Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

5/28/24 Tuesday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Safer, Cleaner Water to Come at a Cost for Many Americans

The director of a water system in South Florida notes that while the new regulations will have a positive affect on the health of the public, the cost of manufacturers' PFAS use will have to come out of the wallets of the public instead of that of the companies.

According to a recent report, Americans could be spending more of their hard earned cash just to get access to clean water. In early April, the [US President Joe] Biden administration announced a national drinking water standard that imposes limits on forever chemicals in public water systems.

Water systems are now warning residents from South Florida through upstate New York that they may see massive rate hikes for technology that will be used to filter out "forever chemicals" including PFAS from their water sources.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that between 6% and 10% of the country's water systems will reduce about 100 million Americans' exposure to PFAS. They are requiring water systems which contain high levels of six types of PFAS to remove them from their water.

PFAS are short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, according to the EPA. They are used widely and break down over a long period of time, the EPA explains. These chemicals are ubiquitous and can be found in water, air, fish, soil as well as in the blood of people and animals. They are sometimes used to make nonstick cooking products as well as waterproof items.

The EPA adds that exposure to PFAS have been linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals, citing scientific studies. In April, the EPA said that imposing limits on forever chemicals will protect the public from these dangerous chemicals which have been linked to various cancers and other diseases.

"It's going to be expensive, and it's going to impact our ratepayers, and we're going to be doing everything we possibly can to get some federal support in terms of the funding, but we're going to have to move forward," said Chris Harder, the Fort Worth Water Director in Fort Worth, Texas.

Alan Garcia, the director of a water and wastewater service in South Florida, said the average monthly bill in that county is $26, but warned that the amount could "potentially triple" when the county turns to filtering out PFAS. Garcia points out that while the benefit of the new regulations will have a positive effect on peoples' lives, it is as though the public is "paying the price" of private companies' PFAS use.

These new regulations give utilities a few years to test their water to determine if their levels of chemicals are above federal thresholds before installing new filtration systems. That means that the number of areas affected by the mandate could increase.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

The US Invites 'Wanted Criminal' Netanyahu to DC

The invitation to Netanyahu comes on the heels of Republican lawmakers releasing an open and signed letter threatening officials of the court with sanctions against their employees, associates, them and their families.

A recent report from Common Dreams shows that a growing number of US congressional Democrats are pushing back against House Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) invitation for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress. The invitation comes at an awkward time, as the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Hamas leader Yehiya Sinwar and other officials for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI) said that if "Netanyahu comes to address Congress, I would be more than glad to show the ICC the way to the House floor to issue that warrant."

Meanwhile, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) also indicated his intent to boycott any address by the prime minister, adding that Netanyahu had created the "worst humanitarian disaster in modern history".

But some US officials have suggested that the ICC does not have jurisdiction over the conflict in Gaza, nor the US itself. Last week, US Senator Lindsey Graham said he wanted to sanction the ICC for its decisions, to which US Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggested he would support the senator.

On Tuesday, the independent investigative journalist and author Dan Lazare sat down with Sputnik's Wilmer Leon to discuss US Republicans' outstretched hand to Netanyahu.

"I think that Democrats are demoralized. They don't know what to do. They're just sick and tired of Biden's ineffectuality. He keeps promising that a ceasefire is just around the corner. A ceasefire is no closer now than it was four or five months ago. He's totally out of it," said Lazare.

"Netanyahu hasn't accepted [Johnson's invitation] yet and the Democrats haven't yet signed on," Lazare explained. "I think there will be little pushback in the end. I think that with a handful of exceptions, Democrats will be there clapping for Netanyahu if he does give this speech. He's addressed Congress three times before in the past - that's more than any foreign leader except for Winston Churchill."

"And I don't have the slightest doubt that if he makes it a fourth time, he will be greeted the same way. The despicable nature of the US Congress is just not to be underestimated."

Sputnik's Wilmer Leon noted that a majority of Americans now disapprove of Israel's action in Gaza, according to a poll from late March. Just 36% of Americans approve of Israel's military action in Gaza and 55% say they disapprove. The poll also showed that just 34% of Americans are following the war "closely" compared to 72% who said they are following it "very closely". The poll was completed just before the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for a cease-fire which only went through because the US chose to abstain rather than veto the resolution as they had repeatedly done in the past.

"Several hundred miles to the east of Gaza lies the Persian Gulf, which contains roughly 55% or 60% of the world's proven fossil fuel reserves," the author and journalist explained. "And maintaining control of the Persian Gulf has been a top US priority since January 1980, when Jimmy Carter, if you remember him, unveiled something called the Carter Doctrine, which is that

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

the US laid exclusive claim to the Gulf's energy resources, and no one else had better even think about muscling in."

The Carter Doctrine was a policy enacted by the 39th US president, Jimmy Carter, in 1980. Following his presidency, it appeared as though both Democrats and Republicans were committed to defending the oil fields of the Persian Gulf. In the summer of 2019, former President Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and imposed "maximum pressure" on Tehran economically. Iran then attacked the Gulf states and their oil exports.

In late April, Blinken visited Saudi Arabia and emphasized the Biden administration's desire for an increased collaboration with and amongst the Persian Gulf states to create an integrated defense strategy aimed at countering Iran's regional influence. His visit followed Iran's decision to launch over 300 projectiles in a retaliatory attack against Israel.

"So, given that, Israel's an absolutely indispensable US ally. I mean, it's been used many times, described as an unsinkable US aircraft carrier. Joe Biden once said that if Israel didn't exist, the US would have to invent it. It's an indispensable partner, and that trumps any kind of momentary political consideration," the author added. "Whatever dissent there is will be completely minor and incidental."

Leon noted that Ansar Allah "demonstrated in the Red Sea that they can shut down commercial traffic", adding that the day before Iran responded to the Israeli attack, "they captured a commercial vessel demonstrating to the US we can shut this down too". Yemen's Houthi Rebels have launched a number of attacks in the Red Sea as a demand for the end of the war in Gaza. They have launched more than 50 attacks on shipping, seized a vessel and sunk another since November, a report citing the US Maritime Administration, said.

"The Houthis have been fairly effective. And they are really hard to combat because Yemen is an extremely mountainous country," said Lazare, who suggested that the group has a plethora of hiding places. "They can assemble their missiles in a matter of minutes and then escape as soon as they're fired."

"The Houthis are certainly a significant irritant, and they have put a big dent in Red Sea traffic. The Persian Gulf is easier to defend and easier to control, and the US has [...] spent literally tens of trillions of dollars in militarizing the Gulf region," the journalist added. "However, I do believe that, the Houthis notwithstanding, that the correlation of forces has increased in US favor, US-Israeli favor, over the last 30 years. In certain respects, I regard the Persian Gulf as less dangerous."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

No Zone is Safe

The attack on what the IDF had designated as a "safe zone" came shortly after a barrage of Hamas rockets reached central Israel on Sunday; the group's first long-range strikes in months. No deaths or injuries were reported following the strike.

On Monday, an Israeli airstrike killed 45 people and as a result, has left the world shocked as more than half of those killed included women, children, and the elderly. Global condemnation

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

followed the strike, with the most condemnatory of those coming from the Arab League nations and the Global South in general, Sputnik reported.

Others stressed that Israel had acted in defiance of the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), after the court ordered them to cease their military offensive in Rafah last week. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Türkiye lambasted Tel-Aviv, saying: “We will do everything to hold these barbarians and murderers accountable.”

But while some Western countries spoke out against Israel’s atrocities, the US appeared to keep mum on their ally’s assault.

"Israel has a right to go after Hamas, and we understand this strike killed two senior Hamas terrorists who are responsible for attacks against Israeli civilians," a US National Security Council spokesperson said. "But as we’ve been clear, Israel must take every precaution possible to protect civilians."

According to witnesses, at least eight airstrikes struck the camp of displaced victims about 600 feet from a UN warehouse. A Palestinian Red Crescent spokesperson said the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) had previously identified the camp as a “humanitarian area.” The IDF confirmed the strike as well, claiming that “significant Hamas terrorists were operating” there and said the strike’s “precise intelligence” had eliminated Hamas’ chief of staff for the West Bank.

Survivors said that they families were preparing to sleep when the strike hit the Tel Al-Sultan neighborhood, according to a Reuters report. A Palestinian mother described the strike as a “loud noise” followed by a fire that erupted around them.

Palestinian authorities have reported that over 35,000 Palestinians have been killed since the conflict first broke out in October. A majority of those who have been killed are believed to be women and children.

Cindy McCain, the head of the United Nations World Food Program has also warned that Gaza has now entered a “full-blown famine”. And yet, the Biden administration has said that they do not believe Israel is committing “genocide” in the Gaza Strip.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Western Media Unanimous in Praise for Russia’s Electronic Warfare Tech

Western countries are significantly behind Russia in developing technology to jam and disable electronic signals on the battlefield, says one expert.

An invisible force is proving decisive in Russia’s conflict with Ukraine, claims analyst Mark Sleboda, and Western media has taken notice.

A slew of US and European news outlets, from the Washington Post to the Financial Times, have acknowledged in recent weeks that Russian electronic weapons are dealing a knockout blow to NATO’s most advanced weaponry. The technology has allowed Moscow to thwart GPS targeting guidance and jam communications signals, leaving Kiev unable to lock on to Russian targets or even maintain contact among troops on the battlefield.

Sleboda joined Sputnik’s The Critical Hour program Tuesday to shed light on Moscow’s game-changing capabilities, which are earning plauditsfrom the likes of former US Department of Defense officer David Pyne.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

“Electronic warfare is a field of warfare that a lot of people don't understand, primarily because they can't see it,” said the international relations expert.

“But when you think that almost all modern weapons systems – particularly US/NATO weapons systems – have for years put a premium on accuracy, particularly with GPS guidance, [and] rely on electromagnetic frequencies… and you're dealing with a capability that has the potential to nullify or even substitute false signals for all of this control, all of this guidance, and to jam all of these communications, you start to realize how powerful a game-changing weapon electronic warfare systems can be on the battlefield.”

Sleboda said Russia has been perfecting such technology for decades as a response to its adversaries’ air and long-range precision strike capabilities. Instead of attempting merely to match Western developments in these areas, Moscow sought to counter NATO’s strengths asymmetrically, pushing forward in areas the US and Europe had yet to explore.

The analyst noted work by scholars Roger McDermott and Michael Kofman revealing the significant technological advantage Russia has gained by focusing on electronic warfare research since the days of the Soviet Union.

“Western media is really starting to notice this now… You don't have to go to Sputnik to see this anymore,” Sleboda observed, listing off a series of recent articles on the subject.

“Washington Post – ‘Russian jamming leaves some high-tech US weapons ineffective in Ukraine’... Defense One – ‘Another US precision guided weapon falls prey to Russian electronic warfare.’ The Economist – 'Russia is starting to make its superiority in electronic warfare count'... The New York Times – 'Jamming: How electronic warfare is reshaping Ukraine's battlefield.' Or the Financial Times – 'Military briefing: Russia has the upper hand in electronic warfare with Ukraine.'”

“So I think the consensus is out there. The Western mainstream media has had their mea culpa moment on the effectiveness of Russia's electronic warfare against these advanced US and NATO weapons systems,” he concluded, noting that Moscow’s capabilities have disabled even advanced armaments like GPS-guided Excalibur rounds, Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDB) and HIMARS systems.

The provision of Elon Musk’s Starlink system, with its vast constellation of communications satellites, was thought to provide a major advantage to Kiev early on in the conflict after the US military’s Viasat platform was blocked. But Russia managed to jam Starlink signals as well, leaving Ukrainian troops unable to communicate for days amid recent fighting near Kharkov.

“Now Russia and China are in a fairly advanced stage of developing – not just developing, but deploying – their own equivalent of Starlink systems because they see how effective they have been for communications on the battlefield,” Sleboda reported.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

‘Horrific Pictures’ – World Responds to Israeli Strike on Gaza Camp

Grisly images have emerged online after an Israeli strike on a tent encampment apparently ignited a fire that killed multiple Palestinian refugees.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

The world is reacting to scenes of chaos and desperation that ensued after an Israeli strike on a displaced persons camp near the Gazan city of Rafah Sunday killed at least 40 people and injured dozens more.

The most outraged responses came from Global South nations, with Arab League members noting the attack demonstrated flagrant defiance of last week's International Court of Justice ruling calling on Israel to cease operations in the Palestinian city.

"We will do everything possible to hold these barbarians and murderers accountable," said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has adopted an increasingly strident tone after announcing he would halt all trade with Tel Aviv earlier this month.

Western countries have been divided in their response, with French President Emmanuel Macron claiming he was "outraged" over the incident but White House spokesperson John Kirby expressing faith in Israel's investigation into the "mishap."

"We have to remember that this area, Rafah in Gaza, is an area that the Palestinians were told they'll be safe," noted journalist Robert Fantina on Sputnik's The Final Countdown program Tuesday. "So they're overcrowded to an unbelievable extent. Like 800,000 people in Rafah alone. It's tripled or quadrupled from its original size."

"They are without food, water, medication, sanitary facilities, and they were supposed to be safe there," the author continued. "So with the IDF saying, 'oh, this is a mistake, we were supposed to hit point A and a fire happened at point B' – well, when you have tens of thousands of tents and people crowded in just the most densely populated area of the world and then you start bombing… a lot of innocent people are going to die – men, women and children."

US President Joe Biden had previously suggested an Israeli invasion of Rafah would constitute a "red line." The White House briefly placed a hold on the provision of some heavy bombs to the country earlier this month out of purported concern over mass civilian casualties.

But the president seemingly changed course just a week later, announcing a new $1.25 billion arms package for Israel after bipartisan criticism from members of Congress.

Netizens were shocked by images from the hellish scene that emerged in the aftermath of Israel's attack Sunday as a fire raged across the tent encampment.

"The scenes from Rafah overnight are horrific," wrote British commentator Piers Morgan, who has consistently backed Israel amid its seven-month-long operation in Gaza. "'I've defended Israel's right to defend itself after Oct7, but slaughtering so many innocent people as they cower in a refugee camp is indefensible. Stop this now @netanyahu."

"We're seeing these horrific pictures of headless, burned babies. These are not things that are an accident," said Fantina.

"They're continuing the bombing campaign, they're saying they're going to investigate this. And you have to remember, they're always investigating their own crimes and finding that they were not guilty of them. This doesn't fly on the international stage anymore. It had for the longest time because the United States has allowed it, enabled it, but those days, I think, are gone."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the incident a "tragic mishap," saying a "precision munition" ignited a fuel tank in the Palestinian encampment.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticized the attack on the X social media platform, writing, "I condemn Israel's actions which killed scores of innocent civilians who were only seeking shelter from this deadly conflict."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

‘Lightweight’ Biden Officials Lack Gravitas to Negotiate with Russia – Analyst

Nebojsa Malic ran through the list of top officials in the Biden White House, attempting to conjure someone who approaches the stature of Russia’s top diplomat.

Which White House official has the clout to go toe to toe with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov?

“That's a trick question. Nobody.”

So says Serbian-American journalist Nebojsa Malic, who joined Sputnik’s The Final Countdown program Tuesday to discuss how the Biden administration’s diplomatic deficit prevents Washington from dialing down tensions with one of the world’s foremost military powers.

“The West is playing poker and the Russians are not playing games,” said the veteran columnist for AntiWar.com, who claimed the United States has consistently provoked Moscow.

“The Ukrainians are losing badly on the operational and tactical level [and] the strategic level, arguably, as well,” he added, claiming that talk of Ukraine firing US weapons into Russia is intended “to present to their own population that they're doing something.”

The issue has represented the latest controversy in the West’s ongoing proxy war against Moscow, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken publicly making the case to encourage Kiev to strike within Russian territory.

“But you can say that that particular rubicon has been crossed months ago,” said Malic. “These long-range strikes – they're hitting oil refiners, they're hitting cities, they're hitting civilians – they're not striking military formations. Never did.”

“This whole talk of, ‘oh, but we couldn't disrupt the offensive because we weren't allowed to strike Russian territory,’ is just an excuse from Zelensky and his command to justify their total and utter failure on the battlefield. And that's why it's arisen… ‘let's do this because we're going to blame the West for not letting us fight.’”

As Russia has consolidated their gains on the battlefield and pushed north towards Kharkov, Western media has begun to acknowledge the Kiev regime’s dire straits. With Ukrainian victory now more unlikely than ever, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reiterated that he is open to negotiating peace.

But Moscow prefers to negotiate with “the people who make the decisions,” noted Malic, who reside not in Kiev, but in Washington.

“Do you see a scenario where Antony Blinken and Sergey Lavrov sit down and have tea together?” asked host Angie Wong.

“No,” the analyst replied bluntly.

“Simply put, no. I don't think Lavrov wants to negotiate with somebody who's such a lightweight,” he claimed, apparently unimpressed with Blinken’s guitar playing abilities.

“[William] Burns actually might be the person,” said Malic, referring to Biden’s CIA director who has helped facilitate negotiations with Israel. “He used to be an ambassador to Russia, if I remember, and he might have the adequate gravitas to negotiate. Although does he have the authority? I don't know. But yeah, Burns might actually be someone that the Russians might be willing to discuss things with.”

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

The writer ran through the list of other top officials in the Biden White House, attempting to conjure someone who approaches the stature of Russia's longtime top diplomat.
"Sullivan: no. Harris: no. Biden, himself: don't make me laugh. Blinken: no.Austin: no, also he's indisposed. Yeah, I think Burns might be the guy."
Western media unanimous in praise for Russia's electronic warfare tech

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

An invisible force is proving decisive in Ukraine conflict, claims analyst Mark Sleboda, and Western media has taken notice.

"Western media is really starting to notice this now… You don't have to go to Sputnik to see this anymore," he observed on Sputnik's The Critical Hour program, listing off a series of recent articles on the subject.

"Washington Post – 'Russian jamming leaves some high-tech US weapons ineffective in Ukraine'... Defense One – 'Another US precision guided weapon falls prey to Russian electronic warfare.' The Economist – 'Russia is starting to make its superiority in electronic warfare count'... The New York Times – 'Jamming: How electronic warfare is reshaping Ukraine's battlefield.' Or the Financial Times – 'Military briefing: Russia has the upper hand in electronic warfare with Ukraine.'

"I think the consensus is out there," said Sleboda. "The Western mainstream media has had their mea culpa moment on the effectiveness of Russia's electronic warfare against these advanced US and NATO weapons systems," he concluded, noting that Moscow's capabilities have disabled even advanced armaments like GPS-guided Excalibur rounds, Ground Launched Small Diameter Bombs (GLSDB) and HIMARS systems.

"When you think that almost all modern weapons systems – particularly US/NATO weapons systems – have for years put a premium on accuracy, particularly with GPS guidance, [and] rely on electromagnetic frequencies… you start to realize how powerful a game-changing weapon electronic warfare systems can be on the battlefield."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Horrific pictures' – world responds to Israeli strike on Gaza camp

The world is reacting to scenes of chaos and desperation that ensued after an Israeli strike on a displaced persons camp Sunday killed at least 40 people and injured dozens more.

"We have to remember that this area, Rafah in Gaza, is an area that the Palestinians were told they'll be safe," noted journalist Robert Fantina on Sputnik's The Final Countdown program. "So

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

they're overcrowded to an unbelievable extent. Like 800,000 people in Rafah alone. It's tripled or quadrupled from its original size."

"When you have tens of thousands of tents and people crowded in just the most densely populated area of the world and then you start bombing… a lot of innocent people are going to die – men, women and children."

Netizens were shocked by images from the hellish scene that emerged in the aftermath of Israel's attack as a fire raged across the tent encampment. British commentator Piers Morgan, who has consistently backed Israel amid its seven-month-long operation in Gaza, condemned the attack, writing, "Slaughtering so many innocent people as they cower in a refugee camp is indefensible. Stop this now @ netanyahu."

"We're seeing these horrific pictures of headless, burned babies. These are not things that are an accident." said Fantina. "They're continuing the bombing campaign, they're saying they're going to investigate this. And you have to remember, they're always investigating their own crimes and finding that they were not guilty of them. This doesn't fly on the international stage anymore. It had for the longest time because the United States has allowed it, enabled it, but those days, I think, are gone."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Lightweight' Biden officials lack gravitas to negotiate with Russia – analyst

Which White House official has the clout to go toe to toe with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov?

"That's a trick question. Nobody."

So says Serbian-American journalist Nebojsa Malic, who joined Sputnik's The Final Countdown program to discuss how the Biden administration's diplomatic deficit prevents Washington from dialing down tensions with one of the world's foremost military powers.

"The West is playing poker and the Russians are not playing games," said the veteran columnist, who claimed the United States has consistently provoked Moscow. "The Ukrainians are losing badly on the operational and tactical level [and] the strategic level, arguably, as well," he added, claiming that talk of Ukraine firing US weapons into Russia is intended "to present to their own population that they're doing something."

As Russia has consolidated their gains on the battlefield and pushed north towards Kharkov, Western media has begun to acknowledge the Kiev regime's dire straits. With Ukrainian victory now more unlikely than ever, Russian President Vladimir Putin has reiterated that he is open to

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

negotiating peace. But Moscow prefers to negotiate with “the people who make the decisions,” noted Malic, who reside not in Kiev, but in Washington.

“Do you see a scenario where [US Secretary of State] Antony Blinken and Sergey Lavrov sit down and have tea together?” asked host Angie Wong.

“Simply put, no. I don't think Lavrov wants to negotiate with somebody who's such a lightweight,” said Malic, apparently unimpressed with Blinken’s guitar playing abilities.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

NATO Weighing Appointment of Special Representative for Ukraine - US Envoy

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - NATO is considering whether to appoint a special representative for Ukraine to manage various efforts across the military bloc, US Permanent Representative to NATO Julianne Smith said on Wednesday.
"The third basket will be whether or not we need to appoint some sort of representative that would help us manage all of the different efforts that are ongoing across the NATO alliance," Smith said during a virtual press briefing when commenting on the agenda of the upcoming NATO summit.
The next NATO summit will take place in Washington DC on July 9-11 and will mark the 75th anniversary of the military bloc.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

NATO Summit Declaration to Include New Language on Ukraine’s Membership - US Official

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – The joint declaration coming out from the NATO summit in Washington will include new language on Ukraine’s membership aspirations that will be different from the wording used last year, US Permanent Representative to NATO Julianne Smith said on Wednesday.
"There will be some new language in the summit declaration on Ukraine's membership aspirations. It won't look exactly like the language that we had last year," Smith said during a virtual press briefing.
The next NATO summit will take place in Washington on July 9-11 and will mark the 75th anniversary of the military bloc.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada Invests $10Bln in RCAF Training, New Fleet of Logistic Vehicles - Defense Minister

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - Canada is investing a total of C$13.78 billion ($10 billion) in a new air force flight training program and the procurement of a fleet of light and heavy logistic vehicles, Minister of National Defense Bill Blair said on Wednesday.

"Today I have the privilege of announcing that we have now signed a C$11.2 billion contract with SkyAlyne, which will deliver future aircraft training program in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Air Force [RCAF]. SkyAlyne will help to train RCAF pilots, air combat systems officers and airborne electronic sensor operators," Blair said at the CANSEC annual global defense and security trade show in Ottawa.

Through the program, RCAF will enable air crews to operate fixed-wing planes and helicopters, Blair said. Pilots will undergo training in five different fleets and on 70 planes, he added.

The minister also announced an investment of C$2.58 billion in a General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada and Marshall Canada joint venture to produce a new fleet of light and heavy logistic vehicles, equipment and in-service support for the military.

"In total this investment is going to deliver over 1,000 Light Trucks and approximately 500 heavy trucks to our military, as well as associated equipment such as armored protection kits, containers, trailers and interchangeable modules," Blair said.

The new vehicles will be able to carry heavier workloads, have greater mobility and offer better protection. The first units are expected to be delivered by 2027, Blair added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Looking at Proposals to Boost NATO Air Defense - Envoy to NATO

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – US Permanent Representative to NATO Julianne Smith said Wednesday that the United States is looking at proposals to strengthen air defense across NATO territory.

"We are looking at a series of proposals to strengthen air defense across NATO territory and will likely have more to say about that at the summit," Smith said at a press briefing ahead of the NATO Informal Foreign Ministerial in Prague.

"We are moving heaven and earth right now to identify additional forms of air defense that we can flow into Ukraine and get to places like Kharkiv or Odesa and elsewhere," she added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukrainian Crews Say Abrams Tanks Problematic on Battlefield – Reports

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – Ukrainian crews maintaining the M1 Abrams tanks supplied by the United States say there are numerous issues with using the armored vehicles on the battlefield, CNN reported on Wednesday.

The crews said that the $10 million vehicles did not have sufficient armor against modern weapons like drones, thus failing to adequately protect personnel against attacks. One member said that the tanks have become Russian forces' "number one target."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

They also said that the tanks appeared to have technical issues; for example, condensation affected electronic components. They noted that the tanks were not suitable for Ukraine's situation, given that typically air power and artillery, which Ukrainian forces lack, help clear the battlefield before tanks and troops advance.

The US has deployed 31 Abrams in Ukraine, where they are used near the frontline in the east. Ukraine's request for the tanks was controversial, given that the vehicles involve complicated supply chains and maintenance.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Deputy Treasury Secretary in Kiev to Discuss Russia Sanctions, Frozen Assets

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - US Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo said on Wednesday that he arrived in Ukraine to discuss its economy, strengthening sanctions against Moscow and unlocking the value of frozen Russian assets.

"I'm in Kyiv today to coordinate closely with Ukrainian leaders on how we can continue to support Ukraine's economic resilience and further tighten the screws on Russia's military industrial base," Adeyemo said on X.

Adeyemo plans to meet with Ukrainian leadership to further "our collaborative efforts to combat corruption, encourage private investment in Ukraine's long-term economic future, and unlock the value of Russian sovereign assets."

The official also reaffirmed the US's commitment to continue supporting Kiev militarily and economically.

"We continue to target Russia's military industrial complex, with the United States sanctioning nearly 300 individuals and entities just this month as part of our effort to hold Russia accountable," he said.

The G7, led by the United States and the European Union, have been discussing ways to seize the estimated $300 billion worth of Russian central bank assets frozen in Western accounts and use them to aid Ukraine.

The issue is expected to be discussed at the G7 summit in Italy from June 13-15.

The Kremlin has maintained that any attempts to confiscate Russian assets amount to theft and a violation of international law.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Democrats to Spend $100Mln to Support Abortion in Bid to Win House - Reports

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – US Democrats plan to spend $100 million in support of abortion rights as part of a strategy to win the battle for the US House of Representatives, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

The report said the House Majority PAC, a political action committee aimed at ensuring Democrats take control over the House, sent a memo to donors outlining the Reproductive

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Freedom Accountability Fund, which it plans to spend in swing districts across the country for advertising and voter mobilization.

The committee also plans to focus resources on voter outreach in House districts in New York, California, Oregon, Washington, Virginia and other locations where competitive presidential or Senate races are not expected, according to the report.

The Democrats want to attract attention to abortion rights in order to mitigate the negative influence of US President Joe Biden's weak poll numbers and Republicans' lead in surveys on combating inflation and better controlling the border, the report said.

The memo was sent to donors earlier in May. The document signals to supporters the committee's plan for the months ahead of the election.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Two Chinese Giant Pandas to Arrive in Washington by Year-End - Smithsonian Zoo

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – The Smithsonian announced on Wednesday that a pair of Chinese giant pandas will join its National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in Washington by the end of the year, according to a release.

"Today, May 29, the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI) announced it will welcome a new pair of giant pandas, Bao Li [BOW-lee] and Qing Bao [ching-BOW], to the Zoo by the end of the year," the release stated.

The date of pandas' public debut will be announced when the zoo's animal care team deems it appropriate.

A cooperative research and breeding agreement signed between the Smithsonian and the China Wildlife Conservation Association for the pair of pandas is effective through April 2034

Last November, giant pandas Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, who had arrived at the Smithsonian in 2000, returned to China, along with their cub, Xiao Qi Ji.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Joly Says No Conditions on Ukraine Using Canadian-Supplied Weapons to Strike Inside Russia

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) – Canada is providing weapons to Ukraine with no restrictions on strikes inside Russia, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly said on Wednesday .

"We believe that we need to be forward leaning on this question. Why? Because Russia has no red line," Joly said. "There's in Canada no condition on end user shipment of arms to Ukraine."

She stated that it is important for NATO member states to show Ukraine that they stand by its side notwithstanding what is happening.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Russia is following the statements on strikes inside its territory. He warned that NATO countries should be aware of what they are playing with.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

CENTCOM Says 3 Houthi Missiles Struck Shipping Vessel Laax in Red Sea

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - Three Houthi missiles hit a commercial shipping vessel earlier, but the ship was able to continue its trip, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement.

"Between 12:05 p.m. and 1:40 p.m. (Sanaa time) May 28, Iranian-backed Houthis launched five anti-ship ballistic missiles from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Red Sea," CENTCOM said on Tuesday. "M/V Laax, a Marshall Island flagged, Greek owned and operated bulk carrier, reported being struck by three of the missiles, but continued its voyage."

There were no injuries reported by the US military, coalition, or merchant vessels, according to CENTCOM. US forces also destroyed five Houthi drones over the Red Sea, CENTCOM added. The US military said the drones presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels in the region.

Earlier on Tuesday, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said that they attacked three US and Israeli merchant ships, as well as two US destroyers, in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

Yemen's Houthi rebels vowed in November 2023 to attack any ships associated with Israel until it halts military actions in the Gaza Strip. The attacks prompted the United States to form a multinational coalition, which includes the United Kingdom among others, to protect shipping in the area of the Red Sea, as well as to strike Houthi targets on the ground.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

OpenAI Says Launching Panel to Oversee Safety, Security of Projects

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - US tech company OpenAI said in a statement that it is launching a new panel to oversee safety and security issues pertaining to its artificial intelligence (AI) projects.

“Today, the OpenAI Board formed a Safety and Security Committee led by directors Bret Taylor (Chair), Adam D’Angelo, Nicole Seligman, and Sam Altman (CEO). This committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the full Board on critical safety and security decisions for OpenAI projects and operations,” the statement said on Tuesday.

The panel will evaluate and further develop OpenAI’s processes and safeguards over the next 90 days, the statement said. After the 90-day period, the panel will share their recommendations with the company’s full board, the statement said.

OpenAI will also retain and consult with other safety, security, and technical experts to support such work, the statement said.

OpenAI has started to train its next “frontier model” that it anticipates will bring AI technology to the next level of capabilities, the statement said. OpenAI is proud to develop models that are industry-leading in terms of capabilities and safety, the statement added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Lockheed Martin Confirms Military Jet That Crashed in New Mexico Was F-35B

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - The military aircraft that crashed in the US state of New Mexico earlier was an F-35B fighter jet, a Lockheed Martin spokesperson told Sputnik.

"An F-35B enroute from Fort Worth, Texas, to Edwards Air Force Base, California, crashed after a refueling stop at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico," the spokesperson said on Tuesday. "The pilot safely ejected. Safety is our priority and we will follow the appropriate investigation protocol."

The local authorities did not previously disclose what type of aircraft was involved in the incident.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Lockheed Martin confirms to Sputnik military jet that crashed in New Mexico was f -35b

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Albuquerque Authorities Confirm Military Jet Crashed in US State of New Mexico

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - Albuquerque Fire Rescue Public Information Officer Lt. Jason Fejer confirmed to Sputnik that a military jet crashed near the city on Tuesday afternoon.

"I can confirm there was a non-civilian aircraft that crashed," Fejer said on Tuesday when asked to confirm a military jet crashed near Albuquerque in the US state of New Mexico.

Fejer said the pilot of the aircraft was able to timely eject and the fire caused by the crash has been extinguished.

Authorities have not identified the type of aircraft involved in the crash, but US media reported that it was an F-35 fighter jet.

The Albuquerque International Airport said in a separate statement that the military aircraft crashed off of the airfield on the south side of the airport. The pilot was conscious after ejecting from the aircraft and taken to a local hospital, according to officials.

Officials at Kirtland Air Force Base, which is located near Albuquerque, did not immediately respond to Sputnik's request for comment on this matter.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Nominates Mark Angelson to Serve as US Ambassador to Norway - White House

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden has nominated Mark Angelson, who has served as Vice Chairman of the Biden Foundation, to serve as the US ambassador to Norway, the White House announced.

"Today, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to serve as key leaders in his administration: Mark Angelson, nominee for Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Norway," the White House said in a press release on Tuesday.

Angelson previously served in various roles, including as a member of the president's Intelligence Advisory Board and as chair of the Institute of International Education, the release said.

Angelson has also served as deputy mayor of Chicago and as chairman and CEO of two Canadian public companies, the release added.

The nominee also practiced international law in the firm of Sidley & Austin in Singapore, New York, and London, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden to Visit France for 80th Anniversary of Normandy Landings - White House

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden will attend the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings in France, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre announced.

"We are going to, obviously, be in France for the anniversary of D-Day [Normandy landings]. So the President looks forward to being in France," Jean-Pierre said during a White House press briefing on Tuesday.

Biden said on Monday that it was the US armed forces that saved the world from Nazism and freed Europe in World War II, without ever mentioning the role of the Soviet Union and other allies in the victory over Nazi Germany.

The US, UK and Canadian forces landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944 - also known as the D-Day invasion - in what was the largest naval, air and land operation in history, with nearly 7,000 allied naval vessels and an estimated 156,000 soldiers. Allied casualties are estimated at 10,000, including about 2,500 US soldiers killed during and after the landing.

Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov told Sputnik that the United States tends to progressively overestimate its own role in the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II and diminish the role of the Soviet Union and the other allies.

More than 27 million Soviets died in the war and more than a million Soviet soldiers solely in the 1943 battle of Kursk, which is commonly recognized as a turning point in the war.

In mid-April, media reported that the organizers of the commemoration ceremony for the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings had invited Russia to attend, but the Russian Foreign Ministry denied receiving an invitation.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

US Will Not Recognize Taliban, Russia Doing So Would Send 'Bad Message' - Kirby

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) — The United States will not recognize the Taliban as Afghanistan's government and believes any Russian decision to do so would send a wrong message, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Tuesday.

"We [the US] are in no position nor will we be to recognize the Taliban as the official government of Afghanistan, and for Russia to do so, I do believe, we believe that that would send a bad message to others," Kirby said during a White House press briefing.

Earlier today, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the status of the Taliban (under UN sanctions for terrorism) in Russia as well as plans to remove it from the list of terrorist organizations is constantly being discussed.

On Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that the Taliban movement is the real authority in Afghanistan and that plans to remove it from the list of organizations banned in Russia reflect reality.

Later, Special Russian Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov said that the status of a terrorist organization of the Taliban movement in Russia prevents the development of relations between Moscow and Kabul.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) -

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* The United States is not changing its position on restricting the use of US-supplied weapons to Ukrainian territory, despite the recent call by the NATO chief to allow Kiev to use them to strike inside Russia, Secretary of State spokesman Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

* The supply of long-range weapons to Ukraine capable of hitting Russian military facilities is not an escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, French President Emmanuel Macron said.

* The EU intends to expand the mission on training Ukrainian military and is discussing setting new tasks, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

* Russia has begun the creation of a buffer zone, as Kiev was warned about, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

GAZA

* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned in the strongest terms the latest attack against Palestinians in Rafah on May 26, emphasizing that "the horror must stop," United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

* The United States has reached out to Israel to express deep concern over the recent deadly Rafa strike and calls for a full investigation, State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller said.

* The US military pier attached to the Gaza coastline to facilitate aid deliveries was damaged by bad weather and will have to be temporarily detached for repairs, Defense Department deputy

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

spokesperson Sabrina Singh said.

GEORGIA'S FOREIGN AGENTS LAW

* The Georgian parliament overrode the veto of President Salome Zourabichvili on the Foreign Agents Law by a majority of votes, Parliamentary Speaker Shalva Papuashvili said on Tuesday.

* Georgia risks a potential membership in the European Union (EU) and downgrade of relations with the United States due to the Foreign Agents Law, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

* European leaders will discuss the situation in Georgia at the next summit in June, European Council President Charles Michel said.

LIBERATION OF CHAD SOLDIERS

* Russian soldiers together with Chad military personnel conducted an operation to liberate Chadian military captured by Islamic militants, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

* Chad's Defense Minister noted that Russia has always been a reliable partner for Africa, and France, the United Kingdom and the United States have only benefited from the continent, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

WESTERN RESTRICTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

* The members of G7 do not have a consensus on how to deal with frozen Russian assets, US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Daleep Singh said on Tuesday.

* The 14th package of sanctions against Russia will be agreed upon before the expiration of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union at the end of June, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said.

PUTIN VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN

* Russian President Vladimir Putin said during a trip to Uzbekistan on Tuesday that the Central Asian nation's accession to the five-state Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) would be a win-win for all.

* Russia and Uzbekistan have many joint plans, including in industrial and energy cooperation, Putin said.

* Russia and Uzbekistan have many joint plans, including in industrial and energy cooperation, Putin said.

ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR PLANT

* The current technical condition of the Zaporizhzia nuclear power plant (NPP) is assessed as absolutely safe, Russia's nuclear corporation Rosatom head Alexey Likhachev said on Tuesday after a meeting with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi.

* The restart of the ZNPP is currently impossible according to the common understanding of the IAEA and Russia, Grossi said.

RUSSIAN TAX SYSTEM

* The Russian tax system will remain competitive even with a progressive personal income tax scale, which will avoid the out flux of human resources to neighboring countries, the Russian

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.
* The Russian Finance Ministry announced that it proposes to introduce changes to the country's tax system with a four-stage progression of the personal income tax and its gradual increase in rate from 13% to 22%.
* The Russian Finance Ministry announced that it proposes to increase the corporate tax rate from 20% to 25%, while maintaining the "grandfather clause" or the principle of protecting investors from changes in tax legislation.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Northrop Signs Deal With Norway's Andoya Space to Build ISR Drones for Arctic

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - Northrop Grumman and Andoya Space have signed an agreement to advance Norway's long term defense plan involving shared projects to advance autonomous maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, the US aerospace giant announced in a press release on Tuesday.
"Northrop Grumman Corporation and Andoya Space signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing their collaboration to support Norway's long term defense plan," the release said. "This includes developing advanced autonomous maritime intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to meet Norway's priorities."
The partnership will catalyze innovation, stimulate economic growth and establish Andoya as a global leader in autonomous technology, the release said.
"As Norway considers its options for safeguarding its interests in the High North, Northrop Grumman and Andoya Space are ready to shape the future of advanced autonomous systems by leveraging the MQ-4C Triton to meet the needs of today and the future," the release added.
The new partnership will help find robust technological solutions to Norway's needs and challenges in the north on issues of maritime surveillance, safety and security, according to the release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Says Does Not Think US Sanctions on ICC 'Right Approach'

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration does not believe that sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) are the right path forward, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Tuesday.
"We don't believe that sanctions against the ICC is the right approach here," Kirby said during a press briefing, in response to a question about such efforts in the US Congress.
Last week, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that the White House was consulting with lawmakers on potential responses to ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan filing requests for arrest warrants for Israeli leaders.
The US does not believe that the ICC has jurisdiction over Israel and does not support the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

arrest warrants, Kirby said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions 3 Chinese Individuals, 3 Entities Allegedly Tied to Malicious Botnet

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States has sanctioned three Chinese nationals and three entities allegedly linked to the 911 S5 botnet that compromised millions of IP addresses and facilitated fraudulent activities, the Treasury Department said on Tuesday.

"Today, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated three individuals, Yunhe Wang, Jingping Liu, and Yanni Zheng, for their activities associated with the malicious botnet tied to the residential proxy service known as 911 S5," the Treasury said in a statement.

OFAC also sanctioned three entities — Spicy Code Company Limited, Tulip Biz Pattaya Group Company Limited, and Lily Suites Company Limited — for allegedly being owned or controlled by Yunhe Wang.

The Treasury called Yunhe Wang the primary administrator of the 911 S5 service, while Jingping Liu, his co-conspirator, allegedly laundered virtual currency proceeds from 911 S5 through her bank accounts to purchase luxury real estate for Yunhe Wang.

Yanni Zheng acted as the power of attorney for Yunhe Wang and his company, Spicy Code Company Limited, participated in numerous business transactions, and purchased real estate property, including a luxury beachfront condominium in Thailand, and was designated by OFAC for acting on behalf of Yunhe Wang.

"The 911 S5 botnet compromised approximately 19 million IP addresses and facilitated the submission of tens of thousands of fraudulent applications related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act programs by its users, resulting in the loss of billions of dollars to the U.S. government," the statement said.

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated individuals and entities in the United States or in the possession or control of US persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC, the statement added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada's Blair to Participate in Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore - National Defense

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) – Canadian Minister of National Defense Bill Blair will travel to Singapore where he will participate in the Shangri-La security conference, the defense ministry said on Tuesday.

"The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, will travel to Singapore from May 31 to June 2, 2024, to strengthen Canada's defense relationships with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region," National Defense said in a statement. "Minister Blair will be joined by the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Wayne Eyre, and senior National Defence officials."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Blair will also meet his regional counterparts as well as those from other parts of the world, the statement said. Discussions will focus on the implementation of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy and how investments made in the recently unveiled military update policy will assist in continued partnership, it added.

In November 2022, Canada unveiled its Indo-Pacific strategy in an effort to cement the country's alleged leading role in the region, including through a $1.7 billion investment over five years to boost military and cyber security in the region and through enhancing trade ties with regional partners.

In mid-April, the Ministry of National Defense released its defense policy update "Our North, Strong and Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada's Defense." Ottawa plans to invest C$8.1 billion ($6 billion) over the next five years, and C$73 billion over the next 20 years.

The increased spending would bring the country's defense budget to 1.76% of its GDP by 2029-2030.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

No Change to US Policy of Not Enabling Ukraine Strikes Into Russia - State Dept.

(Adds Pentagon comment in paras 3-4)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States is not changing its position on restricting the use of American weapons to Ukrainian territory, despite the recent call by the NATO chief to allow Kiev to use Western weapons to strike inside Russia, Secretary of State spokesman Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"Look, our policy has been that we don't encourage or enable strikes outside Ukraine's borders. But if you look at the broad sweep of our policy, we made clear that Ukraine has no better support than the United States. And we don't just say that we back it up with our militaries. We back it up with our diplomacy in marshaling a coalition of more than 50 countries around the world to support Ukraine, and we back it up with the measures we've taken to hold Russia accountable," Miller said during a press briefing.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh also reiterated that the US position has not changed. "We believe that Ukraine can be successful in its goal by continuing to take back its sovereign territory using US-provided weapons to do that," she told reporters on Tuesday.

Singh declined to comment on whether other countries must provide their own weapons to Ukraine. She stressed that the US has sent Ukraine many different capabilities, including artillery and air defense.

On Monday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg claimed that Ukraine's right to self-defense includes the right to strike legitimate military targets outside the country.

Some NATO member states should realize what they are playing with when they suggest allowing Kiev to launch strikes on Russian territory, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Created ISIS in Syria by Directly Funding Jihadists Since 1979 – Jeffrey Sachs

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) – The United States has created the Islamic State (banned in Russia) in Syria by having directly funded jihadists since 1979, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, said on Tuesday.

"We probably created ISIS pretty directly because we funded jihadists all along the way. That's our story since 1979 actually. So, this goes back a long time," Sachs told US journalist Tucker Carlson in an interview.

The United States decided to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad because he was a friend of Russia and Moscow had a naval base in the country, Sachs said.

Syria has been torn by conflict since 2011. Parts of its hydrocarbon-rich east are controlled by the United States and allied militants. After 13 years of instability, more than half of the country's population requires food assistance, with millions being displaced, according to UN figures.

The United States refused to leave the country after it invaded it in 2016 amid the Syrian Civil War on a pretext to fight terrorists. The government of Syria has repeatedly stated that it deems the presence of the US and Turkish troops on its territory as an act of military aggression and demanded that they immediately withdraw from the country.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Lives 'Deeply at Risk' Until Biden, Putin Engage in Talks - Sachs

(Corrects name in para 1, adds details in para 6)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - Lives in the United States are at risk until US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin engage in direct talks, US economist Jeffrey Sachs said on Tuesday.

"Until Biden speaks directly with Putin and starts talking, our lives are deeply at risk," Sachs said in an interview with US journalist Tucker Carlson.

Sachs said that he is worried about the risk of nuclear war.

The US has ended all diplomacy outside of speaking with friends and allies, Sachs said. However, real diplomacy is about speaking with adversaries, Sachs said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is a remarkable, smart and capable diplomat, Sachs said, adding that he has known Lavrov for three decades. The US should be speaking with Lavrov to find an answer to the conflict, Sachs said.

In April, Sachs told Sputnik that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken should sit down for negotiations with Lavrov instead of reiterating an "utterly failed foreign policy" that sparked the conflict.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon on Israeli Tanks in Central Rafah: US Still Assesses Operation as Limited

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States has seen reports of Israeli tanks reaching the center of Rafah but still sees the operation as limited, Pentagon deputy spokesperson Sabrina Singh said on Tuesday.

"I've seen those reports, we are seeing movement within Rafah, that does not mean that its limitation and its scope and scale has changed ," Singh said in a press briefing. "We still assess it's a limited operation."

A number of media reported earlier in the day, citing witnesses, that Israeli tanks had reached the center of Rafah.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians northeast of Rafah. The Palestinian civil defense service said that at least 40 people were killed in the attack and dozens others were injured.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strike was a "tragic mishap" and emphasized that an investigation into the incident is being undertaken. The Israel Defense Forces said that it used precise munitions in the attack.

Some 1.4 million Palestinians currently reside in Rafah, most of whom had been displaced from other parts of the Gaza Strip due to Israeli military operations.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Lives 'Deeply at Risk' Until Biden, Putin Engage in Talks - Sachs

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - Lives in the United States are at risk until US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin engage in direct talks, US economist David Sachs said on Tuesday.

"Until Biden speaks directly with Putin and starts talking, our lives are deeply at risk," Sachs said in an interview with US journalist Tucker Carlson.

Sachs said that he is worried about the risk of nuclear war.

The US has ended all diplomacy outside of speaking with friends and allies, Sachs said. However, real diplomacy is about speaking with adversaries, Sachs said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is a remarkable, smart and capable diplomat, Sachs said, adding that he has known Lavrov for three decades. The US should be speaking with Lavrov to find an answer to the conflict, Sachs said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Blinken, Sudan Army Chief Discuss Need to End Conflict, Enable Aid Access - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Sudanese army's chief Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan discussed by phone the urgent need to end the conflict in Sudan and enable humanitarian access, the State Department said on Tuesday.

"Secretary Blinken and General Burhan discussed the need to urgently end the conflict in Sudan and enable unhindered humanitarian access, including cross border and cross line, to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people," the statement said.

The secretary also discussed the resumption of negotiations in the Jeddah platform and emphasized the need to protect civilians and deescalate hostilities in El Fasher, North Darfur, the statement added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

No Change to US Policy of Not Enabling Ukraine Strikes Into Russia - State Dept

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States is not changing its position on restricting the use of American weapons to Ukrainian territory, despite the recent call by the NATO chief to allow Kiev to use Western weapons to strike inside Russia, Secretary of State spokesman Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"Look, our policy has been that we don't encourage or enable strikes outside Ukraine's borders. But if you look at the broad sweep of our policy, we made clear that Ukraine has no better support than the United States. And we don't just say that we back it up with our militaries. We back it up with our diplomacy in marshaling a coalition of more than 50 countries around the world to support Ukraine, and we back it up with the measures we've taken to hold Russia accountable," Miller said during a press briefing.

On Monday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg claimed that Ukraine's right to self-defense includes the right to strike legitimate military targets outside the country.

Some NATO member states should realize what they are playing with when they suggest allowing Kiev to launch strikes on Russian territory, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Damaged US Military Pier for Gaza Aid Deliveries to be Detached for Repairs - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The US military pier attached to the Gaza coastline to facilitate aid deliveries was damaged by bad weather and will have to be temporarily detached for repairs, Pentagon Deputy Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said on Tuesday.

"Due to high sea states and a North African weather system, earlier today, a portion of the Trident pier separated from the pier that is currently anchored into the coast of Gaza," Singh said during a press briefing. "As a result, the Trident pier was damaged, and sections of the pier

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

need rebuilding and repairing."
Singh added that over the next 48 hours, the pier will be removed from its anchored position and repaired by US Central Command, which will last over a week.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Vice President Says 'Tragic' Does Not Begin to Describe Israeli Strike in Rafah

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Tuesday that "tragic" does not even begin to describe the Israeli strike in Rafah over the weekend in which dozens of civilians were killed and injured.
"The word 'tragic' doesn't even begin to describe it," Harris said during the White House press pool in response to a question about the Israeli strike in Rafah.
On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians northeast of Rafah. The Palestinian civil defense service said that at least 40 people were killed in the attack and dozens others were injured.
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strike was a "tragic mishap" and emphasized that an investigation into the incident is being undertaken. The Israel Defense Forces said that it used precise munitions in the attack.
Some 1.4 million Palestinians currently reside in Rafah, most of whom were directed there by the Israeli authorities as they conduct military operations against the Palestinian movement Hamas.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

damaged us military pier for gaza aid deliveries to be detached from coastline, reassembled and then anchored back - pentagon

Sputnik

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Economist Jeffrey Sachs Says Western Sanctions Imposed on Russia 'Pretty Useless'

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The sanctions imposed on Russia by the collective West have proven very ineffective relative to what strategists had believed they would achieve, US economist Jeffrey Sachs said on Tuesday.
"The sanctions proved to be pretty useless, compared to this grandiosity of what the US strategists thought," Sachs said in an interview with journalist Tucker Carlson.
Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the comprehensive Western sanctions

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

were creating opportunities for growth for the Russian economy despite causing some problems. Russia is subject to some 16,000 sanctions, making it the most sanctioned country in the world.

Western sanctions imposed on Russia and China constitute unfair economic competition, Putin also said earlier this month during a trip to China.

Russia and China will develop joint production in response to sanctions against them, Putin added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

us not changing its position on ukraine's use of american weapons to strike deep into russia, despite call of nato secretary-general - state dept.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Has Urged Israel to Undertake Full Investigation Into Rafah Strike - State Dept.

(Adds background in para 5)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States has reached out to Israel to express deep concern over the recent deadly strike on Rafah and call for a full investigation, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said on Monday.

"As soon as the United States saw reports of this incident, we reached out to the Government of Israel to express our deep concern over what happened, ask for more information and urge them to undertake a full investigation," Miller said during a press briefing.

Miller added that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has promised to implement a swift investigation into the air strike.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah. The Palestinian Civil Defense Service said that at least 40 people died and dozens were injured as a result. On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the airstrike on the Rafah camp a "tragic mishap," adding that an investigation is underway. The IDF said that it used "precise munitions."

The IDF claimed on Tuesday that the munitions its military dropped near the camp in Gaza were insufficient to directly cause such a large fire. The military did not rule out that a secondary explosion, possibly of a weapons cache in the area, could have caused the blaze.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Has Urged Israel to Undertake Full Investigation Into Rafah Strike - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States has reached out to Israel to express deep concern over the recent deadly Rafa strike and call for a full investigation, State Department

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Spokesman Matthew Miller said on Monday.

"As soon as the United States saw reports of this incident, we reached out to the Government of Israel to express our deep concern over what happened, ask for more information and urge them to undertake a full investigation," said Miller during a press briefing.

Miller added that the Israel Defense Forces has promised to implement a swift investigation into the air strike.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah. The Palestinian Civil Defense Service said that at least 40 people died and dozens were injured as a result. On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the airstrike on the Rafah camp a "tragic mishap," adding that an investigation is underway. The IDF said that it used "precise munitions."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Georgia Foreign Agents Law Threatens EU Membership, Relations With US - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - Georgia's foreign agents law risks its potential membership in the European Union (EU) and its relations with the United States, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

The majority of Georgian lawmakers overrode president Salome Zourabichvili's veto, allowing the bill on transparency of foreign influence to become law. Zourabichvili sought to scrap the bill altogether after it was endorsed by the legislature two weeks ago.

"The ruling party's actions and anti-Western rhetoric threaten Georgia's democratic trajectory, future economic security, EU membership and also put the US-Georgia relationship at risk," Miller said during a press conference.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ex-FTX Executive Sentenced to 7.5 Years in Prison Linked to Criminal Fraud - Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - Former FTX executive Ryan Salame was sentenced to 75 years in prison in connection to the firm's criminal fraud and illegal political contributions in the United States, the US Department of Justice said on Tuesday.

"RYAN SALAME was sentenced today to 90 months in prison. SALAME previously pled guilty to conspiracy to make unlawful political contributions and defraud the Federal Election Commission and conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business," the Justice Department said in a press release.

Salame worked alongside FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried, who was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison in March for defrauding investors and customers.

In 2020, Salame, Bankman-Fried, and another associate conspired to make illegal contributions to political campaigns as part of a lobbying effort to benefit the company or

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Bankman-Fried's personal agenda, the release said.

Salame and his co-conspirators made over 300 political contributions, totaling tens of millions of dollars, that were unlawful because they were made in the name of a straw donor or paid for with corporate funds and caused false information to be reported by campaigns and political action committees to the Federal Election Commission, the release noted.

FTX, the Bahamas-based cryptocurrency exchange co-founded by Bankman-Fried and Gary Wang in 2019, had become one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in the world. The company boasted over one million customers and was valued at $32 billion in January 2022.

FTX was reportedly a financial bubble, triggering an outbreak of withdrawals. Amid the company's liquidity crisis, the media reports also drew the attention of US regulators to FTX. Investigators have since asserted that Bankman-Fried and his subordinates misled investors for years, using billions of clients' dollars to make risky bets at the Alameda hedge fund, along with sinking them into personal expenses.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Judge Resentences Paul Pelosi Attacker to 30 Years in Prison - Court Staff

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - US District Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley resentenced Paul Pelosi attacker David DePape to 30 years in prison, court staff confirmed to Sputnik on Tuesday.

On May 17, Corley sentenced DePape to 30 years in prison for attacking Pelosi with a hammer at his San Francisco residence. However, the court resentenced Corley due to a procedural error during the initial sentencing.

The court failed to give DePape a chance to speak during the sentencing hearing, in violation of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

DePape spoke at the Tuesday resentencing, where he apologized for his actions and said that he was mentally struggling at the time of the incident, according to reports from the courtroom.

Corley wishes DePape good luck but said that the sentence had to reflect the seriousness of his crime, the reports said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Chief Condemns North Korea’s Latest Attempt of Ballistic Missile Launch - Spokesman

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has condemned North Korea's attempted launch of a ballistic missile, as it was done in violation of international law, and called on Pyongyang to stop such actions, United Nations spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary-General strongly condemns the attempted launch of another military satellite using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), " Dujarric said in a statement. "Any launch by the DPRK using ballistic missile technology is contrary to the relevant Security Council resolutions."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Guterres repeated his call on North Korea to comply with its international obligations, including UN Security Council resolutions, the statement said.

On Monday, the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that North Korea unsuccessfully launched a reconnaissance satellite. The first stage of the new satellite launch vehicle exploded in mid-air during flight, and the launch ended unsuccessfully, KCNA added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Suspends Aid Deliveries to Gaza by Sea After Pier Damaged Due to Bad Weather - Reports

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The US military had to suspend aid deliveries to Gaza via the maritime pier after it was damaged amid bad weather conditions, NBC reported on Tuesday.

The report said a causeway attached to the beach in Gaza sustained damage due to high waves and will take about a week to repair.

The US military uses the causeway to connect the massive floating pier off the Gaza coast to the shore for humanitarian aid deliveries via a maritime corridor from Cyprus.

On Saturday, the US Central Command said in a press release that four US Army vessels supporting the maritime humanitarian aid mission in Gaza broke free from their moorings due to stormy weather. Two of the vessels beached on the coast of Israel near Ashkelon and the other two anchored near the pier.

US Central Command Deputy Commander Brad Cooper said on Thursday that more than one million pounds of humanitarian aid has been delivered to Gaza through the maritime corridor since the operation began on May 17.

In his State of the Union Address on March 7, US President Joe Biden vowed to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza by way of building a temporary port to deliver more assistance to Gaza. Under the project, aid is first supplied to a floating pier and then delivered to the shore by small vessels via a causeway.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Guterres Condemns in 'Strongest Terms' Attack Against People in Rafah on May 26 -Spokesman

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned in the strongest terms the latest attack against the people in Rafah on May 26, emphasizing that the horror must stop, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary-General has condemned in the strongest terms the 26 May air strikes on Rafah hitting tents sheltering displaced people. He is heartbroken by the images of the killed and injured, including many small children. As he has said before, the horror and suffering must stop immediately, " the statement said.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians northeast of Rafah. The Palestinian Civil Defense Service said that at least 40 people died and dozens were injured as a result. On

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the airstrike on the refugee camp a "tragic mishap," adding that an investigation is underway. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it used "precise munitions."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Ukraine Conflict Could Persistently Increase Energy Prices in Europe - IMF

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The conflict in Ukraine could persistently increase energy prices in Europe and make the region's economic activity more sensitive to energy disruptions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a new report.

"The war could persistently increase energy prices in Europe, which would weaken energy security by raising the energy spending share in GDP and thereby making economic activity more sensitive to any energy disruptions, all else equal," the report said.

The IMF emphasized in the report that European policymakers have to take additional steps to improve energy independence and develop clean energy.

"To boost investment in renewables and address their intermittency, European countries need to further improve electricity market design and support the deployment of technologies like batteries, green hydrogen, and those that enable demand-side flexibility," the report said.

The IMF urged European leaders to take measures against overinvestment in fossil fuel infrastructure, the report added.

The EU also needs deeper cooperation with other regions of the world to secure supplies of minerals critical for the green transition, according to the report.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Appeals Court Denies Hunter Biden's Attempt to Dismiss Firearms Case - Filing

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The US Third Circuit Court of Appeals denied an attempt by Hunter Biden to dismiss charges for allegedly lying on firearms purchase forms about his history of drug use, the court said on Tuesday.

"The defendant appealed a pretrial order entered on May 9, 2024, denying his motion to dismiss the indictment, which had argued the charges violated the Second Amendment. This appeal is dismissed," the court said in a filing.

The Second Amendment of the US Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms, although some restrictions on firearm ownership have been found legally permissible, such as restricting ownership by felons and users of controlled substances.

The case against Biden is set for a three- to six-day jury trial starting June 3.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Majority of US Democrats Approve of Replacing Biden With Alternative Candidate - Poll

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - A majority of likely Democratic voters in the United States approve of replacing US President and prospective 2024 Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden with an alternative candidate, according to a Rasmussen Reports poll released Tuesday.

A majority of Democratic respondents, 54%, approve of replacing Biden, the poll report said.

Forty-nine percent (49%) of respondents overall approve of replacing Biden, including 43% of Republicans, the poll report said.

Biden, 81, is already the oldest president in US history. Biden would be 86 at the end of a potential second presidential term.

The poll surveyed 1,113 likely US voters from May 20-22. The poll maintains a margin of error of plus-or-minus three percentage points with a 95% confidence level.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Europe's Energy Security Deteriorated for Decades Before Conflict in Ukraine - IMF

WASHINGTON, May 29 (Sputnik) - Europe's energy security was deteriorating for decades before Russia began its special military operation in Ukraine in 2022, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a new report.

"Even before the war, Europe’s energy security had deteriorated over several decades along two dimensions: (1) the continent became more exposed to foreign energy supply disruptions, as imports accounted for a growing share of overall energy consumption, and those imports became increasingly concentrated among fewer foreign suppliers; and (2) the European economy became slightly more sensitive to energy shocks in general, as the ratio of energy expenditures to GDP rose," the report said.

The IMF emphasized in the report that such a policy has led the European economy to increase the share of expenditures on the purchase of energy resources in GDP and to an increase in the share of imports in total energy consumption.

European energy policies have left the region dependent on fewer foreign suppliers for more resources, the report said.

Europe has become more dependent on imports from the United States and other suppliers outside the region due to the significant reduction in Russia's share of gas consumption and the plans to completely phase out Russian fossil fuels by 2030, the report added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

G7 Lacks Consensus on Frozen Russian Assets - US Official

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The members of G7 do not have a consensus on how to deal with frozen Russian assets, US Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Daleep Singh said on Tuesday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

"Seizing principal is a red line for many of our G7 partners whether you use the theory of countermeasures or whether you use a legal theory of 'set off' in which Ukraine establishes a reparation claim, transfers it to the asset side of the G7 balance sheet, and we set that off against our collective liability, which are the Russian reserves," Singh said during a Brookings event in Washington. "In either path we don't have consensus as a G7."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Nearly One Million People Have Fled Rafah in Past Three Weeks - UN Palestine Agency

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 (Sputnik) - Within the last 3 weeks, about 1 million people have fled Rafah in the Gaza Strip, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Tuesday.

"In the past 3 weeks around 1 million people have fled Rafah," the UN Palestine agency said in a statement, adding that the people fleeing have nowhere to go and the bombardment is ongoing.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians northeast of Rafah. The Palestinian Civil Defense Service said that at least 40 people died and dozens were injured as a result.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the airstrike on the refugee camp a "tragic mishap," adding that an investigation is underway. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it used "precise munitions."

In January, Israel shared data with UNRWA leadership on the alleged involvement of some of its staff members in the October 7 Hamas attack and vowed to hold accountable anyone involved in "acts of terror." The United States, Finland, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Australia, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and some other countries responded by suspending funding for the agency.

In early February, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed an independent review panel led by former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna to examine UNRWA activities. The final report was published on April 22, saying that Israel had provided no evidence of the agency's workers allegedly being members of "terrorist organizations." Following the announcement, many nations decided to resume their funding for the agency.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RECAST - White House Not Ruling Out US Can Get to Point of Total Trade Embargo on Russia

(Recasts to fix headline)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States does not rule out it may end up introducing a full trade embargo against Russia, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Daleep Singh said on Tuesday.

"Well, look, I mean, the history of embargoes is not a great one," Singh said during a Brookings event in Washington. "But to the extent that Russia is transforming its economy entirely into a

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

factory for the war machine, we're going to get to the point where de facto that's where we end up."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Not Ruling Out US Can Get to Point of Total Trade Embargo on Russia

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States does not rule out it may end up introducing a full trade embargo against, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics Daleep Singh said on Tuesday.
"Well, look, I mean, the history of embargoes is not a great one," Singh said during a Brookings event in Washington. "But to the extent that Russia is transforming its economy entirely into a factory for the war machine, we're going to get to the point where de facto that's where we end up."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Officials Mum on Review of Cuba's Designation as State Sponsor of Terrorism

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - US officials declined to clarify the status of a promised review of the US designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, amid newly-announced sanctions relief on internet and financial services for Cuban people.
"I have no updates on review," a senior administration official said during a press briefing.
The official had been asked to clarify whether the State Department had begun a formal review of Cuba's designation and whether it would be completed before the end of US President Joe Biden's current term.
The State Department redesignated Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism in January 2021 for allegedly granting safe harbor to terrorists. Cuba had previously been removed from the list in 2015.

5/28/2024 11:17:11 AM -04:00

g7 does not have consensus on frozen russian assets - white house official

Sputnik

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

White House Says No Desire to Disrupt All Russia-China Trade, But Will Use Sanctions

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The United States has no intention to disrupt all trade between Russia and China but is prepared to use sanctions to curb the cooperation that allegedly threatens its security, Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh said on Tuesday.

"To be clear, we [the US] have no desire to disrupt all trade between Russia and China, but we and our partners are prepared to use our sanctions and our export controls to prevent the trade of goods and technologies that threaten our collective security," Singh said during a Brookings event on sanctions against Russia.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Yellen Says More Work Needed to Win Trust as US Unveils Rules on Voluntary Carbon Credits

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The US government on Tuesday unveiled rules on the use of voluntary carbon credits, with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen saying more work is needed to create a market that would win global trust in the fight against climate change.

Many companies purchase voluntary carbon credits to buy forgiveness for the emissions they create through projects located in developing countries, promising to eventually reduce such greenhouse gasses. But high-profile controversies have also shaken confidence in the market for the so-called carbon offsets, with companies in several large forest protection projects failing to deliver on promised emission reductions.

“We want this market to succeed, but that requires a widespread commitment to integrity that instills market trust,” Yellen said as she unveiled the rules on voluntary carbon credits. “There is a lot more work to do. But if we do it well, we have the chance to enlist markets as a powerful ally in the fight against climate change.”

The principles for "responsible participation" in offset markets, as set out by the Biden administration, include standards to ensure that projects deliver real and quantifiable emissions reductions. Participants are required to monitor projects to ensure these do not harm local communities. More importantly, corporate buyers of carbon credits should prioritize decarbonizing of supply chains before opting for credits.

The US initiative to publish rules for voluntary carbon markets comes as organizations such as the Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets release their own guidelines for high-quality carbon offsets. Council Chair Annette Nazareth lauded the US government's move, saying it would reinforce a global benchmark for high-integrity carbon credits.

"We are in a climate emergency and we need every tool in the box to meet the 1.5°C target," Nazareth said. "High-integrity carbon credits can mobilize private finance at scale for projects to reduce and remove billions of tonnes of emissions that would not otherwise be viable."

The US rules come after other separate initiatives by agencies within the Biden administration to boost carbon credits, including the Energy, Agriculture and State departments.

The Energy Department said last year that it would purchase credits from projects that will remove carbon dioxide from the air in a bid to bolster that technology.

The Agriculture Department created a program to help farmers, ranchers and forest owners to participate in carbon markets by helping them identify high-integrity carbon offset programs for generating carbon credits.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

The State Department established the Energy Transition Accelerator, a carbon offset program that aims to help developing countries transition from coal. It also introduced the so-called LEAF coalition, which aims to stop tropical deforestation.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

China 'Strongly' Condemns Israel's Latest Attack on Civilians in Rafah - Envoy to UN

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 (Sputnik) - China strongly condemns Israel's latest attack on civilians in Rafah in the Gaza Strip, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Fu Cong said on Monday.

"We strongly condemn the attack on the civilians in Rafah," Fu told journalists prior to a UN Security Council meeting.

On Sunday, Israel struck a camp for displaced Palestinians northeast of Rafah. The Palestinian civil defense service said that at least 40 people were killed in the attack and dozens were injured.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strike was a "tragic mishap" and said an investigation into the incident is being undertaken. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it used precise munitions in the attack.

Some 1.4 million Palestinians currently reside in Rafah, majority of which were directed there by the Israeli authorities as they conduct military operations against the Palestinian movement Hamas.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions on Cuba Remain in Place Despite Regulatory Changes - Official

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) – The US sanctions and restrictions on Cuba remain in place despite loosening some of them for private enterprises in the country, a senior US official said on Tuesday.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended its long-standing sanctions regulations on Havana to expand access to internet and financial services for Cubans, including to US-based services.

"[O]ur Cuba sanctions remain in place, and the regulations continue to maintain restrictions on the Cuban government and its military intelligence and security services," the official said during a press briefing.

The OFAC said in a press release that the amendment has redefined the term "self-employed individual" to "independent private sector entrepreneur" to reflect better the types of individuals and entities that operate in the Cuban private sector.

Moreover, from now on Cuban independent private sector entrepreneurs are eligible to establish and remotely access bank accounts including through online payment platforms to conduct authorized or exempt transactions.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

The Biden administration has also authorized remittances and payments to and from the Cuban private sector, according to the release.

The OFAC touted its decision to lift some sanctions as a desire to help Cuba's nascent class of private entrepreneurs, numbering about 11,000 after Havana legalized small and medium private enterprises in 2021.

Last week, the Biden administration removed Cuba from its short list of countries that do not fully cooperate with the United States on counterterrorism efforts while leaving the country on the US list of the countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism. The move caused an outrage among Republican lawmakers who slammed the decision as delusional.

Cuba was first added to the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism in 1982 during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. The US government removed Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism during the Obama administration in 2015 as part of efforts to normalize relations. However, the island nation was later added to the list during the Trump administration when the United States accused Cuba of harboring American fugitives and Colombian rebels.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Appeals Court Sets Oral Arguments in TikTok Ban Challenge for September - Filing

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) - The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit scheduled oral arguments in a case challenging an effective ban on the social media application TikTok for September, a court document filed Tuesday said.

“The clerk is directed to calendar this case for oral argument in September 2024,” the filing said.

Last month, US President Joe Biden signed into law a bill that would ban TikTok if it refuses to divest from its Chinese-owned parent company, ByteDance. TikTok and ByteDance subsequently challenged the action in court.

Earlier this month, TikTok and the US Justice Department requested that the court issue a decision on the forced divestiture of the company by December 6, in order to give adequate time to request emergency relief from the US Supreme Court if necessary.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canadian Foreign Minister to Visit Sweden, Attend NATO Meeting in Czechia - Ministry

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Sputnik) – Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly will visit Sweden for high-level bilateral meetings and from there travel to Czechia to attend an informal NATO foreign ministers meeting, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) said on Tuesday.

"The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today announced that she will visit Sweden on May 29, 2024, for high-level bilateral meetings, then Czechia, from May 30 to 31, to

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM

attend an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers," GAC said.

In Sweden, Joly will meet her counterpart, Tobias Billstrom, and other senior government officials to build on the existing bilateral relations and strengthen transatlantic and Arctic security, including through the Canada-Nordic strategic dialogue, according to GAC.

In Czechia, the top diplomat is scheduled to meet with her NATO counterparts to discuss "key issues" ahead of the alliance's summit to be held in Washington on July 9-11, GAC said.

Joly will also meet with Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky to discuss their continued support for Ukraine and exchange views on other world conflicts, the ministry added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/29/2024 10:36:54 AM