Tokyo looked at 7,000 FRBs from three different sources and compared the energy-time ratio of those bursts with earthquakes and solar flares, which have previously been proposed as a comparison point for FRBs.

The pair found that FRBs have more in common with earthquakes than solar flares, suggesting that the starquake hypothesis is at least plausible.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

"It was theoretically considered that the surface of a magnetar could be experiencing a starquake, an energy release similar to earthquakes on Earth," Totani explained.
“First, the probability of an aftershock occurring for a single event is 10-50 percent; second, the aftershock occurrence rate decreases with time, as a power of time; third, the aftershock rate is always constant even if the FRB-earthquake activity (mean rate) changes significantly; and fourth, there is no correlation between the energies of the main shock and its aftershock," Totani said, listing the similarities between earthquakes and FRBs. He noted that there were no similarities to solar flares in their analysis.
Officials theorize that the massive magnetic field of the magnetar distorts the star’s shape, causing an outward pull. At the same time, the ultra-dense core of the star pulls inwards, creating a tension that is released in a rupture and quake, possibly releasing a burst of massive energy in the form of an FRB.
While it is unlikely we will ever see an FRB up close, Totani says it can help us understand more about the universe or even quakes on Earth. “By studying starquakes on distant ultradense stars, which are completely different environments from Earth, we may gain new insights into earthquakes,” or even “the fundamental laws of physics,” Totani 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.

Blast Off! NASA Launches Spacecraft Toward Psyche Asteroid

Discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis, the Psyche asteroid - named after the Greek goddess - is the largest M-type asteroid known to be in our solar system after measuring about 140 miles wide. It sits in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
NASA’s Psyche asteroid mission launched on early Friday, sending the mission’s advanced spacecraft on a six-year, 2.2 billion-mile mission to one of the solar system’s 12 largest asteroids.
The craft was launched by SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy rocket, the most powerful in the company’s fleet. It successfully launched from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 10:19 a.m. local time.
NASA hopes to study the chemical composition of the asteroid and its magnetic field. Despite how much attention the asteroid has gathered, astronomers still have a lot of questions regarding Psyche. Officials particularly want to dig into its composition.
Psyche is an M-type asteroid, classification given to metallic asteroids. However, the method astronomers use to determine the makeup of celestial objects, spectroscopy, which examines the way light is split coming off an object, can be used to find if something is metallic, but not the specific metals it is made of.
A 2020 study used computer models and observations about impact craters to help astronomers narrow down the choices, although they can’t be sure. The best guess is that it's primarily made up of Monel, a mix of mainly nickel and copper, which is thought to be common in space.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Psyche is an M-type asteroid, the classification given to metallic asteroids. However, the method astronomers use to determine the makeup of celestial objects, spectroscopy, which examines the way light is split coming off an object, can be used to determine if something is metallic, but not the specific metals it is made of.

A 2020 study used computer simulations and observations about the impact craters to help astronomers narrow down the choices, although they can't be sure. The best guess is that it's primarily made up of Monel, a mix of mainly nickel and copper, which is thought to be common in space.

The spacecraft is expected to arrive at the Psyche asteroid by 2029, after receiving an assist from Mars' gravity in 2026. At that time, NASA hopes to learn definitively what the asteroid is made of.

Regardless of what specific metals Psyche is made of, it is undoubtedly valuable. Estimates even using relatively cheap metals like iron suggest Psyche would be worth $10 quintillion ($10,000,000,000,000,000,000 or ten million trillion) if it were somehow brought to Earth, mined and sold at current market prices.

However, doing so would undoubtedly crash the markets for those materials, decreasing the overall value. That is before considering the costs of capturing a moving asteroid and moving it near Earth, billions of miles away, a feat that would be impossible with today's technologies, no matter the cost.

Still, some companies do have plans to mine asteroids, though they likely will start with smaller and closer asteroids within the next couple of decades - if technology advances sufficiently.

NASA expects to spend a relatively tame $1.2 billion on the Psyche mission, $131 million of that went to SpaceX for launching the spacecraft.

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.

JPMorgan CEO Warns World Likely Facing Most Dangerous Time in 'Decades'

The CEO of America's largest bank pointed to military conflicts across the globe as reasons for new heightened concerns.

The head of one of the largest financial institutions in the world has warned that the planet has found itself in the most dangerous time it has been in "decades."

Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan Chase, made the warning while reporting on the bank's financial earnings for the last quarter. While he posted another set of good results for the firm, Dimon warned that outside influences may affect matters in the future, specifically pointing to conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine.

"The war in Ukraine compounded by last week's attack on Israel may have far-reaching impacts on energy and food markets, global trade and geopolitical relationships," Dimon said. "This may be the most dangerous time the world has seen in decades."

The billionaire also said the Palestine-Israel conflict may have ripple effects beyond the region, adding that the bank's staff in the region have been accounted for and are safe.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

While Dimon said American companies are doing well, he noted consumers are spending through their savings. That, combined with the prospect of the Federal Reserve increasing interest rates in the United States again may have negative effects.

"Persistently tight labor markets, as well as extremely high government debt levels with the largest peacetime fiscal deficits ever, are increasing the risks that inflation remains elevated and that interest rates rise further from here," Dimon said, seemingly ignoring the NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, during which the US has burned through at least $111 billion propping up the Kiev regime since Russia launched its special military operation.

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates in an attempt to combat inflation eleven times since March 2022.

Meanwhile, as Dimon reported during the call, JPMorgan Chase saw its profits increase to $13.15 billion last quarter, following its takeover of the collapsed First Republic Bank earlier this year.

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

Clash of the Caucus - Cartoon

Chaos continued to rage in the US House of Representatives on Friday, with candidates for the speaker position dropping in and out of the race at a breakneck speed as there seems to be no clear path to restoring order.

Last week, US Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) called for a motion to vacate the House speakership, a move that saw eight Republicans and every Democrat come together in voting to remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) from the role.

No business can be conducted in the House until a speaker is elected.Reps. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Jim Jordan (R-OH) immediately emerged as frontrunners to replace McCarthy. Scalise won a Republican-only closed-door vote but did not secure the 217 votes he would need to win the nomination on the House floor. Scalise ultimately dropped out of the race, leaving only Jordan.

At one point, McCarthy hinted he would hop back in the race, but the fantasy proved short-lived. Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA) emerged as a potential rival to Jordan earlier Friday but eventually threw his backing for Jordan after losing a closed-door vote to the Ohio lawmaker.

A strong ally of former US President Donald Trump, Jordan won a nomination vote against Scott 124-81, and then increased that gap in a second vote to 152-55 with one voting "present." Both votes were an increase over Scalise's margin of victory of 113-99, but still far short of the 217 votes needed to secure the nomination.

Still, without many viable challengers, some Republicans have expressed optimism that Jordan will be confirmed as the next speaker, including McCarthy. Republicans said that they are hoping to bring a speaker vote to the floor on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 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 Intel Ahead of Hamas Attack Reveals CIA Aware of Possible Flare-Up But Not Its Severity

On October 7, Hamas launched a ground, air and sea attack on Israel, using tactics never before utilized by the group. Israel has responded with a massive bombing campaign in the Gaza strip.

A pair of CIA intelligence reports warned about possible escalation in Palestine by Hamas forces but failed to foresee the highly advanced and coordinated attack on October 7 that killed roughly 1,200 Israelis and another 150 individuals being taken as hostages, including some Americans.

According to anonymous US officials who spoke to US media and are familiar with the reports, the first intelligence record was issued on September 28 and stated Hamas may try to launch rockets towards Israel. The second report was released on October 5, just two days before the attack, and was part of a widely distributed daily summary of CIA intelligence that is shared with lawmakers. The follow-up report provided a more analytical perspective than the initial document.

Neither report was shared with US President Joe Biden nor senior White House officials, said sources who described the reports as routine and similar to other files about Palestine. One official reportedly said the September 28 report specifically warned about possible escalation by Hamas.

The reports did not mention the new tactics utilized by Hamas to great effect, including powered gliders, drones and a ground assault. Typically, Hamas shoots rockets towards Israel, the vast majority of which are taken down by Israel's Iron Dome defense system. On rare occasions, the group employs car bombs and other tactics, but nothing on the scale or with the sophistication of what was seen last week.

Both the CIA and the White House refused to comment on the classified documents.

American and Israeli intelligence agencies regularly share information and it is unclear how Hamas prevented them from discovering their plans for the attack. Media reports claims Egypt warned Israel about a potential attack three days before the events unfolded. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has denied that report.

In response to the attack, Israel has carried out a massive bombing campaign that killed at least 1,900 Palestinians and wounded another 7,696 in Gaza and the West Bank, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Just before midnight on Thursday, Israel ordered civilians living in northern Gaza to evacuate to the south within 24 hours ahead of a military operation by the Israel Defense Forces in the area. More than 1.1 million people are affected by the order and the United Nations decried the evacuation, calling it impossible without "devastating humanitarian consequences."

Meanwhile, Amnesty International stated the order "cannot be considered an effective warning" and warned it may be the "forced displacement of the civilian population, a violation of international humanitarian law."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Despite the order to evacuate, the IDF has continued air bombardments in the area. Hamas' media office claims Israeli forces hit cars fleeing northern Gaza in three locations, a claim backed by eyewitnesses near the town of Deir el-Balah, south of the evacuation zone and where Israel told civilians to flee toward.

The attacks, which the IDF has yet to comment on, have left Gaza residents unsure of where they can be safe from bombardment.

"We don't know if there are safe areas there," Gaza City resident Khaled Abu Sultan told media outlets. "We don't know anything."

More than 423,000 people have already been displaced by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, the UN said on Thursday. Some fear it may be a repeat of the 1948 mass exodus of Palestine during Israel's formation. That event, called the "Nakba" or "catastrophe," saw more than half of Palestinians removed from their homes, according to the UN.

Hamas has "adamantly" rejected the move and called the order "psychological warfare" part of "Israel's attempt to ethnically cleanse Gaza," asking Palestinians not to flee northern Gaza. "We will either live standing tall or we will die fighting," Izzat al-Risheq, a member of Hamas' political bureau, said in a statement.

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

Biden Speaks On Hamas, Israel, Iran, Corridors and Ukraine

US President Joe Biden sat down for a long-ranging pre-recorded interview with US Media. During the talk, Biden spoke about the conflicts in Israel and Ukraine, dysfunction in Congress and other issues.

On October 7, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing over 1,000 Israelis and capturing at least 150 hostages, including some Americans. Israel has since declared a state of war and has been heavily bombing Gaza, killing thousands of Palestinian civilians.

Hamas

Asked whether there should be a ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and Hamas, US President Joe Biden said in an interview for CBS that Israel has to go after Hamas and called them a "bunch of cowards."

"Israel is going after a group of people who have engaged in barbarism that is as consequential as the Holocaust. And so, I think Israel has to respond. They have to go after Hamas. Hamas is a bunch of cowards. They're hiding behind the civilians," Biden said.

Gaza is a small, densely populated 140.9 square mile area with over 2 million people. Travel in and out of Gaza is heavily controlled by Israeli forces.

Biden emphasized that Hamas needs to be "eliminated entirely."

Egypt, a Humanitarian Corridor and Stranded Americans

Biden also said that he is in talks with Egypt and Israel about the establishment of a humanitarian corridor in the area.

"We're also talking to Egyptians whether there is an outlet to get these children and women out of that area at this moment. But it's hard," Biden said in the interview. The US President also

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

responded "yes" when asked if he supported humanitarian aid being sent to Gaza, something Israel has been blocking, including food, water and electricity, though Israel announced on Sunday that some water services had been turned back on.

At least 13 Americans have been missing since Hamas' attack, and 30 Americans have been confirmed dead. Biden said that the US is trying every avenue they have to see its remaining citizens returned safely but would not provide details. The interviewer noted that Biden had called the missing Americans' families and spoke to them on Zoom.

Israel

While Biden consistently stressed throughout the interview that the United States supports Israel in their fight against Hamas, he suggested that they do not attempt to occupy Gaza.

"I think it'd be a big mistake. Look, what happened in Gaza, in my view, Hamas and the extreme elements of Hamas don't represent all the Palestinian people. And I think that ... It would be a mistake ... for Israel to occupy ... Gaza again," Biden said.

Biden added that he does not think committing American troops will be necessary in the conflict. The President stressed that he still supports a two-state solution in the area, which has long been the official US policy, but said that right now is not the time to press for it. He also said that the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia is not dead because of the conflict.

"The Saudis, and the Emiratis, and other Arab nations understand that their security and stability is enhanced if there's normalization of relations with Israel," Biden said. "It's just going to take time to get done."

Biden also addressed the conflict in Ukraine, saying that the United States can handle both it and Israel at the same time.

"We're the United States of America for God's sake, the most powerful nation in the history-- not in the world, in the history of the world. The history of the world. We can take care of both of these and still maintain our overall international defense."

The United States has provided at least $111 billion to Ukraine since the start of Russia's special operation. Earlier this month, an additional $24 billion in aid was blocked by a group of House Republicans. That debate resulted in the ousting of House Speaker Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Congress is now frozen until a new speaker is elected. The White House has continued to ask Congress for aid for both Ukraine and Israel.

When asked if the situation in Congress threatens world security, Biden responded "yes," putting the blame on "MAGA Republicans."

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 'Working Like Hell' to Locate Hostages Amid Israel-Hamas Conflict

Washington, October 14 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden said the US would do everything in its power to find fourteen missing Americans following the unexpected large-scale attack by Hamas on Israel.

"I say we're gonna do everything in our power to find them. Everything in our power. And I'm

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

not going to go into the detail of that but... We're working like hell to find them" Biden told CBS in a clip that aired on Friday.

According to reports, the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas has claimed the lives of 27 American citizens, while 14 Americans remain unaccounted for.

Last week, Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attack on Israel, which claimed the lives of hundreds of people from both sides of the conflict. Israel declared a state of war with Hamas and announced a complete water, electricity and food blockade of 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 Needs Bold New Leadership Amid 'Perfect Storm' of Crises - Experts

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - The US needs stronger and more capable leadership in both the White House and Congress to address multiple crises the country and world are facing, including the war between Israel and Hamas, the conflict in Ukraine, and the threat of a government shutdown, experts told Sputnik.

The US House remains speakerless since Congressman Kevin McCarthy was ousted last week, which has delayed voting on funds to support Israel and Ukraine and avoid a government shutdown. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden has made an alarming number of public gaffes in recent days and weeks, raising concerns whether the leader will be able to effectively handle an increasing number of crises.

"The nation is facing a crises perfect storm, internationally and domestically," former US Army Lt. Colonel and international consultant Earl Rasmussen told Sputnik. "We are faced with potential ever escalating crises around the globe from Ukraine-Russia and growing divisions within Europe to instability throughout Africa, increasing tensions and a pending conflict with China to the most recent reigniting of the Middle East."

More effective leadership is also needed to address challenges on the domestic front - including a looming recession, rising inflation, poor infrastructure, and record level illegal migration.

"We need a real leader, one who takes off the American arrogance and really addresses the challenges confronting us from a well thought out and engaging manner," Rasmussen said. "We need to realize that we are not the only gorilla in the room and we need to engage other great powers to address many challenges together."

DANGEROUS INCOMPETENCE AT THE TOP

University of Illinois Professor of International Law Francis Boyle said he is concerned President Joe Biden has exhibited signs of dementia as crises escalate worldwide.

Boyle said he is also concerned that responsibility for handling crises has now fallen into the hands of a "cabal" which includes Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, among others.

"Biden embodies the criminality and chauvinism of the United States as empire — as we saw yesterday — and therefore can be president under current demented circumstances," Husseini said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

American University in Moscow President Edward Lozansky said Biden might well try to escape his enormous litany of catastrophic and discredited policies by gambling even more dangerously by escalating war in Ukraine.

"Overwhelmed by his long list of domestic and foreign problems, bribery accusations, as well as declining health and ratings, he's seeking to change the subject by hyping the war in Ukraine that might escalate into nuclear World War III," Lozansky told Sputnik.

Former hedge fund manager and historian Charles Ortel said the world is watching Biden and his "inept" cabinet upset bedrock principles of international relations by interfering in the internal affairs of other states.

"On the foreign front, no nation, friend or foe, believes that America remains a beacon of hope, liberty or law and order," Ortel 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.

Consensus Emerging in UNSC on Seriousness of Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza - Chinese Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, October 14 (Sputnik) - UN Security Council members are starting to understand the severity of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Chinese Ambassador to the UN Zhang Jun told reporters.

"We had a meeting this afternoon, and we heard from the Secretary General [Antonio Guterres) about his concerns about his assessment of the situation on the ground. The good thing is that there is an emerging consensus on our understanding on the seriousness of the humanitarian situation," the envoy said on 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.

US Lawmakers Urge DHS to Address Terror Suspects Crossing Northern Border - Statement

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - House Republican lawmakers Mike Kelly and Ryan Zinke introduced a resolution urging the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to address an increase in terror watchlist suspects crossing into the United States via its northern border with Canada, the congressmen said in a statement.

"The majority of suspected terrorists caught this year have crossed between the US and Canada, which is the longest continuous border between two countries in the entire world. I'm calling on Secretary Mayorkas to recognize the unique crisis along the Northern border and to work with Congress to solve this problem that gravely threatens our entire nation," Kelly said in the statement, released Friday.

The vast majority of terror watchlist suspects encountered at US land border ports of entry so far this fiscal year, 85%, crossed into the country through its northern border, according to

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Customs and Border Patrol data. That figure is up from 34% in fiscal year 2021.

There has been a 20,043% increase in northern land border encounters under the Biden administration, the statement said. Although border encounters and drug smuggling rates continue to rise, US Border Patrol staffing along the northern border has remained constant since fiscal year 2009, the statement said.

"The first thing bad guys do is go where the good guys aren't. Right now, all our good guys are dealing with Biden's crisis on the Southwest border leaving the north unprotected and vulnerable to criminals, cartels, and terrorists," Zinke said in the statement.

Kelly and Zinke founded the Northern Border Security Caucus in February. Their resolution is also backed by other House Republican lawmakers including Elise Stefanik, Matt Rosendale, Jack Bergman, John Moolenaar and Carol Miller.

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 Orders $156Mln in Patriot Air Defense System Spares for Army, Romania - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - Raytheon Integrated Defense System has received a more than $156 million US Army contract for more Patriot anti-aircraft and missile defense ground support equipment and spares, the US Defense Department announced.

"Raytheon Integrated Defense System [of] Andover, Maryland, was awarded a $156,186,509 ...contract for Patriot ground support equipment, spares and component procurement," the Defense Department said in a press release on Friday.

Work on the contract will be performed in Andover in the US state of Maryland and in Romania over the next four years with an estimated completion date of October 13, 2027, the release said.

Work on the project will be supervised by the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal in the US state of Alabama, the release added.

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

Russia Stands Ready For The Mediation Of Israel-Palestine Conflict- Envoy To UN

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) -Russia is prepared to mediate the Middle East conflict as it has all the means to do that, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia told reporters on Friday.

"We stand ready for the mediation, and we have capacities for it provided, both sides are interested," Nebenzia stated. "We call for an immediate ceasefire and the prevention of further escalation of the conflict. We're convinced that the Security Council must act to put an end to the bloodshed and restart peace negotiations with a view to establishing a Palestinian state, as

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

it was supposed to do so long ago."
Nebenzia also underscored that for Russia it is important to maintain contacts with both sides, "We have long established historical ties with Palestine, as well as with Israel," 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.

Russia Cannot Accept UNSC Inaction to Middle East Crisis - Nebenzia

UNITED NATIONS, October 14 (Sputnik) - Moscow cannot accept the alarming inaction of the UN Security Council (UNSC) in response to the escalating crisis in the Middle East, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia told reporters.
"In the current circumstances, Russia cannot accept the complete inaction and lack of any reaction on the part of the UN Security Council, as well as the UN Secretariat. As you could have noticed not a single Western delegation called for an open meeting on the situation in the Middle East," Nebenzia said on 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.

US Senator Urges Biden to Fire Sullivan After 'Misled' Gov't on Security Threats - Letter

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - US Senator Marsha Blackburn in Marsha Blackburn in a letter to President Joe Biden urged him to terminate National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan for allegedly misleading the government about the status of global security threats.
"I write to you today to demand the immediate removal of Jake Sullivan as your National Security Advisor," Blackburn said on Friday. "Mr. Sullivan has routinely misled the entire government about the status of security threats around the world."
Blackburn specifically pointed out that eight days before the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, he said “the Middle East is quieter today than it has been in two decades.”
Blackburn highlighted that the Hamas attack has claimed over 1,200 Israelis' lives, including 27 Americans, and over 150 hostages are being held by the Palestinian group.
Moreover, Blackburn criticized Sullivan for having an influence on the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), adding that his "policies of appeasement" have emboldened Iran and allowed it to fund proxy groups.

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 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

US House Minority Leader Says Wants to Find Bipartisan Path to Reopen House, Aid Allies

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - US House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said during a press conference that he wants to find a bipartisan route to reopening the lower chamber of Congress, after House lawmakers ousted Congressman Kevin McCarthy as speaker last week.

"We want to find a bipartisan path to reopening the House of Representatives, so we can solve problems for the American people, and stand with our friends, like Israel, and Ukraine and others throughout the free world," Jeffries said on Friday.

House Republicans met throughout the week in an attempt to rally behind a speaker nominee, having first nominated Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who later ended his bid. The Republican conference then nominated Congressman Jim Jordan, although he did not secure enough support to pass a floor vote.

The House of Representatives must elect a new speaker or empower speaker pro tempore Patrick McHenry in order to pass legislation, such as aid packages in support of Israel or Ukraine. Congress must also pass legislation to fund the federal government before November 17 or risk a shutdown.

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

Electric Boat Signs $216Mln Deal on 2 New US Nuclear Submarines - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - General Dynamics Electric Boat has received a more than $216 million US Navy contract to provide for materials for the construction of two more Virginia Class strategic nuclear submarines, the US Defense Department announced.

"General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation [of] Groton, Connecticut is awarded a ... $216,510,000 contract for long lead time material associated with the Virginia Class Submarines SSN 814 and SSN 815," the Defense Department said in a release on Friday.

Most of the work on the contract will be performed in Minneapolis, Minnesota (24%); Spring Grove, Illinois (10%); York, Pennsylvania (6%); Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (5%) and in other locations across the United States, the release said.

Work on the program is scheduled to take 11 years and is expected to be completed by September 2034, the release added.

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

Nebenzia Says Mideast on Brink of Full-Scale War, Unprecedented Humanitarian Catastrophe

UNITED NATIONS, October 14 (Sputnik) - Russia believes that the Middle East can fall into a full-scale war and unseen humanitarian disaster, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vassily

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Nebenzia told reporters at a UNSC stakeout.

"The situation on the ground is extremely worrying and appalling. The region is on the brink of a full scale war and unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe," Nebenzia said on Friday. "Israel's actions of collective punishment of Gaza citizens as well as its demands to evacuate more than 1 million civilians in 24 hours and concentrate them in a de-facto ghetto in the south of the sector are also unacceptable."

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 Told Lawmakers Azerbaijan May Again Attack Armenia Amid Escalation - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a small group of lawmakers that Azerbaijan may soon invade Armenia following an escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Politico reported citing two people familiar with the conversation.

In a call with lawmakers on October 3, Blinken said that the State Department is tracking a possibility of Azerbaijan's attack on southern Armenia in the coming weeks and looking at a range of measures to hold Baku accountable should it proceed, the report said on Friday.

Among measures being considered is the State Department's plan not to renew a long-lived waiver that has since 2002 green-lighted the provision of military assistance to Azerbaijan, the report said.

The State Department fears that Baku may invade Armenia to put into effect President Ilham Aliyev's plans to unblock the corridor along its southern border, which connects Azerbaijan with its enclave bordering Turkey and Iran. The Azerbaijani leader has previously threatened to do so "by force" if Armenia refuses to do so, according to the report.

On September 19, 2023, Baku launched what it called "local anti-terrorist activities" in Nagorno-Karabakh aimed at "restoring the constitutional order." Azerbaijan and representatives of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh agreed the following day on a complete cessation of hostilities through the mediation of Russian peacekeepers.

The president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh subsequently signed a decree to dissolve all institutions of the breakaway state by January 1, bringing its existence to an end. This has prompted a mass displacement of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, with over 100,000 of Nagorno-Karabakh's estimated 120,000 Armenian population relocated to date.

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

Russia's Draft UNSC Resolution Expresses Concern About Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

UNITED NATIONS, October 14 (Sputnik) - A Russian draft resolution expresses deep concerns over the continuous and increasing humanitarian crisis in Gaza amid the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

The draft document expresses "grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza." The resolution also says a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved by peaceful means

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, Egypt Approaching Deal to Allow Safe Passage From Gaza - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) - The United States and Egypt are nearing a deal to allow foreigners to safely exit Gaza through Egypt, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing a senior Egyptian official.

The deal comes amid fighting between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants, sparked by a surprise attack on the former over the weekend.

The Egyptian government has faced pressure to allow civilians to flee Gaza via bordering Egypt, after having increased restrictions on travel from the area in recent years, the report said.

On Thursday, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi said that Cairo is prepared to mediate between Israelis and Palestinians without any conditions.

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 Draft Resolution on Israel-Hamas Crisis Calls For Ceasefire - UN Diplomat

UNITED NATIONS, October 14 (Sputnik) - The Russian draft resolution on the crisis between Israel and Hamas is purely humanitarian, calling for a ceasefire and condemning all violence, a UN diplomat told Sputnik on Friday.

"Its purely humanitarian. Ceasefire, condemning all violence and acts of terrorism, secure release of hostages, unimpressed humanitarian assistance and safe evacuation of civilians," the UN diplomat said.

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

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, October 14 (Sputnik) -

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Friday that the exchange of fire across the blue line between Israel and Lebanon is very concerning and must be stopped, while also

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

urging prompt humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip.
* The Israeli military is carrying out large-scale strikes on the positions of the Palestinian movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Defense Forces said.
* The Israeli Defense Forces said they conducted raids in the Gaza Strip to find hostages and identify enemy targets.
* The Al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of the Hamas movement, said that it launched missiles in the direction of Tel Aviv.
* Russia will continue contacts with Hamas in the context of resolving the conflict in the Middle East, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said.

GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS
* Global oil prices have increased by 4.5%, with Brent crude reaching $90 per barrel for the first time since October 4, according to the trading data.
* Russian President Vladimir Putin denied Russia's involvement in the blast at the gas pipeline between Finland and Estonia, saying that he did not even know anything about the existence of this pipeline.

CIS SUMMIT IN BISHKEK
* Work within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) strengthens the identity of the member countries, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.
* Russia is ready to satisfy agricultural needs of the CIS member countries, Putin said.
* The next summit of the CIS that will be chaired by Russia will take place on October 8, 2024, Putin said.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH
* The mandate of Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh officially expires in November 2025, so this issue will have to be resolved in the near future, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.
* The issue of former State Minister of Nagorno-Karabakh and businessman Ruben Vardanyan was not discussed during a meeting between Putin and his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, on Thursday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE
* Proposals made by the European Union for Ukraine were equivalent to the destruction of the country's all key industries, and this process is seen now, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.
* The Russian forces repelled 17 attacks in the Donetsk direction in the past week, where the Ukrainian military lost nearly 1,600 soldiers, the Russian Defense Ministry said.
* US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba discussed over the telephone the latest developments on the battlefield and the United States' continued efforts to support Kiev, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

RUSSIAN ECONOMY
* Russia's macroeconomic indicators are good, the economy is stable, but the currency regulation will have to be revised, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

* The decree on the sale of foreign exchange earnings was signed because the dollar exchange rate needs to be "slightly lower" for the budget, Putin 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.

CIA Warned of Potential Violence Days Before Hamas Attack in Israel - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) warned the Biden administration of a potential escalation in Palestinian-Israeli conflict, foreseeing an imminent Hamas attack on southern Israel days prior to the brutal event, CNN reported on Friday.

According to the report, the first CIA's warning on September 28 signaled Hamas's preparation to escalate rocket assaults across the border. This was followed by an additional CIA wire on October 5, emphasizing the swelling threat of violence from the militant group.

However, on October 6, circulating just one day prior to the attack, the CIA report accentuated Hamas's peculiar activities, indicating a looming strike, the report said.

Moreover, the reports were part of a series of urgent alerts presented to the Biden administration, originating from its intelligence network and allies in the Middle East over the previous year, prompting inquiries about the sufficiency of the US and Israel's attunement to the impending danger, 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.

US Congressman Jim Jordan Wins House Republican Speaker Nomination - Stefanik

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Jim Jordan won the House of Representatives Republicans' nomination as speaker in a secret-ballot vote, Republican conference chair Elise Stefanik said on Friday.

"Congratulations Speaker-designate [Jim Jordan]," Stefanik said in a statement via the social media platform X.

Jordan beat Congressman Austin Scott in a vote of 124-81, according to media reports.

The House of Representatives ousted Congressman Kevin McCarthy as speaker last week in a historic first. House lawmakers must elect a new speaker or empower a temporary leader in order to pass any legislation.

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 Prices Jump as Much 7% on Week As Israel Focuses on Ground Assault of Gaza

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

NEW YORK, October 13 (Sputnik) - Oil prices rose 7% on the week, with global crude benchmark Brent returning to the key bullish mark of $90 per barrel Friday, after the Middle East crisis moved into a new heightened phase as Israel focused on a ground assault on Gaza a week into its renewed war with Palestine militant group Hamas.

London-traded Brent oil, slated for delivery in December, settled up $4.89, or 5.8%, at $90.89, returning to above the key bullish mark of $90 per barrel. The session peak for the global crude benchmark was $90.67.

New York-traded West Texas Intermediate crude, slated for November delivery, settled up $4.78, or 5.8%, at $87.69 per barrel, after a session high of $87.83. The US crude benchmark finished the week up just shy of 6%.

Friday's rally in oil also came after the White House announced its first sanctions on companies aiding Russia in selling oil at above the $60 per barrel cap set by the United States and its allies.

In between that and Monday's 4% run-up triggered by Hamas' opening attacks on Israel in their all-new war, the oil market plunged on the largest US crude stockpile build since February and a new record for production that overwrote the pre-pandemic one.

Crude prices also dropped midweek on reports that Saudi state oil firm Aramco had notified at least four refiners in North Asia that it would supply them with the full contractual volumes nominated for November. That challenged the notion that Saudi priority was about keeping the market tight with production cuts, not assuring that supplies were generously available as needed.

Crude prices, however, shot back higher from a combination of the Israel-Hamas conflagration and the crackdown over Russia's so-called breach of the G7 price cap on oil - which could worsen the 'tight oil market' narrative, said analysts who track the industry.

Since July, Saudi Arabia and Russia - chief proponents of OPEC+ alliance of global oil producers - have committed to jointly reduce a total of 1.3 million barrels from their normal daily production of crude to support the market.

With Tehran looking eager to enter the Middle East fray, crude prices could rise further, analysts said.

Iran's role in any expanded Israel-Hamas war is being closely watched given that it is the world's fifth largest oil exporter.

While Iranian oil exports are under sanctions too like Russia, since late 2022, Washington has turned a blind eye to surging crude shipments from the Islamic Republic. The priority in Washington then was an informal detente with Tehran so as to allow the world more oil supply to offset OPEC+ cuts.

As a result, Iranian crude output is estimated to have surged nearly 700,000 barrels a day this year – the second-largest source of incremental supply in 2023, behind only US shale oil.

Any active US enforcement of Iranian sanctions could worsen the already complex global oil supply situation.

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 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Biden Expresses Gratitude for Kaiser Permanente-Unions Tentative Agreement - White House

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden on Friday expressed gratitude toward health provider Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions for reaching a tentative agreement to end the ongoing strike.

More than 75,000 Kaiser Permanente employees went on strike earlier in October because of staffing problems and demands for higher wages.

"I'm grateful to Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions for coming together in good faith to ensure these workers can continue caring for our neighbors and loved ones," Biden said.

The president said the society owes a tremendous debt to health care workers and the hard-working men and women who make their work possible.

Biden also praised Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su for her assistance in reaching the tentative agreement.

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 Urged Israel to Delay Gaza Ground Operation Until Safe Passage Secured - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United States has urged Israel to delay its ground operation in Gaza until safe passage is secured for fleeing Palestinians, Fox News reported on Friday citing a source familiar with the matter.

Earlier in the day, Israeli troops began to conduct several raids inside the Gaza Strip.

Also Friday, the United Nations said it was notified by Israel that it urged civilians of Gaza City to evacuate southward "for their own safety" within 24 hours. The UN urged Israel to rescind the order because it is impossible to carry out that level of an evacuation in a short period of 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.

Over 2,500 Canadians Seeking Help to Leave Israel, Gaza, West Bank - Global Affairs

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - Over 2,500 Canadians and permanent residents have requested Ottawa's assistance to evacuate from Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, Julie Sunday, an assistant deputy minister for emergency management with Global Affairs Canada, said on Friday.

The Canadian government has said that 4,200 Canadians were registered in Israel and 475 in Palestine when the armed conflict began on Saturday. As of Thursday, 250 nationals have departed Tel Aviv for Athens on the first two assisted flights made available by the Canadian armed forces. Three Canadians have been confirmed killed and three others are reported missing.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Speaking at a briefing on the situation in Israel, Sunday said that 2,200 Canadians have requested assistance to leave Israel, and 1,300 of those want to leave by air.

"In Gaza, I've said there's a further 150 [seeking assistance]. In the West Bank we're looking at 190 individuals, and then we have almost 600 people whose location is not clear to us and we're reaching out to try to confirm that," she continued.

Although the majority of the 150 individuals requesting assistance in departing Gaza are Canadian citizens, some are part of mixed families, Sunday said, adding that it creates additional requirements in terms of documentation.

Sunday said that Global Affairs Canada had been informed this morning that there could be a possibility for evacuating Canadian nationals out of Gaza to Egypt through the Rafah border crossing as soon as tomorrow.

The possibility was relayed by the Egyptian government to the Canadian ambassador in Cairo and was also coordinated with Tel Aviv, Alexandre Leveque, assistant deputy minister for Europe, Arctic, Middle East and Maghreb, said during the briefing.

Canada is also considering options for assisted departure out of the West Bank through ground transportation to Jordan, Sunday 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.

Guterres Says Exchange of Fire Across Blue Line Between Israel, Lebanon 'Very Worrying'

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday said the exchange of fire across the blue line between Israel and Lebanon is very concerning and must be stopped, while also urged the prompt humanitarian access throughout the Gaza Strip.

"The exchange of fire across the blue line is very worrying, it must stop," Guterres told reporters. "We need immediate humanitarian access throughout Gaza so that we can get fuel, food and water to everyone in need. Even wars have rules."

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 Hasn't Independently Verified Claims of Israel's Use of White Phosphorus

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The White House has not been able to independently verify claims of Israel's use of white phosphorus in its ongoing military operations against Gaza and Lebanon, White House spokeswoman Olivia Dalton said on Friday.

"We have not been able to independently verify that, so it is not something I would want to speculate about or weigh in on at this time," Dalton said during a press briefing.

Human Rights Watch said on Thursday that Israel used white phosphorus weapons against Gaza and Lebanon during hostilities following Hamas' incursion on October 7 and subsequent

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

rocket attacks.

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 Does Not Want to See Displacement of People - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations stands against the displacement of people out of their homes amid Israeli calls for people's evacuation out of Gaza, the UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

"We do not want to see a situation where people would have been displaced," Dujarric told a briefing.

People should be able to be safe in their homes, he added.

Yesterday, the Israel Defense Forces urged civilians of Gaza City to evacuate southward "for their own safety." The UN said the Israeli military had notified the organization that the population of northern Gaza and the UN staff should relocate south within 24 hours.

The UN urged Israel to rescind the order, saying that it was "impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences."

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 Calls for Investigation Into Israeli Strike That Killed Journalist - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations hopes for an investigation regarding an airstrike in southern Lebanon which resulted in the death of a Reuters journalist, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

"We do hope that there is an investigation as to exactly what happened," Dujarric told a briefing. "Without journalists, we can't know what's going on and journalists need to be protected and allowed to do their work."

The Secretary General Antonio Guterres wishes speedy recovery for the injured ones, he added.

Earlier today, Reuters journalist Issam Abdullah died after an Israeli airstrike in Southern Lebanon with other three individuals who included one correspondent and a photographer were injured.

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 Says Guterres-Netanyahu Call 'in Pipeline' After Gaza Evacuation Order

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - A call between UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is being arranged following Israel's order for 1 million Gazans to immediately evacuate, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

"It is in the pipeline," Dujarric told a briefing, when asked about a potential call between the two. The UN will announce when it happens, he added.

On Thursday, the Israel Defense Forces urged civilians of Gaza City to evacuate southward "for their own safety" amid the war with Hamas. The UN said the Israeli military had notified the organization that the population in Gaza's north and the UN staff should relocate south within 24 hours. The UN urged Israel to rescind the order since it is "impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences."

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 Calls Families of 14 Americans Missing After Attack on Israel - White House

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden on Friday conversed with key security advisors and the families of 14 Americans missing after the Hamas attack on Israel, the White House said.

"President Biden participated in a call with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs Roger Carstens, Undersecretary of State John Bass, National Security Council Coordinator for the Middle East Brett McGurk, and family members of the 14 Americans still unaccounted for following this week's horrific attacks on Israel," the White House was quoted as saying by the press pool.

The number of US citizens killed in the Hamas attack on Israel has reached 27, the White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Thursday.

Last week, Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attack on Israel. Israel declared a state of war with Hamas and announced a complete water, electricity and food blockade of the Gaza Strip. The hostilities have claimed the lives of hundreds of people in Israel and Gaza.

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 Says Respects States Position on Dollarization But Not Substitute for Sound Policies

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) respects the member states' positions on the issue of dollarization but warns that it is not a substitute for sound macroeconomic policies, IMF Western Hemisphere Department Director Rodrigo Valdez told reporters on Friday.

"This is a very important message: dollarization is not a substitute for sound macroeconomic policies," Valdez said when asked about the prospects of the dollarization of Argentina.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Valdez spoke on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank annual meetings in Morocco.
Argentina is holding presidential elections on October 22 and a libertarian presidential candidate and economist, Javier Milei, is proposing dollarizing the nation's economy.
Valdez said the IMF respects the country's sovereign choice on monetary and foreign exchange arrangements, but added that the IMF is working to ensure that policy conditions are in place.
"In the case of dollarization, there are very important preconditions and policy steps that are needed for this to be successful," he said.
Valdez emphasized that Argentina faces very important challenges, including a very high and rising inflation and addressing them requires a strong macroeconomic plan.
Earlier in October, Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero criticized the proposal to dollarize the economy and said that Buenos Aires should attract dollars through exports but not at the expense of the country's monetary sovereignty.

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

US Sees No Signs Third Party Willing to Get Involved in Israel-Gaza Conflict - White House

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United States so far has not seen any third parties showing a willingness to get involved in the Israel-Gaza conflict, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.
"Thus far, we haven't seen any other external actor indicate a willingness or readiness to widen and deepen this conflict," Kirby said during a conference call.
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is currently visiting government officials throughout the Middle East region as part of an effort to mitigate the war between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement.
Blinken is meeting with high-level government officials from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Qatar.
The United States has also deployed two carrier strike groups to the Eastern Mediterranean to deter any third parties from joining Hamas in its war against Israel.
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 Will Continue to Ask Congress for More Ukraine Funding

(Updates with more details, background in paras 3-5)
WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration will continue to have talks with congressional leaders about the need to provide additional funding to assist Ukraine, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.
"We will continue to have conversations with members of Congress up on Capitol Hill about the significant need for supplemental funding for Ukraine," Kirby said during a conference call.
Members of the White House National Security Council are meeting with US lawmakers on

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Friday to discuss President Joe Biden's $24 billion supplemental funding request for Ukraine, Kirby said.

Earlier this week, a US official told Sputnik no decision had been made on whether a supplemental request for Israel will include funding for Ukraine, Taiwan, as well as for US border security.

The United States has provided Ukraine with $44 billion worth of security assistance since the start of Russia's special military operation, according to the Defense Department.

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

UN Chief in Constant Contact With Israeli Authorities- Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is in constant contact with the Israeli government, the UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

"He [the UN Secretary-General] has been in constant contact with Israeli authorities, urging them to avert a humanitarian catastrophe," Dujarric told a briefing.

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

US Still Believes in Promise of Saudi Arabia-Israel Normalizing Relations - Kirby

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration continues to believe in the promise of normalizing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, but it is up to the states to decide on the pace they want to move in this direction, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.

"We still believe in the promise of normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, and we have no intention of not continuing to pursue that, but, obviously, these are sovereign nations, they get to decide for themselves at what pace they're willing to move, under what conditions and certainly the degree to which they want to continue that effort," Kirby said during a press briefing.

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

US Working 'Aggressively' With Israel, Egypt to Find Safe Passage Out of Gaza - Kirby

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration is working "very aggressively" with Israel and Egypt to find a safe passage out of southern Gaza amid the escalation in attacks

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

on the Palestinian enclave, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.

"We are working very aggressively with the Israelis and the Egyptians to try to find a safe passage out of southern Gaza and we also want to preserve the ability to get humanitarian assistance in," Kirby said during a press briefing.

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

White House Says Will Continue to Ask Congress for More Ukraine Funding

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration will continue to have talks with congressional leaders about the need to provide further funding to assist Ukraine, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.

"We will continue to have conversations with members of Congress up on Capitol Hill about the significant need for supplemental funding for Ukraine," Kirby 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.

State Dept. to Organize Charter Flights out of Israel as Long as US Citizens Demand Them

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) – The US Department of State will continue to organize charter flights from Israel's Ben Gurion international airport for as long as there is demand from its citizens, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.

"The State Department will continue to organize these charter flights for as long as there is a demand from US citizens for departure assistance. The President has asked his team to ensure that we are assisting us citizens who want to leave Israel," Kirby said.

Kirby added that a first charter flight had already left Israel toward the EU, without specifying to what specific country it was set to arrive.

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 Information N. Korea Provided Military Equipment, Munitions to Russia - White House

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United States has information that North Korea allegedly provided military equipment and munitions to Russia to use in Ukraine, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.

"We now have information that North Korea has delivered arms to Russia for use in Ukraine," Kirby said during a conference call. "In recent weeks, North Korea has provided Russia with

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

more than 1,000 containers of military equipment and munitions."
According to the White House, North Korea is seeking military assistance from Russia, including fighter aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, armored vehicles and ballistic missile production equipment and materials.

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 Intelligence About Threats to Homeland Linked to Hamas Attacks in Israel - Kirby

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United States at present has no intelligence about any threats to the US homeland stemming from the Hamas attacks in Israel, White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday.
"At this time, none of our intelligence agencies have any specific intelligence indicating a threat to the United States, stemming from the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel," Kirby said during a press briefing.

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

UFC Says Hiring Saddam Hussein Interrogator to Run New Drug Testing Program

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The mixed martial arts organization Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is hiring a former FBI agent who led the interrogation of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to run its drug testing program, UFC Senior Vice President of Athlete Health and Performance Jeff Novitzky said.
Former Saddam Hussein interrogation team leader George Piro will serve as the independent administrator overseeing the UFC's drug testing program, Novitzky said during a press conference on Thursday.
"When you talk about George Piro, you're talking about an individual with the highest level of integrity and credibility you could possibly imagine," Novitzky said. "He's quite literally an American hero."
Piro recently retired as special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office. He also served as assistant director of the FBI's international operations division and supervisor of its joint terrorism task force.
Piro is also familiar with combat sports as a world champion jiu-jitsu competitor, Novitzky added.
"The US government literally put the safety of the citizens of the United States in [Piro's] hands," Novitzky said. "Go see what kind of person George Piro is and whether he would compromise the integrity of the UFC's program."
Earlier this week, the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) announced that the UFC will be terminating their relationship at the end of 2023. USADA alleged that its relationship with the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

UFC became untenable due to disagreements over superstar fighter Conor McGregor's reentry into the drug testing pool.

However, Executive Vice President Hunter Campbell demanded an apology from USADA during the press conference and threatened legal action over their statements regarding McGregor.

The UFC will run its anti-doping program through Drug Free Sport International, which also works with professional football, basketball and baseball organizations, starting next year, Campbell said.

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

Blinken, Kuleba in Call Discuss Support for Ukraine, Battlefield Situation – State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in a phone call on Friday discussed the latest developments on the battlefield and US continued efforts to support Kiev amid the conflict with Russia, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a press release.

"Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba today via phone. They discussed the latest battlefield developments and efforts to build support internationally for a just and lasting peace. The Secretary reaffirmed the United States' commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to continuing to provide Ukraine the support it needs to defend its independence and protect its people.

The call between the two diplomats came at a time when the focus and attention of the Biden administration urgently shifted toward the Middle East after Hamas's surprise attack on Israel last week.

Washington has already begun transferring its military force to the region, including an aircraft carrier group, and also sent ammunition to Israel, which raised Kiev's concerns about the ability of the United States to continue to support Ukraine at the same level.

At the same time, the Pentagon announced on Wednesday a new $200 million security assistance package for Ukraine that includes munitions for a new air defense system that will soon be delivered to Ukraine, among other weapons.

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.

Qatar's PM Says Hopes to See Progress on Hamas Hostage Release in Next Two or Three Days

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) -Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani said on Friday that a progress in efforts to release the hostage taken by Hamas will be determined in the next couple of days.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

"The progress will be determined in the next two days or three … but we are doing our best, our partners are doing their best in order to get them released safely," Al Thani said during a press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

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 Congressman Austin Scott Files to Run for Vacant House Speaker Position - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Austin Scott will challenge Congressman Jim Jordan for the vacant speaker position in the House of Representatives, Punchbowl News reported on Friday.

Scott, who represents the US state of Georgia's eighth district, filed to run for the Republican conference's nomination, the report said.

Scott serves on the House Intelligence Committee, Armed Services Committee and Agriculture Committee. He is also a member of the House Pro-Life Caucus and Republican Study Committee.

Scott and Jordan are both vying for the leadership role after the House of Representatives ousted Congressman Kevin McCarthy from the position last week. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise initially won a conference nomination vote, but failed to secure enough support to clear a floor vote.

House lawmakers must elect a new speaker, or empower speaker pro tempore Patrick McHenry, before passing any legislation. Congress must pass government funding measures before November 17 or risk a government shutdown.

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

Blinken Says 'We Cannot Go Back to Status Quo' That Allowed Hamas to Attack Israel

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that going back to the status quo that allowed Hamas to attack Israel is a non-starter.

"One thing is for sure - we can't go back to the status quo that allowed this [Hamas' attacks] to happen in the first place. So that has to be part of the thinking," Blinken said during a joint press conference with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha.

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 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

US Announces $7Bln Federal Investment in Clean Hydrogen Hubs - Energy Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The US Department of Energy on Friday issued a release announcing $7 billion in funding to launch seven clean hydrogen hubs across the United States.

"[The] US Department of Energy (DOE) today announced $7 billion to launch seven Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) across the nation and accelerate the commercial-scale deployment of low-cost, clean hydrogen - a valuable energy product that can be produced with zero or near-zero carbon emissions and is crucial to meeting the President's climate and energy security goals," the release said.

In conjunction with the $7 billion investment, the seven hubs will also share costs of more than $40 billion, the release said.

The aim of the hubs is to help develop a national network of clean hydrogen producers, consumers and connective infrastructure while supporting the production, storage, delivery and end-use of clean hydrogen, the release said.

They are expected to collectively produce three million metric tons of hydrogen annually, reaching nearly a third of the 2030 US production target and lowering emissions from hard-to-decarbonize industrial sectors that represent 30% of total US carbon emissions, the release added.

The hubs will also collectively reduce 25 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from end-uses each year and create tens of thousands of jobs across the country, according to the 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.

Kaiser Permanente, Unions Reach Tentative Deal After US Biggest Health Care Strike

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - Kaiser Permanente and the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions reached a preliminary agreement on Friday following the largest-ever health care strike in the US's history.

"The frontline healthcare workers of the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions are excited to have reached a tentative agreement with Kaiser Permanente. We are thankful for the instrumental support of Acting US Labor Secretary Julie Su," Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West said in a social media post.

A full announcement will follow shortly, the union added.

On October 4, over 75,000 employees of health care provider Kaiser Permanente went on a three-day strike, sparked by disputes over staffing and wages.

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 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

US House Republicans Reject Measures to Change Speaker Election Protocols - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - US House Republicans rejected several changes to party conference rules aimed at reforming the election process for a speaker, Punchbowl News reported on Friday.

House Republicans tabled or withdrew several amendments brought by lawmakers during a party meeting, which included measures such as raising the threshold to nominate a speaker, the report said.

The proposals came amid efforts by House Republicans to nominate a new speaker capable of receiving a majority of votes on the House floor. Last week, the House of Representatives ousted Congressman Kevin McCarthy as speaker, leaving the lower chamber of Congress leaderless and unable to pass legislation.

House Republicans have been meeting throughout the week in an effort to select a nominee who can overcome divisions within the party. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise initially won a party nomination vote, but failed to secure enough support to clear a floor vote. US Congressman Jim Jordan is now again vying for the leadership role, after losing to Scalise in his initial bid.

There are only 209 Republican members of Congress present at the Capitol on Friday, the report said, citing speaker pro tempore Patrick McHenry.

House Democrats warned that they would offer a motion to vacate the speaker next week if Republicans attempt to elect a speaker on Friday without 24-hour notice, the report 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.

UN Takes Note of Reports on Depleted Uranium Ammunition Transfers to Ukraine - Official

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - The United Nations takes note of the reports about the transfers of depleted uranium tank ammunition to the Ukrainian military, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs Director Adedeji Ebo said on Friday.

"We also take note of reports related to the transfer of depleted uranium tank ammunition to the Ukrainian forces," Ebo said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

The UN official called for an immediate stop in using the depleted uranium munitions, which he characterized as "inhuman and indiscriminate."

Ebo noted that such weapons have "severe and lasting humanitarian impacts."

Landmines and explosive remnants of war have resulted in widespread contamination in Ukraine, causing a threat to civilian lives, Ebo added.

Some experts have said the use of depleted uranium rounds have had a toxic effect on the areas where they are used, causing spikes in various cancers, among other ailments.

The UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine was requested by Russia. The discussion focused on Western weapons supplies to Ukraine, including on the issue of depleted uranium rounds.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 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.

Western Countries Use Ukrainian Crisis to 'Line Their Pockets' - UN Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, October 13 (Sputnik) - The Western nations which are transferring weapons to the Kiev regime are using Ukraine in order to line their pockets, the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said on Friday.

"Nonetheless, the Western countries are using this situation in order to line their own pockets," Nebenzia told the Security Council members during a meeting on Ukraine.

Ukraine has once and for all become a testing ground for testing out new hardware in technology, he added.

The Ambassador believes that it is evident that Ukraine is having issues filling in their own military ranks - lifting the age limit "to serve until you die."

Friday's UNSC meeting on Ukraine was requested by the Russian Federation and was on the Western supplies of weapons to Ukraine.

13.10.2023 18:09:51 +03:00

Activist to Go on Hunger Strike in Congress to Stop US Arms Supplies to Israel - Code Pink

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - A member of the grassroots peace and human rights advocacy organization Code Pink will go on a hunger strike in Congress next week in an effort to end the US weapons deliveries to Israel and call for a ceasefire, Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin said.

"One of our members is starting a hunger strike next week in Congress (starting on Tuesday), calling for Congress to stop sending weapons to Israel and to call for a ceasefire," Benjamin said.

On October 7, the Palestinian movement Hamas launched surprise large-scale attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip, prompting Israel to declare a state of war the following day.

Israel ordered on Monday a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip, cutting off water, food, medicines, power and fuel supplies, and started massive airstrikes on the densely populated area. The Gaza Strip is home to more than 2 million Palestinians.

The Israeli and Palestinian authorities have reported that more than 2,300 people have been killed and several thousand have been wounded so far, but observers have said they fear the toll may be much higher.

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 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

US United Auto Workers Will Hold More Strikes at Plants With Little Notice - President

WASHINGTON October 13, (Sputnik) - United Auto Workers (UAW) President Shawn Fain said on Friday the union will hold strikes with little notice in the future as part of a new strategy for labor disputes.

"So today I'm not announcing any further strikes. Instead I'm announcing a new phase in the standup strike. Moving forward, we will be calling out plants, when we need to, where we need to with little notice. So stay ready." Fain said during a social media livestream.

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.

Canada's Joly Says Arrived in Israel, Will Assess Humanitarian Impact of Conflict

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) – Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie said on Friday she landed in Israel where she will meet with departing Canadian nationals and assess the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict on Israelis and Palestinians.

Earlier today, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) said that Joly would be leaving for a three-day trip to Israel and Jordan to reaffirm Ottawa's support to the Jewish State and discuss humanitarian efforts to protect civilians affected by the Israel-Gaza war.

"I'm in Israel to extend Canada's support to those impacted by the terrorist attack by Hamas. I'll meet with Canadians who are on their way home and with officials to better understand the situation on the ground and the humanitarian impact on Israeli and Palestinian civilians," Joly said via X (formerly Twitter).

Joly is set to reaffirm Canada's Support to Israel and its right to self-defence in accordance with the so-called international law, discuss the impacts of Hamas' attack on Israel and the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip.

Canada's top diplomat will also reiterate the necessity of abiding by international humanitarian law, and push collective efforts to ensure the swift and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid, as well as the protection of Israeli and Palestinian civilians

As of yesterday, two evacuation flights manned by the Canadian Armed Forces had left Tel-Aviv in direction of Athens, with both citizens and permanent residents on board.

The Canadian government has said that 4,200 Canadians are currently registered in Israel and 475 in the Palestinian West Bank and 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.

Heavy Falcon Launches 2.2Bln Mile Mission to 'Gold Mine' Asteroid - NASA

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The US rocket probe to explore the metal rich asteroid Psyche successfully launched on a SpaceX Heavy Falcon booster on schedule from Kennedy

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Space Center in Florida on Friday.

"NASA's Psyche spacecraft, along with the agency's DSOC (Deep Space Optical Communications) technology demonstration, launched from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 10:19 am EDT [Eastern Daylight Time]," NASA announced in an official blog.

The mission is now on its 2.2 billion mile journey to the 173-mile long and 140-mile wide Psyche in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, the US space agency said.

Psyche is one of nine asteroids considered to be most rich in metal among the millions of objects in the belt. It has been nicknamed "the gold mine asteroid" with a core believed to be composed of iron, nickel and gold that could be worth up to $10,000 quadrillion.

The mission missed its original planned 2022 launch date due to a series of problems that were investigated in a NASA internal review.

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.

Two-Thirds of US Voters Back Total Eradication of Hamas - Poll

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - Two-thirds of likely voters in the United States back the total eradication of Hamas in the Gaza Strip after the Palestinian group conducted surprise attacks on Israel, a new Rasmussen Reports poll revealed on Friday.

Two-thirds (66%) of likely US voters believe that Israel has no choice but to completely eradicate Hamas in Gaza, the poll found.

Majorities of every surveyed group support the eradication of Hamas, according to details of the poll shared with US media.

A majority of US voters, 53%, blame Palestinians for the conflict and just under one-quarter of voters blame both sides, the poll report said.

However, US voters are split on whether the Biden administration has done enough to support Israel amid its conflict with Hamas, the poll report said.

One-third (33%) of respondents said that the Biden administration has not provided enough aid to Israel, 38% of respondents believe that the administration has provided the right amount and 17% of respondents believe the United States has been too supportive of Israel, the poll report said.

The Biden administration has said that it will continue to consult with the Israeli authorities on their security needs moving forward, having already dispatched advisers and warships to the area.

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.

Latin America, Caribbean Region 'Well Placed' to Confront Global Trade Tensions - IMF

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region are well placed to confront potential global trade tensions, also known as "fragmentation," the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday.

"LAC is well placed to withstand a mild scenario of global trade tensions (fragmentation) in which trade barriers are erected only among large economies, although output losses could be sizable in more extreme scenarios," the IMF said in its Regional Economic Outlook report.

Countries have an opportunity to improve their trade and growth and mitigate fragmentation risks by reducing trade barriers and closing infrastructure gaps, the report said.

The IMF highlighted geopolitical fragmentation as one of the largest and most frequent economic shocks for the region, the report said.

Implementing social insurance measures to protect poor and vulnerable people will be crucial for maintaining social cohesion, the report added.

The IMF warned that while headline inflation reached historic levels in the second half of 2022, it continues to decline, the report said.

In addition, the IMF also warned about a possible manufacturing sector slowdown, the report said.

Inflation in the region, excluding Argentina and Venezuela, is expected to decline to 5% in 2023, the report added.

The positive path should continue in 2024 when inflation is projected at 3.6%, 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.

Reported US-Qatar Deal to Freeze $6Bln in Iranian Assets Must be Officialised – Statement

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) – The alleged agreement between the United States and Qatar on freezing $6 billion worth of Iranian assets should be made official, a bipartisan group of US Senators said in a joint statement on Friday.

In early September, the United States released approximately $6 billion in frozen Iranian oil revenues as part of a prisoner swap deal with Tehran. The funds were moved to restricted accounts in Qatar. A US State Department spokesperson said that the US will have oversight as to how and when these funds are used. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that Tehran would spend the unfrozen funds whichever way it finds fit.

“While we understand that there are reports of an agreement with Qatar to freeze $6 billion in Iranian assets, we urge you to make this decision official U.S. policy and continue your efforts to limit Iran’s ability to provide support to Hamas,” the joint statement reads.

Said request was made in light of the renewed flare up in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict following Hamas’ attack on Israel, the statement said, adding that considering Tehran’s history of endorsing Palestine’s armed resistance and other “terrorist activities” Washington must ensure Iran cannot provide further financial support to the group.

The bipartisan group further noted that Iran has been designated as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) since 1984 and has been allegedly providing material sand financial assistance

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

to Hamas, the statement said.

In addition, although the assessment on Iran's involvement in last Friday's attack on Israel is still ongoing, Tehran's support has undoubtedly allowed Hamas to carry its operations, the statement said.

On Thursday, US Senators Tom Cotton and Mitch McConnell introduced legislation to block the release of $6 billion in recently unfrozen funds to Iran, following a surprise attack by Palestinian Hamas militants on Israel over the weekend.

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 Says Russia's Long-Term Economic Outlook Dim Because of Sanctions

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - Russia is witnessing short-term economic growth due to spending related to the special operation in Ukraine but its longer-term economic outlook remains "dim" due to Western sanctions and export restrictions, the International Monetary Fund said on Friday.

"When you're looking at a longer-term picture on Russia, the outlook is dim because sanctions, because the reduction of technology transfers will hurt the productive capacity and productivity growth in the medium term," European Director Alfred Kammer told reporters on the sidelines of the IMF and the World Bank annual meetings in Morocco.

Kammer said government spending and investment related to the operation in Ukraine were creating a fiscal impulse that prompted the IMF to upgrade it's growth projections for the country.

"That is really a short-term impact which you're going to see fueling growth in the economy," Kammer said.

On Tuesday, the IMF improved its 2023 economic growth forecast for Russia by 0.7 percentage points to 2.2% but downgraded its 2024 projection to 1.1%.

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 Says Difficult to Forecast How Israel-Gaza War Will Affect Europe

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday it is difficult to predict at this stage what impact the ongoing violence between Israel and Gaza would have on the European economy,

"There is a lot of uncertainty of how this would unfold, and it is difficult at this stage to forecast what the possible implications are going to be," the IMF's European Director Alfred Kammer told reporters on the sidelines of the IMF and the World Bank annual meetings in Morocco.

Kammer added that the world is going through another shock.

"These shocks are hitting us with great surprise," he said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM

On Saturday, Hamas launched a surprise large-scale attack on Israel. The next day, Israel declared a state of war with Hamas and later announced a complete water, electricity and food blockade of the Gaza Strip. Both Israel and Palestine have reported over 1,000 deaths and thousands of injured as a result of the escalation.

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

Biden to Speak with Families of US Hostages in Hamas-Israel Conflict – Reports

WASHINGTON, October 13 (Sputnik) – US President Biden plans to speak on Friday with families of some of the Americans taken hostage in the Hamas-Israel conflict, NBC reported, citing a White House official.

During his visit to Israel on Thursday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that he and Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs Steven Gillen were “doing everything we can to secure the release of the hostages” by working closely with Israel. He noted that Gillen would be staying in Israel to support the efforts.

The number of American hostages taken by Hamas is unclear, but National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said Tuesday that it is believed to be low.

At least 14 Americans in Israel remain unaccounted for, although it is unclear whether they were taken hostage.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 10/16/2023 11:51:14 AM