Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

6/20/24 Thursday

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.

Boeing Planes Aren't The Only Thing Falling Apart, Starliner Stuck at ISS

On Tuesday, NASA announced that two American astronauts who are aboard the International Space Station (ISS) will have to delay their return again because the Boeing-produced Starliner spacecraft is still dealing with technical issues that plagued the ship's launch and rendezvous with the ISS.

Boeing's Starliner took astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore to the ISS on June 6, they were supposed to return about a week later, but will now be aboard the space station until at least June 26.

During its launch and rendezvous, the Starliner experienced helium leaks and faulty steering thrusters. NASA said on Tuesday that the helium leak has subsided since it connected with the ISS but one of the five steering thrusters that were having issues is still inoperable. The Starliner program has proven to be a boondoggle for Boeing: over budget and behind schedule.

The June 6 launch, Starliner's first crewed mission, had already been delayed several times. Its test flights were also plagued with issues. Its first, an unmanned flight in 2019, ended in failure after it misfired in orbit due to a software glitch. Its second test flight was scheduled for 2021 but was delayed until 2022 due to thruster issues. It then had a largely successful flight, but the ship's parachute had to be resigned after it was discovered that the electrical tape on its lines was flammable.

Steve Stich, NASA's Commercial Crew Program manager, said that the thruster issues from the second test flight may not have been completely solved before the Starliner's first crewed mission.

"We thought we had fixed that problem," Stich said. "I think we're missing something fundamental that's going on inside the thruster."

One reason for the delay, NASA noted, was that because the malfunctioning parts were not intended to survive re-entry, they would like to study the issue as much as possible while still aboard the ISS. NASA said that the Starliner can remain on the ISS for up to 45 days.

In 2014, NASA announced it had granted contracts to Boeing and SpaceX to help launch the commercialization of space and would use the two companies to ferry astronauts to and from the ISS, a task the US had been tapping Russia's Roscosmos for after the Space Shuttle program was retired in 2011.

While SpaceX has already successfully performed nine crewed missions to the ISS and back, this was Boeing's first crewed mission and it is quickly becoming an embarrassment for the company. If NASA and Boeing cannot solve the Starliner's issues, Boeing may be forced to ask SpaceX to launch a mission to retrieve Williams and Wilmore, further adding to their embarrassment.

It has been estimated that the Starliner project is already more than $1 billion over budget.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Boeing insists that its space and commercial flight divisions operate independently, but it is nevertheless difficult not to be reminded of its issues in that field as the company's state-of-the-art spacecraft remains docked in the ISS, stranding two astronauts in the process.
As the development of the Starliner was just a few years in, in 2018, a Boeing 737 Max 8 airliner crashed into the Java Sea, killing all 189 people on board. Five months later, another Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed near Addis Ababa airport, killing all 157 people on board. An attorney representing the families of victims from both flights argued in a letter to the Justice Department that the "maximum possible fine" of $24 billion should be imposed on Boeing.
More recently, Boeing planes have been plagued by issues during flights, including a door of a 737 Max 9 airliner that flew off mid-flight over Alaska in January. Multiple whistleblowers have come forward, including two that died suddenly either before or after their testimony, that have alleged a culture of lax safety procedures. On Tuesday, a new whistleblower came forward, alleging that Boeing improperly tracked and stored parts and said it was likely that those parts were installed on planes.
During a US Senate subcommittee testimony by Boeing CEO David Calhoun, the executive attempted to apologize to the families of the victims of Boeing's plane crashes. "I apologize for the grief we caused. We are focused on safety," he told the gathered crowd who held up pictures of their dead family members.
Calhoun has not publicly apologized to the astronauts aboard the ISS. In March, he announced that he would step down as CEO of Boeing at the end of the year.

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.

Joe Biden's 'Ceasefire Proposal' Was Just 'Kabuki Theater'

Last month, while facing increasing domestic and international political pressure, US President Joe Biden held a press conference announcing that Israel had presented terms for a ceasefire in Gaza, and it was up to Hamas to agree. Less than two weeks later, Biden admitted that he did not expect a ceasefire deal anytime soon.
The public proclamations about an alleged Israeli Ceasefire deal promoted by Biden, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and pro-Israel lawmakers in Washington was kabuki theater, designed to avoid the US having to veto another UN Ceasefire resolution and reduce domestic and international political pressure on the US Government, human rights lawyer Francis Boyle told Sputnik.
"The so-called 'peace proposal' by Biden was a dodge," Boyle argued on The Critical Hour.
"The International Court of Justice just ruled 13 to 2 that Israel had to stop its offensive military operations in Rafah. Algeria, the Arab member of the UN Security Council then proposed a resolution… ordering the ceasefire. The Biden administration did not want to appear as if they were vetoing another Security Council resolution, both for appearances there in the Global South, the Arab-Muslim world and also here in the United States."
"So, in order to head off that binding UN Security Council resolution terminating Israel's offensive military operations in Rafah, the Biden administration, Blinken, concocted this phony ceasefire proposal, which was nothing more than a sort of kabuki theater."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

On Tuesday, a senior Israeli official who is involved in the negotiations was quoted in Israeli media as saying that the fighting in Gaza will continue even after the Rafah offensive is finished.
On Wednesday, the UN-backed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory said that Israel had committed crimes against humanity, including forced starvation, extermination, murder and inhumane treatment of Palestinians. The chairperson of the inquiry, Navi Pillay, called for a ceasefire and the end of Israel's siege on Gaza.
On Tuesday, two key US Democrats approved the sale of 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel, a deal worth $18 billion. "Clearly, the United States is aiding and abetting Israeli genocide against the Palestinians in violation of Article 3 E of the Genocide Convention of prohibiting complicity in genocide, in addition [to] the Genocide Convention Implementation Act here in the United States."
The Genocide Convention Implementation Act specifies that those found guilty of violating it are subject to life imprisonment.
"Israel is the American Bantustan over there in the Middle East. It's our attack dog and cat's paw, and without us, they simply would not survive. It's that simple," explained Boyle.
Hamas has said it will "deal positively to arrive at an agreement," to end the fighting. According to some reports, they asked for greater assurances that Israel would honor the ceasefire after the release of the hostages. Israel has not officially said if it supports the ceasefire deal presented by Biden.
At least 37,396 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 6, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Another 85,523 have been seriously injured and around 7,000 are still missing and presumed to be buried under the rubble. Combined, those figures represent roughly 6.34% of Gaza's pre-October 7 population.

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.

North Korea, Shunned For Decades, Welcomed Into New Multipolar World

For decades, the people of North Korea have suffered under strict sanctions imposed by the so-called "International Rules-Based Order." On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Pyongyang and signed a strategic partnership with his counterpart Kim Jong Un, opening the secretive nation to the new emerging multipolar world.
In a letter to the North Korean people, Putin praised the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for being able to withstand "US economic pressure, provocation, blackmail and military threats that have lasted decades," and said that the two countries are united in their fight against the US, which he said "is making every desperate effort to impose on the world the so-called 'order based on rules' which is nothing but a world-wide neocolonialist dictatorship based on the 'double standards.'"
"This is huge," explained international relations and security expert Mark Sleboda on Sputnik's The Final Countdown on Wednesday. "Now the details of this are not known. It is being called a 'mutual aid in case of aggression' It does not specify and it does not rule out actually going to war with whoever the perpetrator of the aggression against either party. But I have to point out

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

that neither does NATO's Article Five mutual defense clause… So, by this analysis, without knowing the details yet, it seems and it's being reported in the Western press that Russia and North Korea just signed a military alliance equivalent to NATO, which is huge."

North Korea has been under sanctions and embargoes by the United States since the Korean War started. While there have been brief periods of cooling between the US and the DPRK, the relationship has been overwhelmingly hostile over the decades.

Since 2006, the UN Security Council has passed nearly a dozen resolutions that sanctioned the DPRK, an action that required the support of both Russia and China, something that is unlikely to happen with this new paradigm.

"No more sanctions against North Korea, that's for sure. That is not going to happen. The US is not going to get anything [in the UN Security Council]," explained Sleboda, adding that the mutual aid pact from Russia also prevents any US attack on North Korea, something it has threatened for decades.

While the global trend against US-led Western hegemony was already gearing up before the NATO Proxy War against Russia in Ukraine, it was vastly accelerated by that and Putin thanked the DPRK for their support in Ukraine.

"We highly appreciate that the DPRK is firmly supporting the special military operations of Russia being conducted in Ukraine, expressing solidarity with us on major international issues and maintaining the common line and stand at the UN," the Russian leader wrote.

North Korea has long been called the "hermit nation" by the West and is extremely isolated on the world stage. But that could be changing with their growing relationship with Russia.

"I know that multiple Russian tourist companies are setting up tours into North Korea. That's already been going on. I've been seeing that in the local media here in Moscow," Sleboda revealed.

Many astute observers correctly predicted that US aggression in Ukraine and Asia would drive China and Russia together, something everyone from Noam Chomsky to Henry Kissinger warned would be disastrous for the United States. But few predicted that it would drive two other US adversaries together as well, and the administration of US President Joe Biden has no one to blame but themselves.

"Yesterday and tomorrow, Russia supported the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the heroic Korean people in the fight against the cunning, dangerous and aggressive enemy and in the struggle to defend independence, originality and the right to choose one's own path of development and will continue to do so in the future. I will support you,"Putin promised the North Korean people.

The public proclamations about an alleged Israeli Ceasefire deal promoted by Biden, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and pro-Israel lawmakers in Washington was kabuki theater, designed to avoid the US having to veto another UN Ceasefire resolution and reduce domestic and international political pressure on the US Government, human rights lawyer Francis Boyle told 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.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

"The International Court of Justice just ruled 13 to 2 that Israel had to stop its offensive military operations in Rafah. Algeria, the Arab member of the UN Security Council then proposed a resolution… ordering the ceasefire. The Biden administration did not want to appear as if they were vetoing another Security Council resolution, both for appearances there in the Global South, the Arab-Muslim world and also here in the United States," Boyle said on The Critical Hour.

On Tuesday, a senior Israeli official who is involved in the negotiations was quoted in Israeli media as saying that the fighting in Gaza will continue even after the Rafah offensive is finished.

On Wednesday, the UN-backed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory said that Israel had committed crimes against humanity, including forced starvation, extermination, murder and inhumane treatment of Palestinians.

On Tuesday, two key US Democrats approved the sale of 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel, a deal worth $18 billion. "Clearly, the United States is aiding and abetting Israeli genocide against the Palestinians in violation of Article 3 E of the Genocide Convention of prohibiting complicity in genocide, in addition [to] the Genocide Convention Implementation Act here in the United States."

"Israel is the American Bantustan over there in the Middle East. It's our attack dog and cat's paw, and without us, they simply would not survive. It's that simple," explained Boyle.

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.

New York Governor Signs Social Media Regulation Bill

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - New York Governor Kathy Hochul has signed a bill regulating social media algorithms, according to a release.
"Governor Kathy Hochul today signed nation-leading legislation to combat addictive social media feeds and protect kids online," her office said in a press release on Thursday.
The legislation establishes the Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act to require social media companies to restrict addictive feeds on their platforms for users under 18.
It also enables the New York Child Data Protection Act to prohibit online sites from collecting, using, sharing or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18, unless they receive informed consent or unless doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website.

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.

Fundraising to be Major Factor in Trump's Pick for Vice President – Reports

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) – The ability to raise funds will be a major factor in former US President Donald Trump's choice for his running mate in the November election, Axios reported on Friday, citing Republican sources.

The would-be vice-president will be expected to raise funds as one of the top assignments for the rest of the campaign, the report said.

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, senators Tim Scott and J.D. Vance are among the top potential Trump picks, but spokespersons for all of them declined comments, the report added.

The Republican National Committee (RNC) is actively discussing fundraising plans, according to the report.

The RNC also plans for Trump and his pick to host a reception on July 17 in Milwaukee during the Republican National Convention. The goal of the event is to raise money for Trump's campaign, the Save America PAC, the RNC and state Republican parties, according to the report.

The committee also hopes that Trump will make his choice before that date, it added.

Potential candidates are active in talking with donors, according to the report. On Thursday, Trump attended a Cleveland fundraiser organized by Vance and Ohio nursing home developer Brian Colleran that brought in over $5.5 million, the report said.

Burgum also held a call with influential people in the Republican Party, while Scott recently had a policy summit in Washington with billionaires who supported Trump's rivals in the primaries, the report 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, Kazakhstan to Sign Agreement on Nuclear Risk Reduction - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) – The United States and Kazakhstan will sign an agreement on nuclear risk reduction as a senior US arms control official visits Astana later this week, the US State Department said on Friday.

"Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability Mallory Stewart will travel to Astana, Kazakhstan and Geneva, Switzerland, June 22-28. In Astana, Assistant Secretary Stewart will sign the National and Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NNRRC) Secure Line Agreement between the United States Department of State and the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense," the department said in a press release.

In Geneva, Stewart will take part in the two-day celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), the release said.

On Thursday, a spokesperson for the US National Security Council (NSC) told Sputnik that Washington is open to communication on nuclear risks and arms control with Russia without tying the issue to the Ukraine conflict after Russian President Vladimir Putin had said that Moscow is mulling making changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine.

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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Biden Administration Offers $850Mln in Funding to Address Methane Emissions - Statement

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration is offering $850 million in federal funding for projects that address methane emissions in the United States' energy sector, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Energy Department said in a statement on Friday.

The funding will go towards projects that help monitor, measure, quantify, and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industries, the statement said.

"This funding from the Inflation Reduction Act – the largest climate investment in history – will help mitigate legacy air pollution, create good jobs in the energy sector and disadvantaged communities, reduce waste and inefficiencies in US oil and gas operations, and realize near-term emissions reductions, helping the United States reach President Biden's ambitious climate and clean air goals," the statement said.

The primary objectives for the funding include helping small operators reduce methane emissions using commercially available technology solutions, accelerating the repair of methane leaks from low-producing wells, improving communities' access to empirical data and enhancing detection and measurement of methane emissions, the statement said.

A competitive solicitation for the funding will enable a range of entities to apply, including industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, tribes, and state and local governments, the statement said.

The deadline to apply for the funding is August 26, the statement 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.

Trump Says De-Dollarization Threatens US, Would Be Like Losing War

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - Former President Donald Trump said in an interview with the All-In podcast that the threat of de-dollarization is equivalent to losing a war.

"We're losing a lot of countries on the dollar, they're going like flies," Trump said in the podcast that aired on Thursday. "If we ever lose that, that's the equivalent of losing a war. That would really make us Third World."

Trump added that he would use tariffs to prevent countries from moving away from the dollar.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that restrictions on payments in dollars had led to all countries thinking about payments in national currencies and keeping savings outside the United States, as trust in the West was being undermined.

In an interview with Tucker Carlson, Putin called the United States' use of the dollar as a foreign policy tool one of the biggest strategic mistakes by the US leadership. Even American allies are now downsizing their US dollar reserves, with more countries shifting to national currencies in bilateral trade, Putin 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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Trump Says Talk of NATO Expansion to Russia's Border 'Provocative

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - Former President Donald Trump said in an interview with the All-In podcast that the possibility of NATO expanding to Russia's border has always been understood to be off the table and such rhetoric now is provocative.

"They don't want to have it, it's always been understood, and that's even before Putin," Trump said in the podcast that aired on Thursday. "It's always been understood that that was a no-no... that was very provocative, and now it's even more provocative."

Trump said that it's understandable that Russia would be bothered by NATO troops on its border, adding that NATO's eastward expansion is a key reason for the conflict and that President Biden's rhetoric about envisioning Ukraine eventually joining NATO is even more provocative.

"Biden was saying all of the wrong things and one of the wrong things he was saying: 'Ukraine will go into NATO,'...Biden, he was saying the opposite of what in my opinion you had to say...and he's still saying it," Trump said.

In addition, Trump vowed to not put US troops on the ground in Ukraine if he returns to the White House.

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 Air Force Pays Northrop Grumman $189Mln For Mission Support Services - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - Northrop Grumman Mission Systems has won a $189 million US Air Force contract to provide Combat Air Forces mission operations services, the Defense Department announced.

"Northrop Grumman Mission Systems [of] McLean, Virginia, has been awarded a contract with a ceiling value of $189 million for Combat Air Forces Distributed Mission Operations services," the Defense Department said in a press release said on Thursday.

The contract provides for distributed training to capable Air Force trainers worldwide by establishing a virtual environment to conduct distributed training events and includes daily team training and large-scale exercises that provide a safe training environment, the release said.

Work on the contract will be carried out in Orlando, Florida, over the next two years and is expected to be completed by June 21, 2026, the release 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 Navy Orders Almost $1MBln in New Tactical Link Radio Terminals - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - Data Link Solutions has received an almost $1 billion contract from the US Navy to manufacture multifunctional information distribution system joint tactical radio systems terminals, the Defense Department said.

"Data Link Solutions comprised of BAE [of] Wayne, New Jersey and Collins Aerospace [of]

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, are awarded a ... contract with a maximum potential value of $998,828,164 for the production, retrofits, development, and sustainment of the multifunctional information distribution system (MIDS) joint tactical radio systems (JTRS) terminals," the Defense Department said in a press release on Thursday.

Currently, there are three variants of MIDS JTRS terminals: the Concurrent Multi-Netting 4, the Tactical Targeting Network Technology, and the F-22 variant, the release said

"These terminals will continue to be procured, sustained, and updated for future growth," the release added.

Work on the contract will be performed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (50%) and Wayne, New Jersey (50%) over the next five years until June 2029, 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.

US Air Force Orders $81Mln More Long-Range Radars From Lockheed Martin - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - The US Air Force has extended its contract with Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems by over $81 million for more Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar (3DELRR) systems, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems [of] Liverpool, New York has been awarded an $81,297,720 modification ...contract for Three-Dimensional Expeditionary Long-Range Radar (3DELRR) system," the release said on Thursday.

The contract extension also provides options for four 3DELRR radars, the Defense Department added.

Work on the contract is expected to take two and a half years and is expected to be completed by January 9, 2027, the Defense Department 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.

Missile Defense Agency Approves $282Mln Boost for Modeling-Simulation Project - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - The US Missile Defense Agency has given Lockheed Martin Rotary & Missions Systems an almost $283 million contract extension to develop and sustain the Objective Simulation Framework system, the Defense Department said.

"Lockheed Martin Rotary & Missions Systems [of] Colorado Springs, Colorado, is being awarded an extension to the ... $282,775,135 [contract] to provide the development and sustainment of the Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) Objective Simulation Framework modeling and simulation system," the Defense Department said in a press release on Thursday.

Work on the contract extension will take another two and a half years from April 15, 2024 to October 15, 2026, the release said.

"The extension will allow for the execution of MDA's integrated master test plan that includes ground test, flight test, and warfighter training and combatant command exercise events," the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

release added.
The Missile Defense Agency in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama will oversee the work as its contracting activity, 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.

Plurality of Americans Say Financial Situation Worsened in Last Six Months - Poll

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - A plurality of adults in the United States say that their financial situation has worsened in the last six months, according to a Rasmussen Reports poll released Thursday.
Forty-seven percent (47%) of respondents said that their financial situation has gotten worse in the past six months, the poll report said. The figure is up from 41% in December, the poll report added.
One-third of respondents (33%) said that their financial situation has remained the same and 17% said that their finances have improved, the poll report said.
The poll surveyed 1,223 American adults on June 13, 16-17. 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.

US Places Japan on Monitoring List for Currency Manipulation - Treasury

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - The United States has added Japan to its list of countries that need to be watched for potential currency manipulation that could be disadvantageous for US workers, the Treasury Department said in a report released to Congress.
"Seven economies are on Treasury's 'Monitoring List' of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices and macroeconomic policies: China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Germany," the report on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States said on Thursday.
The report said the Biden administration strongly opposes attempts by the United States' trading partners to artificially manipulate currency values to gain unfair advantage over US workers.
"Treasury continues to promote policies that support stronger and more balanced global growth that benefits American workers, including through close engagement with major trading partners on currency-related issues," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was quoted as saying in the report.
Japan made it to the list after intervening in currency markets earlier this year for the first time in 18 months to prop up the yen.
Japanese authorities purchased the yen and sold dollars between April and May, the first time they had done so since October 2022.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

"Treasury's expectation is that in large, freely traded exchange markets, intervention should be reserved only for very exceptional circumstances with appropriate prior consultations," the report said.

The Treasury Department commended Japan for being transparent with respect to foreign exchange operations, noting that unlike China, it publishes details on its foreign exchange interventions each month.

The report reiterated the Treasury Department's call for increased transparency from China, saying Beijing's failure to publish foreign data on exchange intervention as well as the broader lack of Chinese transparency on exchange rate policy make the country an outlier among major economies that warrant close monitoring.

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 Declares Major Disaster in New Mexico, Approves Federal Aid - White House

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden has declared a state of major disaster in response to the ongoing wildfires in New Mexico, paving the way for federal resources to aid recovery efforts, the White House said.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that a major disaster exists in the State of New Mexico and ordered Federal aid to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire beginning on June 17, 2024, and continuing," the White House said in a statement on Thursday.

The decision enables federal support for Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Tribe, offering grants, low-cost loans and other recovery assistance, the statement said.

The federal funding is available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide, the statement added.

On June 17, a fire started near Ruidoso and has since scorched 7,071 acres. It remains completely uncontained, prompting New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to declare a state of emergency.

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.

France's Orano Says Nigerien Government Rescinded Permit to Exploit Uranium Mine

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) – France's state-owned multinational company Orano confirmed that the Nigerien Government has withdrawn from its subsidiary Imouraren SA its permit to exploit one of the country's largest uranium deposits.

"Orano takes note of the Niger authorities' decision to withdraw from its subsidiary Imouraren SA its permit to exploit the deposit, despite the resumption of activities on site, pursuant to the expectations they had expressed," the company said in a statement on Thursday.

Orano fears that the decision to rescind the permit to exploit the uranium deposit in northern

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Niger will have a negative impact on the region's economic, social, and societal development, the statement added.

The company further noted that it is still willing to keep communication channels with the country's authorities open. However, Orano also reserves the right to challenge the decision to withdraw the permit before a competent national or international jurisdiction, the statement stressed.

Created in 2018, Orano is engaged in uranium mining, conversion enrichment, spent fuel recycling, nuclear logistics, dismantling, and nuclear cycle engineering activities. The French governments owns 90% of the company's shares.

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 Issues Rule Banning ICTS Transactions With Kaspersky on September 29 - Commerce Dept.

(Updates with details in paras 4-6)

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US Commerce Department on Thursday issued a new rule prohibiting information and communications technology and services (ICTS) transactions with the cybersecurity firm Kaspersky effective September 29.

"Effective 12:00 a.m. EDT on September 29, 2024, in accordance with 15 CFR 7.109(d)(5), Kaspersky, and any of its successors or assignees, shall be prohibited from engaging in the identified ICTS transactions in the United States or with US persons," the Commerce Department said in a filing in the Federal Register.

The Commerce Department also said it is imposing new export restrictions on Kaspersky and blacklisting AO Kaspersky Lab, OOO Kaspersky Group and Kaspersky Labs Limited for their alleged cooperation with Russia's military and intelligence authorities.

The Commerce Department further explained that any resale or integration of Kaspersky cybersecurity or anti-virus software into other products or services will be prohibited.

However, the rule will exempt transactions involving Kaspersky Threat Intelligence products, Kaspersky Security Training products, or Kaspersky consulting or advisory services, including SOC Consulting, Security Consulting, Ask the Analyst, and Incident Response, which are seen as purely informational or educational in nature.

Individuals who violate or attempt to violate this new restrictions will be subject to civil and criminal penalties, the filing 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.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, June 21 (Sputnik) -

NEW RUSSAIN NUCLEAR DOCTRINE

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

* Russia is considering making changes to its nuclear doctrine amid discussions in the West on the possibility of lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.
* Russia's strategic forces are in a state of full combat readiness, Putin said.
* US Defense Department spokesperson Pat Ryder said that the United States has seen nothing that would prompt it to make changes to its nuclear posture.

ISRAEL
* Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday that the Israeli army will not leave the Gaza Strip until all hostages held in the Palestinian enclave, including the dead, are returned to Israel, which could happen in stages.
* Israel informed the United States of its intent to move military resources north in preparation for a possible new front against Lebanese group Hezbollah, CNN reported.
* Israel will not be affected by the United States reprioritizing its foreign arms deliveries to redirect them to Ukraine, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said.

NEW US SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA
* The European Union's 14th package of sanctions against Russia will target the military-industrial complex, financial and energy sectors, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Thursday.
* The EU's new package of sanctions against Russia will seek to deny its "shadow fleet" access to European ports and services, Dutch Foreign Minister Hanke Bruins Slot said.
* The new 14th sanctions package of the EU against Russia will be finally approved at a meeting of the Council of the European Union on Foreign Affairs on June 24, an EU source told RIA Novosti.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE
* Ukrainian authorities are interested in continuing the hostilities because they do not want to hold a presidential election, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.
* Attempts to push Russian soldiers out of the Kharkiv Region will lead to casualties among Ukrainian servicepeople, Putin said.
* The West will blame Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for unpopular decisions and will find a replacement for him, possibly in the first half of the next year, Putin said.

PUTIN VISIT TO VIETNAM
* Russia is able to supply Vietnam with its liquefied natural gas (LNG) or produce it in Vietnam, President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.
* Russia supports a reform in the United Nations Security Council, but it needs to be based on consensus, Putin said.
* Russia is ready to continue active work with Vietnam on a wide range of issues, including economic, scientific, technical and defense spheres, Putin said.
* Russia and Vietnam are consistently strengthening their comprehensive strategic partnership, despite the complicated global situation, the countries said in a joint statement.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

* The US Embassy in Vietnam will eventually have discussions with their Vietnamese leadership about their meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said

WESTERN MILITARY SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

* The United States currently has no eligible Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) systems to send to Ukraine and is focusing instead on the reprioritization of missile deliveries, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.
* The United States' plans to redirect hundreds of both Patriot missiles and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) destined for other partners to Ukraine, Kirby said.
* South Korea will reconsider the possibility of providing lethal weapons to Ukraine after Russia and North Korea concluded a comprehensive strategic partnership agreement, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing the office of the South Korean president.
* Possible deliveries of lethal weapons to the conflict zone in Ukraine by South Korea would be a mistake, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.
* South Korea has nothing to worry concerning the Russia-North Korea military ties as Moscow's military assistance to Pyongyang will be provided only in the event of aggression against it, Putin said.
* Putin said that he hoped agreements between Russia and North Korea would be a deterrent to prevent the Korean crisis from escalating.
* There are no new features in the strategic partnership treaty Russia has signed with North Korea, compared to the previous document, Putin 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 Issues Rule Banning ICTS Transactions With Kaspersky on September 29 - Commerce Dept.

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US Commerce Department on Thursday issued a new rule prohibiting information and communications technology and services (ICTS) transactions with the cybersecurity firm Kaspersky effective September 29.

"Effective 12:00 a.m. EDT on September 29, 2024, in accordance with 15 CFR 7.109(d)(5), Kaspersky, and any of its successors or assignees, shall be prohibited from engaging in the identified ICTS transactions in the United States or with US persons," the Commerce Department said in a filing in the Federal Register.

The Commerce Department also said it is imposing new export restrictions on Kaspersky and blacklisting AO Kaspersky Lab, OOO Kaspersky Group and Kaspersky Labs Limited for their alleged cooperation with Russian's military and intelligence authorities.

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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

OAS General Assembly to Discuss Democracy, Security, Venezuela - US Ambassador

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Elections in Venezuela, democratic institutions, security, human rights and the situation in Nicaragua will be on the top of the agenda at the upcoming Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, from June 26-28, US Ambassador to the OAS Frank Mora said.

"Those areas will be discussed at the General Assembly in Asuncion. First, the issue of democracy, protection, defense and promotion of democracy. Second, human rights. There will be a large omnibus resolution addressing the issue of human rights… Third is the issue of security," Mora said.

The ambassador called security the most challenging topic facing the region and said many OAS member states will be focusing on this issue.

Regarding the potential return of Venezuela to the OAS, Mora pointed out that the organization expects all parties in the country to fully comply with their commitments in the upcoming presidential election.

"We have seen challenges and efforts by [Venezuelan President Nicolas] Maduro's authorities to impede the process," Mora said.

The OAS, along with the international community, will keep pushing and pressuring Maduro in a positive way toward having a credible and fair election, he said.

Mora also said that he was confident the OAS would adopt a "very strong resolution" on Nicaragua.

"I think you will see that resolution soon. It makes a sort of a list of continued abuses, violations of the most basic political and civil human rights, but it urges the regime in Managua to return to respecting and complying with the commitments they made to a number of conventions and treaties regarding human rights," Mora 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 imposes new export restrictions on kaspersky - commerce department

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.

Oil Rally Brings A Barrel Back To Above $80 As Summer Starts

NEW YORK, June 20 (Sputnik) - Oil prices pierced above the key bullish mark of $80 per barrel on Thursday for the first time in almost two months as data on weekly fuel inventories released by the US government suggested that summer demand for fuels was kicking in.

The most-active August contract for US West Texas Texas Intermediate crude settled at $81.31 per barrel, up 60 cents, or 0.7%, on the day, after peaking at $81.51 — its highest since May 1, when it got to $81.57.

Thursday marked the official start of the US summer season and the third time in four sessions

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

that oil prices had rallied. The US crude benchmark itself looked set for a gain of 4% or more on the week if the market did not turn negative by Friday.

UK-origin Brent crude's most-active August contract settled at $85.71 per barrel, up 64 cents, or 0.8% on the day. The global crude benchmark hit a session high of $85.96, its best since a May 1 peak of $85.89.

Until two weeks ago, oil prices had been under pressure due to an unflattering supply-demand picture in the United States, the world's largest consumer of the commodity. Both US crude and Brent lost about 5.5% for all of May.

The demand picture turned more positive in early June after global oil producing alliance OPEC+ assured the market that it will carry out adequate output cuts to offset any weakness in fuel demand during the summer — the busiest season for driving in the United States.

OPEC has since committed to remove some 2.2 million barrels per day through 2025 from the joint production of the 23 nations in the alliance. It was originally supposed to make those cuts only until September this year. The alliance groups the 13-member Saudi-led Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries with 10 other oil producing nations steered by Russia.

The US Energy Information Administration reported that crude stockpiles fell by 2.547 million barrels during the week ended June 14, versus a build of 3.73 million in the prior week to June 7. Energy analysts on Wall Street had anticipated a slightly higher decline of 2.8 million barrels in the latest week.

In gasoline, there was a drop of 2.28 million barrels over the prior build of 2.566 million. Wall Street's bet was for a 1.05 million barrel build. Gasoline is the primary motor fuel in the United States and makes up the largest component of the country's energy mix.

In distillates, there was a slide of 1.726 million barrels above the prior week's rise of 881,000 barrels. Wall Street's forecast was for a build of 1.05 million barrels. Distillates are primarily processed into the diesel required by trucks, buses, and ships, and also go into making airline fuel.

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 CENTCOM Re-Anchors Temporary Pier Near Gaza, Resumes Aid Deliveries - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US Central Command (CENTCOM) has re-anchored the temporary maritime pier off the coast of Gaza and resumed delivering humanitarian aid to the enclave, Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said during a press briefing.

"US Central Command personnel re-anchored and re-established the temporary pier to the Gaza beach yesterday," Ryder said during a press briefing.

Since the pier resumed its operations, more than 656 metric tons of humanitarian aid or 1.4 million pounds have been delivered to Gaza earlier throughout Thursday, Ryder added.

Last week, the Defense Department announced its decision to dismantle the pier due to expected bad weather and transport it by sea to Ashdod. This was the second time the pier had failed the United States.

In late May, the pier was damaged by bad weather only two weeks after it began operating once the US military constructed it. However, CENTCOM had to temporarily dismantle the pier

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

to conduct repairs after being damaged by bad weather.
US media reported earlier this week that the Biden administration is planning to completely dismantle the pier in early July after it proved to be ineffective in increasing the flow of aid into Gaza amid a dire humanitarian situation there.

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 Senator Says NATO Alliance Needs to Start Thinking About Itself as Global Entity

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - NATO members must begin thinking about the alliance as a global entity, US Senator Thom Tillis said on Thursday.
"Looking ahead, I think we have to start thinking about NATO in a global context," Tillis said during an interview with the Hudson Institute. "We can no longer think about NATO just being an entity that deals with threats coming from Europe."
NATO will hold a summit in Washington from July 9-11.
On Monday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that he invited the leaders of several countries in the Indo-Pacific region to attend the summit, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.
NATO and its Indo-Pacific partners can uphold the so-called rules-based international order and their shared values together, Stoltenberg 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.

Pentagon Says Sees No Reason to Change Nuclear Posture After Putin Remarks

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said on Thursday that Washington has seen nothing that would prompt it to make changes to its nuclear posture.
“We’ve seen nothing at this point that would require us to change our own strategic forces posture,” Ryder said in a press briefing when asked about Russian President Vladimir Putin's remarks on possibly changing Russia's nuclear doctrine.
Putin earlier on Thursday said Russia is considering making changes to its nuclear doctrine amid discussions in the West on the possibility of lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons.

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.

Military Clashes in Space Would Make Environment 'Unusable' For Everyone - US Engineer

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

AUSTIN, June 20 (Sputnik) - Space could become unusable for all if a military clash involving satellites or some weapons takes place, US aerospace engineer Scott Walter told Sputnik.

"But it's a concern because if anything starts happening in low Earth orbit, then it's not gonna be usable for anyone. So I don't think any nation really wants anything to go up there," Walter said. "So the best thing is to reach some tender agreements or treaties on that."

Walter said that hopefully states are at most "jamming or preventing the satellites from being able to work as opposed to using kinetic kinds of devices" that would result in a snowball effect.

Walter also noted that if anything were to happen in orbit, then the whole space area could be inoperable for "hundreds of years," effectively creating a "junkyard" in space.

In February, the United States claimed that Russia was developing a space-based anti-satellite weapon that posed a serious threat to US national security.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia has always been categorically opposed to deploying nuclear weapons in space. Russia's activities in space are no different from those of other countries, including the United States, Putin added.

Scott Walter is aerospace and mechanical engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the industry. Walter currently works as Chief Technical Advisor at the 3D simulation software developer firm Visual Components.

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 Senators Renew Call to Designate Russia as State Sponsor of Terrorism

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Republican US Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal on Thursday reiterated their calls to designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism.

"Russia deserves to be in this small, selective club of atrocity-committing killers," Blumenthal said during a press conference.

The United States currently considers Cuba, Iran, Syria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as state sponsors of terrorism.

The renewed push to designate Russia comes following Russian President Vladimir Putin's trip to the DPRK.

The designation would strengthen sanctions and impose practical consequences on Russia, Blumenthal said, adding that the designation is also important in a moral sense.

Russia supports terrorism through the private military company Wagner Group and other entities, Graham said. Designating Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism would serve as a "moral boost" for Ukraine and make Russia a pariah on the world stage, Graham said.

Graham urged Senate leadership to bring a bill to designate Russia to the floor for a vote.

Last year, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said to "never say never" in regards to designating Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 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 Has About 600 Troops in Niger, Remains on Track to Withdraw by September 15 - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States remains on track to completely withdraw from Niger by September 15 with about 600 troops still in the country, Defense Department spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Thursday.

"There are currently approximately 600 US personnel in the country [Niger], and we remain on track for a complete withdrawal by September 15 as agreed upon," Ryder said during a press briefing. "US Air Force C-17 aircraft have begun faring personnel and equipment out of the country in accordance with the arrangements made between US officials and the CNSP [National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland] in May."

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 Declines to Disclose What Countries Impacted by Ukraine Reprioritization Plan

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - A US Defense Department spokesperson on Thursday declined to disclose what countries will be impacted by a plan to divert US-made air defense missiles from other countries to Ukraine.

Earlier in the day, the White House announced that it had decided to divert to Ukraine planned deliveries of Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) that were initially destined for other US allies and partners.

"We cannot provide the names as some of them may wish to keep the info private," the spokesperson said.

A congressional source told Sputnik that NATO countries like Germany could be expected to have their deliveries of Patriot missiles delayed.

The US defense firm Raytheon declined to comment on the matter.

Other countries expected to be impacted by this new plan include South Korea, Poland, Romania and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to media reports.

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 about 600 troops in niger, remains on track to complete withdrawal by september 15 as agreed - pentagon

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.

NASA Probably Will Not Land Humans on Moon in 2026 as Planned - US Aerospace Engineer

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

AUSTIN, June 20 (Sputnik) - NASA will likely not be able to stick to its goal and land humans on the Moon in 2026, given that major components of the trip are still in process of being worked out, US aerospace engineer Scott Walter told Sputnik.

"That's probably a stretch goal to be able to get in 2026. Just look at all the delays. I don't know if they figured out the spacesuits yet, because I know there was a problem with that," Walter aid. "So it might be a rather aggressive goal based on a lot of other things."

Walter pointed out that the mission also requires a lander, which is coming from SpaceX, but has not been tested yet.

Another major issue for the success of the mission is that SpaceX needs to design a rocket that will get enough propellant to make it as far as the Moon, he said.

Specialists have been able to do a propellant transfer from one tank to another internally but not yet from two different ships, which a goal that is at least a year away, Walter added

According to SpaceX Vice President Jessica Jensen, the company is expected to perform at least ten refueling flights.

NASA targets September 2025 for Artemis II, the first crewed Artemis mission around the Moon, and September 2026 for Artemis III, to land the first astronauts near the lunar South Pole.

The lunar South Pole, the so-called "dark side" of the Moon, is a more mountainous terrain with major craters.

Scott Walter is aerospace and mechanical engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the industry. Walter currently works as Chief Technical Advisor at the 3D simulation software developer firm Visual Components.

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.

Israel Aid Efforts in Gaza Encouraging But Lack of Public Order Remains Issue-UN Spokesman

UNITED NATIONS, June 20 (Sputnik) - The UN welcomes tactical pauses started by the Israeli side, however, the lack of public order remains an issue, the UN Spokesman Farhan Haq said on Thursday.

“We welcome the initiatives that are aimed at facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid and so we are encouraged by that, and we are continuing our dialogue with the Israeli side on this. But at the same time there are still some impediments and the basic problem is one of a lack of public order,” Haq said in the UN briefing when asked to evaluate Israel's tactical pauses.

On Sunday, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that it had decided to impose a daily "tactical pause" in the southern Gaza Strip to allow the civilian population to receive humanitarian aid.

The IDF said that following discussions with the UN, a local, tactical pause of military activity for humanitarian purposes would take place from 08:00 until 19:00 every day until further notice along the road that leads from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah al-Din Road and then northwards.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Kart LLC. Additional information is

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

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

US Senate Confirms Stephanie Sullivan as Representative to African Union

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US Senate on Thursday confirmed US President Biden's nomination of Stephanie Sullivan as the US representative to the African Union with the rank of ambassador.

The Senate voted 45-26 to confirm the nomination of Sullivan, a career diplomat who previously served as ambassador to Ghana and the Congo.

Biden nominated Sullivan to the post on June 15.

Only one Republican, Senator Susan Collins, voted in favor of the nomination.

A group of Republican senators has pledged to block the expedited consideration of Democratic legislation and the confirmation of some Democratic nominees in response to the prosecution and conviction of former President Donald Trump in a New York court.

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.

NASA Innovation Slowed Down by Bureaucracy, Risk Aversion - US Aerospace Engineer

AUSTIN, June 20 (Sputnik) - NASA's innovative process has slowed down because the agency has become very bureaucratic and risk averse, US aerospace engineer Scott Walter told Sputnik.

"The main problem that you see at NASA is you've got this huge bureaucracy, and they're kind of risk averse," Walter said when asked why SpaceX is conducting a lot of testing while NASA has effectively remained in the background.

Scott explained that another reason why NASA lags behind SpaceX is that it must satisfy all stakeholders and therefore cannot concentrate on one particular area but has to ensure that each congressional delegation gets a piece of the pie - a set-up that slows things down.

Scott also said he hopes that SpaceX will inject a different sense of purpose and NASA will regain the old sense of urgency.

In 2021, NASA signed with SpaceX a $2.9 billion agreement to carry astronauts to lunar orbit and back. NASA targets September 2025 for Artemis II, the first crewed Artemis mission around the Moon, and September 2026 for Artemis III, to land the astronauts near the lunar South Pole.

Scott Walter is aerospace and mechanical engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the industry. Walter currently works as Chief Tehnical Advisor at the 3D simulation software developer firm Visual Components.

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.

Cooperation in Space Likely to Decrease Following Deconstruction of ISS - US Engineer

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

AUSTIN, June 20 (Sputnik) - The necessary destruction of the old International Space Station (ISS) may result in reduced international cooperation in space and increased cases of individuals or countries building their own space stations, US aerospace engineer Scott Walter told Sputnik.

"Hopefully, you get back to cooperation, but unfortunately, what you're probably going to see is there's going to be different islands of people, of countries developing these things. They've all learned a lot about how to build a space station and maybe how not to build one," Walter said when asked if international cooperation at the ISS is likely to continue.

Walter also said that the ISS is "getting pretty old" and the only options are either to bring the station down or boost it high in a very safe orbit that will not bother anyone.

"Almost like an orbiting graveyard with the idea of preserving it. We could have it as a museum in space for the future," Walter added.

Earlier in April, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said the space agency requested additional emergency funding from Congress to start preparing a spacecraft to deorbit the ISS and bring its remains safely to Earth after 2030 if space cooperation with Russia breaks down before then.

Current plans anticipate that NASA and the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos will work closely together to safely deorbit the ISS so that its debris does not threaten any populated areas on Earth. However, given the current tensions in US-Russia relations, NASA cannot take for granted that the ongoing cooperation with Roscosmos will continue safely into the indefinite future.

In May 2023, Nelson said that the ISS will be deorbited between 2030 and 2031.

Scott Walter is aerospace and mechanical engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the industry. Walter currently works as Chief Tehnical Advisor at the 3D simulation software developer firm Visual Components.

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 Government Stopped Engaging TikTok on National Security Agreement in 2022 - Filing

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US government ceased engagement with social media company TikTok on a plan to address national security concerns in September 2022, TikTok said in a court filing on Thursday.

"[TikTok] continued to work with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to address the government's concerns, culminating in a 90-page draft National Security Agreement," the filing said. "The Agreement was never signed, however, because the Committee ceased substantive engagement regarding the Agreement in September 2022."

Earlier this year, US President Joe Biden signed a law passed by Congress that would ban TikTok in the United States if it refuses to divest from its Chinese-owned parent company, ByteDance. TikTok and ByteDance have since challenged the action in court.

The First Amendment of the US Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of speech, requires the court to examine such an extraordinary restriction on speech, the filing said.

The US Congress has never before singled out and shut down a specific speech forum in such an "unprecedented" act, the filing said. There is no indication that lawmakers considered

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

TikTok's multi-year efforts to address the government's concerns, the filing said.
The filing requests that the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia declare the legislation unconstitutional and enjoin its enforcement.

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.

CNN Says Trump Will Deliver Final Remarks at Network's Presidential Debate Next Week

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump will deliver the final speech at the CNN presidential debate next week, the network said on Thursday.
President Joe Biden won a coin toss, allowing his campaign to choose the order of closing statements or pick his podium side, the network said in a report.
Biden opted to choose the podium on the right-hand side of viewers' screens, the report said. The Trump campaign then chose to deliver the last word, the report said.
Biden and Trump will compete in the first debate of the 2024 presidential election cycle on June 27. CNN will host the 90-minute debate in Atlanta, Georgia.
Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. failed to qualify for the debate.
Kennedy said in a statement that his exclusion from the debate is "undemocratic, un-American, and cowardly," adding that the decision violates US election 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.

Trump Media Stock Down 13% on Day, Eyes Worst Month Since Going Public

NEW YORK, June 20 (Sputnik) - The media stock associated with former US President Donald Trump is down 13% on the day, heading for its worst month since it went public in March, as selling resumed after attempts by Trump loyalists to hold the price up as a referendum on his popularity.
Trump Media & Technology Group Corp, which debuted on the New York Stock Exchange under the DJT symbol that takes after Trump's initials, was trading at $27.18 at 13:00 Eastern US Time (17:00 GMT). That was down $4.13, or 13.2%, from Tuesday's close, with Wednesday being a market holiday.
DJT has seen wild swings in value as Trump supporters view the stock as a proxy for the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party for the November 5 US presidential election, while objective investors see it as a sell in response to the poor finances of Trump Media & Technology Group Corp.
Trump Media, linked to Trump's Truth Social app, reported a net loss of $327.6 million on a revenue of $770,500 for the first quarter of 2024. The company has also cautioned investors that things could get worse for its finances, saying it "expects to continue to incur operating losses and negative cash flows from operating activities for the foreseeable future" while it tries to expand its user base and advertising revenue.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

If DJT doesn't recover substantially by the close of next week, it could finish down 45% or more for June, for its worst month since its March 26 debut. The day it went public, the stock hit a high of $79.38. Thursday's session low, in contrast, was $26.14.

While there did not appear to be a single major catalyst for Thursday's selloff, CNBC noted that DJT had been in a slump since May 30, when a New York jury convicted Trump on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

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.

Congressman Massie Says No US Administration Will Have Fortitude to Reverse Dollar Decline

UNITED NATIONS, June 20 (Sputnik) - No new US administration will have enough strength and insight to reverse the decline of the dollar - the large debt will eventually hurt the United States, US Congressman Thomas Massie said on Thursday.

"I don't think either administration or either party in Congress will have the foresight or fortitude to reverse the decline of the dollar. When the world quits using it, we are in a world of hurt with respect to the debt," Massie said via the social media platform X.

Massie made the comment in response to a question whether the trend of countries using less dollars in global transactions can be reversed by a new US administration.

The congressman has also recently done an interview with independent journalist Tucker Carlson, in which he spoke in detail about the US debt, arguing that many in the United States have become complacent regarding this issue and the debt is too large to be fixed.

On Wednesday, the Congressional Budget Office said the US federal debt held by the public is projected to rise to 122% of gross domestic product in 2034.

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.

Navajo Scrambles After Congress Lets Bill Expire That Aids People Hurt by US Atomic Tests

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The Navajo Nation is looking at alternative options to revive a bill that compensates people harmed by US atomic activity after congressional leadership failed to act before funding expired earlier this month, Navajo Nation Washington Office Executive Director Justin Ahasteen told Sputnik on Thursday.

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers and Navajo Nation officials had urged US House Speaker Mike Johnson to schedule a vote on legislation that would renew and expand funding that compensates people who have been harmed by US atomic weapon testing and uranium mining before it expired. In December, US lawmakers removed the Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act (RECA) amendments from the US defense policy bill.

"As of now the program has sunset since the House did not move on Senator Hawley's expansion bill," Ahasteen said. "There was an effort to include the RECA as part of the house version of the National Defense Authorization Act, however, that amendment failed."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

There will be an effort in the Senate in the coming days to include the RECA expansion in the Senate's version of the National Defense Authorization Act, Ahasteen said.

There are ongoing discussions to put a spending cap of $10 billion on the RECA program, he added.

The United States carried out nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons development tests from 1945 to 1962. Uranium mining and processing, which were carried out by tens of thousands of workers, were also considered essential to the nation's nuclear weapons development.

Numerous lawsuits were filed against the US government for its alleged failure to warn of exposures to known radiation hazards from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining and testing, but these suits were dismissed by appellate courts.

US Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act in 1990 and broadened it over the years to address these issues.

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.

Navajo Says Working with US Government to Regulate Transport of Uranium Through Their Land

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Navajo Nation officials are currently working with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials to put together regulations on the transportation of uranium ore through their reservation, but the tribe continues to wait for the White House to provide an opportunity to further discuss their concerns on this matter, Navajo Nation Washington Office Executive Director Justin Ahasteen told Sputnik on Thursday.

The Navajo Nation, the largest Native American tribe in the United States, is concerned that as the United States seeks to revive its domestic nuclear fuel industry following a ban on US imports of Russian uranium, increased transportation of uranium ore through their land will expose their tribal members to health risks.

"We have not been able to meet with the White House yet regarding this," Ahasteen said. "We have met with officials from the US Department of Justice and the Navajo Nation is currently putting together regulations for the transport of uranium through our lands in partnership with the US EPA."

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.

navajo nation tells sputnik it is putting together regulations for transport of uranium through its lands in partnership with us epa

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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

BAE Systems, GlobalFoundries Sign Deal to Make Top Security Microconductors - Statement

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - BAE Systems and the semiconductor manufacturer GlobalFoundries have concluded a new agreement to cooperate on both research and manufacturing to supply the US government and military, BAE Systems announced in a press release on Thursday.

"BAE Systems and GlobalFoundries today announced a new collaboration to strengthen the supply of critical semiconductors for national security programs," the release said.

Under the strategic agreement, the companies will align technology roadmaps and collaborate on long-term strategies for increasing US semiconductor innovation and manufacturing, the release explained.

The two companies will together work towards "the joint goal of advancing the ecosystem for domestic fabrication and packaging of secure chips and solutions for use in aerospace and defense systems," BAE Systems said.

Recently, BAE Systems leveraged GlobalFoundries' 12LP and 12S0 technology platforms for custom radiation-hardened by design semiconductor solutions for sensitive space applications.

The highly differentiated US-made chips enable electronic systems to withstand the harsh environment of space, while offering power efficiency, area benefits and a robust design ecosystem to enable cost-efficient and quick-turn prototyping, 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.

RFK Jr. Fails to Qualify For CNN Presidential Debate on June 27 - Network

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. failed to qualify for the presidential debate CNN will host on June 27, according to a press release on Thursday.

"According to parameters set by CNN in May, all participating debaters had to appear on a sufficient number of state ballots to reach the 270 electoral vote threshold to win the presidency and receive at least 15% in four separate national polls of registered or likely voters that meet CNN's standards for reporting...Biden and Trump were the only candidates to meet those requirements," the network said in a news release.

The debate qualification window closed at 12:00:01 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, CNN said.

In May, Kennedy filed a complaint with the US Federal Election Commission (FEC) accusing President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump, and CNN of violating US election laws.

The Kennedy campaign asked the FEC to look into its allegation and to block the Biden-Trump presidential debate scheduled for June 27 until the accused parties are in "compliance' with federal election laws, the release 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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Israel Informs US of Intent to Move Resources North in Preparation for New Front - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Israel informed the United States of its intent to move military resources north in preparation for a possible new front against Lebanese group Hezbollah, CNN reported on Thursday.

The US is concerned that Hezbollah could overwhelm Israel's air-defense systems in the northern areas of the country, including Iron Dome systems, the report said, citing three US officials.

On Tuesday, the Israel Defense Forces said that Israel approved operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon. Israel is "very close" to changing the rules regarding operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, Foreign Minister Israel Katz said.

The United States does not want to see an expansion of the conflict into Lebanon, Defense Department spokesperson Pat Ryder 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.

UN Waiting for Final Report on Using AI for Humanity, Managing Its Risks - Guterres

UNITED NATIONS, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United Nations is awaiting a final report on how to safely approach AI and make the technology useful for humanity, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday.

"My high level advisory body on AI is completing its final report on how we can govern AI for humanity while addressing its risks and its uncertainties," Guterres told the Security Council during a meeting on Cybersecurity.

Earlier this year, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a US-drafted resolution to encourage the development of safeguards for AI.

The resolution encourages protecting personal data, strengthening privacy policies, monitoring AI for risks and compliance with international human rights laws.

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 Expects Vietnam to Comply With UN Charter on Ukraine Conflict – White House

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration expects Vietnam to continue to adhere to the United Nations (UN) Charter concerning the ongoing conflict in Ukraine amid Russian President Vladimir Putin's official visit to the country, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"Our expectation is that Vietnam will continue to adhere to its commitment and support the basic principles of the UN Charter, which include sovereignty, which include territorial integrity, and that they'll continue, as they have, to convey that these principles need to be upheld all across the world, in Europe, as well as in Asia," Kirby said during a press briefing.

Kirby added that US diplomats from the American embassy in the country will hold meetings

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

with Vietnamese government officials following Putin's visit to the country.

Putin arrived in Hanoi on Wednesday for a two-day state visit. He was hosted by Vietnamese President To Lam on Thursday and has more meetings lined up with the country's senior officials, including Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Parliament President Tran Thanh Man.

Earlier in the week, the Russian president paid a two-day visit to Pyongyang, where he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed a bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement.

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.

Putin Says Sanctions on North Korea 'Inhumane,' Comparable to Siege of Leningrad

HANOI, June 20 (Sputnik) - Sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are inhumane and comparable to Nazi Germany's siege of Leningrad, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"You can treat the regime as you would like, but to impose sanctions on the right to immigration, it seems strange," Putin said during a trip to Vietnam, following a visit to the DPRK. "It leads to families, even if they are in difficult material circumstances, to lack the opportunity to earn money somewhere and feed their children. Doesn't it remind you of something? Isn't it inhumane?"

The sanctions are reminiscent of the siege of Leningrad during the Second World War, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians, Putin 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.

NEC Director Brainard Says US Should Focus on Health, Housing Due to Insufficient Progress

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States needs to focus more on healthcare and housing due to insufficient progress in these sectors, National Economic Council (NEC) Director Lael Brainard said on Thursday.

"We have to focus on areas like health care and housing, where we're simply not seeing enough progress," Brainard said during an Urban Institute forum on lowering costs for families in the United States.

Brainard explained that increasing the housing supply is essential for reducing rent and improving affordability and noted that the Biden administration's proposed tax credit for 200,000 homes and plan for an additional 2 million houses are crucial steps forward.

"This really is a federal, state, and local agenda. It's a bipartisan agenda, and we need to work together to improve housing affordability for Americans, which is such an important area," Brainard said.

Earlier on Thursday, Brainard also discussed at a different venue the Biden administration's strategies to reduce living costs in areas such as housing, food and finance.

On March 7, the White House said in a statement that to reduce rental prices and improve

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

homeownership, President Joe Biden is urging Congress to approve a bill to construct and renovate more than 2 million homes.

The bill was introduced after the alleged success of last year's Housing Supply Action Plan, which led to a surge in housing construction.

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.

Eight Mexican Cartel Members Sanctioned For Trafficking Drugs Into US - Treasury

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Eight key members of Mexico's notorious drug cartel La Nueva Familia Michoacana have been sanctioned for trafficking fentanyl, cocaine and methamphetamine into the United States, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced Thursday.

One of Mexico's most powerful and violent, the La Nueva cartel has also been smuggling people into the United States and combating them has become a priority of both the Mexican government as well as the Biden administration, Yellen said.

"The opioid crisis, and especially the rise of synthetic opioids like fentanyl, has devastated communities and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans," Yellen said in a news release issued by the Treasury Department. "Treasury has unique capabilities and expertise to target the financial flows of these cartels who are poisoning our communities, and going after them is a top priority for me and the Department."

The eight sanctioned members of La Nueva were Rodolfo Maldonado Bustos, who's next-in-line to the Olascoaga brothers who lead the cartel; Josue Ramirez Carrera, who looks after the cartel's finances; Josue Lopez Hernandez, Kevin Arzate Gome, David Duran Alvarez, and Lucio Ochoa Lagunes, all four key lieutenants for the cartel; Euclides Camacho Goicochea, who moves a significant amount of the cartel's drug supply to the United States; and Uriel Tabares Martinez, a "sicario", or assassin, who carries out tortures and murders for the Olascoaga brothers.

Historically, the La Nueva cartel trafficked mostly methamphetamine, the Treasury release said.

But in recent years, the cartel has expanded into fentanyl trafficking, obtaining the necessary precursor chemicals, purchasing critical pill press machines, and then producing fentanyl throughout Mexico.

La Nueva then sends fentanyl and other drugs to the United States through the southern Texas border via buses, among other modes of transportation.

Once the drugs are in the United States, they are then sent to multiple US cities, including Atlanta, Houston, Dallas, Tulsa, Chicago, and Charlotte.

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 Currently Has No Patriot, NASAMS Systems to Send to Ukraine – White House

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) – The United States currently has no eligible Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) systems to send to Ukraine and is focusing instead on the reprioritization of missile deliveries, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"We just don't have eligible systems coming off the production line," Kirby said during a press briefing. "Right now, the focus is really going to be on the missiles themselves."

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 Embassy in Vietnam to Eventually Talk With Senior Officials About Putin Visit - Kirby

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US Embassy in Vietnam will eventually have discussions with their Vietnamese leadership about their meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.

"We have an embassy there and they'll certainly have, in due course, the appropriate conversations with their counterparts in Vietnamese government," Kirby told reporters.

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 Impact on Israel After US Diverts Foreign Weapons Deliveries to Ukraine - Kirby

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Israel will not be affected by the United States reprioritizing its foreign arms deliveries to redirect them to Ukraine, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"There's going to be no impact felt by Israel as a result of this reprioritization," Kirby said during a press briefing.

The Biden administration has decided to reprioritize planned deliveries of Patriot as well as National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) missiles destined for other countries to send them to Ukraine instead.

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.

Netanyahu's Comments That US Not Delivering Military Aid Were Disappointing - Kirby

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's accusation that Washington is withholding weapons supplies from Israel are disappointing, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"On the prime minister's comments ... obviously, we didnt know this video was coming, and it was perplexing to say the least, certainly disappointing," Kirby said during a press briefing.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu published a video on social media accusing the United States of

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

withholding military aid for his country and asking the Biden administration to ensure further deliveries of weapons and ammunition to Israel.

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.

Hundreds of Patriot, NASAMS Missiles to Be Redirected to Ukraine - White House

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States' plans to redirect hundreds of both Patriot missiles and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) destined for other partners to Ukraine, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"I can tell you on the Patriots [and NASAMS missiles], it's in the realm of hundreds," Kirby said during a press briefing. "It's both, Patriot interceptor missiles and NASAM interceptor missiles."

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.

Kirby Says US in Direct Talks With Russia on Alleged Threat of Nukes in Space

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States is engaged in direct talks with Russia on the issue of Moscow's alleged plans to deploy a nuclear weapon to space, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.

"We've been working on this particular problem set from every possible angle, including through intense diplomacy with countries around the world, and obviously through direct conversations with Russia," Kirby told reporters.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Russia has always been categorically opposed to deploying nuclear weapons in space. Russia's activities in space are no different from those of other countries, including the US, Putin stressed

The allegations represent a ploy to prompt negotiations on the issue with terms that benefit the US, Putin also 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 Reprioritization of Foreign Military Delivers to Ukraine Will Not Impact Taiwan - Kirby

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The new United States' effort to expedite air defense missiles to Ukraine will not impact US security assistance provided to Taiwan, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.

"This reprioritization will not affect Taiwan," Kirby told reporters.

The Biden administration has decided to reprioritize planned deliveries of Patriot as well as National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) missiles destined for other

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

countries to send them to Ukraine instead.

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 to Begin Receiving More Air Defense Missiles in Coming Weeks - White House

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States expects the first shipments from reprioritization of air defense missiles to Ukraine will begin to arrive in the coming weeks, White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.
"We expect the first shipments from this reprioritization of air defense missiles to Ukraine will happen over coming weeks," Kirby told reporters.
The Biden administration has decided to reprioritize planned deliveries of Patriot as well as National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) missiles destined for other countries to send them to Ukraine instead.

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 Not Surprised by New Defense Pact Between Russia, North Korea

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The United States is not surprised by a new defense pact agreed to this week between Russia and North Korea, White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.
"No surprise here," Kirby told reporters. "We've been talking about this and warning about a burgeoning defense relationship between these two countries now for many months."
On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia does not rule out military-technical cooperation with North Korea in accordance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two countries. However, the treaty provides for mutual military assistance in case of an armed aggression against either of the two allies.

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.

netanyahu's comments that us not delivering military aid were disappointing - kirby

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 to Reprioritize Deliveries of Patriot, NASAMS Missiles to Support Ukraine – White House

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration has decided to reprioritize planned deliveries of Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) missiles destined for other countries to send them to Ukraine instead, White House National

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

"The United States' government has made the difficult but necessary decision to reprioritize near-term planned deliveries of foreign military sales to other countries of particularly Patriot and NASAM missiles to go to Ukraine instead," Kirby said during a press briefing.

The deliveries of the missiles to other countries in the queue will be delayed and the United States has already informed its partners about this decision, Kirby added.

Kirby noted that the United States stands ready to do the same if any of its partners are in a situation similar to Ukraine's.

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 expects first shipments from reprioritization of air defense missiles to ukraine will happen over coming weeks - kirby

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.

Joe Biden Adviser Connected With Burisma Through Hunter Biden Law Firm - Reports

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - A law firm tied to Hunter Biden connected then-US State Department energy official Amos Hochstein to Ukrainian energy company Burisma despite ongoing corruption concerns, Just The News reported, citing new documents obtained by US lawmakers.

The Boies Schiller Flexner law firm, which employed Hunter Biden, facilitated plans to connect Hochstein with Burisma executive Vadym Pozharskyi in summer and fall 2014, the report said on Thursday.

Hochstein served as a State Department energy adviser at the time under the Obama-Biden administration; Hochstein currently serves in the Biden-Harris administration as a Middle East envoy. Hunter Biden was directly involved in efforts to connect Hochstein with Pozharskyi, the report said.

The documents detailing the plan were collected by the FBI and other federal agencies as part of a security fraud case in 2016, the report said. The documents were recently given to the US House Oversight Committee, which has been probing alleged criminal activity involving the Biden family, the report said.

The effort to link Hochstein and Pozharskyi started in July 2014, less than three months after Hunter Biden began serving on Burisma's board, the report said. In April 2014, the UK Serious Fraud Office made a public effort to freeze the assets of Burisma founder Mykola Zlochevsky as part of an FBI-assisted money laundering investigation.

On July 23, 2014, Hochstein met with Pozharskyi, a Burisma lobbyist and a Boies Schiller Flexner partner in Washington, the report said, citing a source directly familiar with the meeting.

In 2020, Hochstein told senators that he "could not recall" whether he had contact with Burisma in 2014. Hochstein also told senators that he believed Burisma had a history of corruption that

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

warranted prosecution.
US Senator Ron Johnson reportedly said that the documents prove Hunter Biden was selling influence and access to US government officials.
Joe Biden has denied discussing foreign business activities with his son.

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 informed all affected countries of decision to reprioritize planned foreign military sales

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 Assistant Secretary of State Kritenbrink to Visit Hanoi on Heels of Putin's Visit

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The US State Department announced on Thursday that Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink is set to travel to Hanoi from June 21-22, in a trip that comes just after Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to the Southeast Asian nation.
"Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Kritenbrink will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam June 21 to 22," the statement said.
Kritenbrink's meetings with Vietnam's senior officials aim to reinforce the US's dedication to its strategic partnership with Vietnam and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, according to the statement.
"The Assistant Secretary will also reaffirm the United States' support for a strong, independent, resilient, and prosperous Vietnam. Finally, the Assistant Secretary will discuss shared objectives for next month's ASEAN-related ministerial meetings, which will take place in Vientiane, Lao PDR," the statement added.
On Wednesday, President Putin arrived in Vietnam for a two-day state visit. The Russian president has met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and Parliament President Tran Thanh Man.

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.

Severing Ties With Russia, China Not Condition for US-Vietnam Partnership - Yellen

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - Vietnam's economic partnership with the United States is not conditional on that Southeast Asian nation severing ties with other countries such as Russia and China, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday.
"Vietnam is … working collaboratively with many different countries and it is not a condition of our partnership that they suffered in their ties with Russia or to China," Yellen told a news conference.
The treasury secretary said the United States has upgraded its ties with Vietnam after a visit by

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

President Joe Biden last year and views the Southeast Asian nation as one that could be part of the US effort to build an alliance of so-called friend-shoring countries to diversify supply of goods.

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Vietnam for a two-day state visit. The Russian president has met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and Parliament President Tran Thanh Man.

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.

Iran Diplomat Says Canada to Be Held Accountable for Designating IRGC as Terrorist Group

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The Canadian government will be held to account for its decision to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri said on Thursday.

"The Canadian government will be held accountable for the consequences of the provocative and irresponsible decision," Bagheri said in a statement, adding that the decision is unlawful.

The action of the Canadian government is malicious and violates the principles and rules of international law, Bagheri said.

Bagheri noted that the IRGC has played an irreplaceable role in domestic and regional security and stability by fighting the Islamic State terror group (banned in Russia).

Canada's move is a gift to terrorists and to other enemies of peace and stability in the region, Bagheri added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a separate statement strongly condemning what they consider to be an unwise and hostile act that runs contrary to the principle of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Iran reserves its right to a proportionate and reciprocal response to this action, which contravenes international law and is against the Iranian nation and government, the statement said.

On Wednesday, the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau designated the IRGC as a terrorist organization. Calls for action against the IRGC increased following the downing of Flight PS752 near Tehran and demands made by an association representing the victims' families as well as political demands by various political parties.

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.

Aging Population, Weak Productivity to Weigh on Eurozone Economy - IMF

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The eurozone economy is gradually recovering from a cut in gas supply from Russia, the coronavirus pandemic, and the consequences of the Ukraine conflict, but its aging population and sluggish productivity present risks to its growth in the medium term, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

"Following the pandemic, Russia's gas shut-off, and fallout from the war in Ukraine, the euro area economy is gradually recovering, and inflation is declining towards target. Banks have proven resilient to the sharp rise in interest rates. Borrowing rates of sovereigns have remained moderate despite high public debt," the IMF said in a staff concluding statement of the 2024 mission on common policies for member countries.

However, the fund warned that despite those reassuring signs, significant challenges remain.

"Fiscal buffers have diminished while spending pressures are set to increase further. Population aging and sluggish productivity growth weigh on the medium-term outlook," it added.

The IMF warned that intensifying geopolitical tensions, trade disputes, and distortive industrial policy could further complicate economic prospects and the policy making environment for a region highly open to trade.

The fund urged policymakers to implement well-calibrated macroeconomic stabilization policies and structural reforms to strengthen the EU architecture and the single market.

"Such policies can reinforce each other to lift growth, enhance resilience, and address challenges from an increasingly shock-prone and fragmented global economy," it added.

The IMF also stressed the importance of further financial market integration. "Without further financial market integration and deepening, Europe will not only fall short of its transformative goals of energy security, climate change mitigation, and digital transition but also risk falling behind global peers," the statement 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.

South Korea Concerned About Russia-North Korea Strategic Agreement - Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, June 20 (Sputnik) - South Korea is concerned about the new strategic partnership established between Russia and North Korea and any notes that any military assistance provided to North Korea would be in violation of UNSecurity Council resolutions, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul said on Thursday.

"I will I just add my own voice of concern over the situation. And I would like to emphasize once again that any direct or indirect assistance for cooperation that enhances North Korea's military capability is a clear violation for the multiple UN Security Council resolutions," Tae-yul said.

Tae-yul also said t hat it is problematic when a permanent member of the UN Security Council, which adopted its resolutions, is now acting against them.

On Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia does not rule out military-technical cooperation with North Korea in accordance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.

Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un signed the agreement on June 19.

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 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

US Assistant Secretary of State Kritenbrink to Visit Hanoi, Vietnam June 21-22 - State Department

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.

Integrating Migrants Into EU Labor Markets Would Help Address Shortages – IMF

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) – Integrating migrants into EU labor markets would help address the current shortages of workers in the region, the International Monetary Fund said on Thursday.

"Better integration of migrants into labor markets will support labor supply and help address labor shortages," the IMF said in a new report.

The IMF pointed out that the right labor market policies can enhance skills, ease labor reallocation, and counter the effects of a shrinking workforce.

"Reskilling and upskilling programs, apprenticeships, unemployment benefit reforms, incentives for a longer career, and support for female labor force participation can help mitigate the impact of aging on aggregate labor input," the report added.

The fund also underscored the importance of fostering mobility across the EU, through faster recognition of professional qualifications, more portable pension and social security benefits, and greater labor market flexibility. All of these measures can help balance labor demand and supply, 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.

IMF Says Expects European Central Bank to Gradually Loosen Monetary Policy

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the European Central Bank (ECB) to gradually loosen its monetary policy, the fund said on Thursday.

"The ECB can gradually loosen its monetary policy stance, at a pace that depends on incoming data. The projected disinflation path and balanced risks around it—based on current information—imply that interest rates can be gradually lowered to reach a neutral stance—consistent with a terminal policy rate of around 2.5 percent—by the end of the third quarter of 2025," the IMF said in a staff concluding statement of the 2024 mission on common policies for member countries.

A continued, gradual monetary easing would achieve a balance between keeping inflation expectations anchored and avoiding an overly restrictive policy stance, it added.

The IMF highlighted that the inflation outlook may change over time and urged the ECB to make decisions on the policy on a meeting-by-meeting base in accordance with incoming information.

The fund urged policymakers to take measures to safeguard euro area financial stability and expand the macroprudential toolkit.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM

"Bank profits are high but will likely moderate. Therefore, even though credit growth is currently low, the authorities should encourage banks to use their temporarily high profits to build safeguards, including by increasing countercyclical capital buffers requirements," the statement said.

Policymakers also should develop nonbank macroprudential tools, such as restrictions on leverage or emergency curbs on redemptions for investment funds, while continuing efforts to bridge data gaps and improve data sharing among supervisors, it added.

The ECB decided in early June to lower the base interest rate to 4.25% per annum for the first time since 2016. The bank also expects the headline inflation to average 2.5% in 2024, 2.2% in 2025 and 1.9% in 2026.

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.

Inflation in Eurozone to Return to Target Level in Second Half of 2025 - IMF

WASHINGTON, June 20 (Sputnik) – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects that inflation in the eurozone will return to its target level of 2% in the second half of 2025, according to its latest assessment published on Thursday.

“Inflation is projected to return to target in the second half of 2025,” the IMF said.

The report said the monetary tightening measures taken in 2022 and 2023 are helping to bring down inflation and will continue to do so for some time.

“Past declines in commodity prices are also contributing to the reduction in headline inflation,” it added.

The IMF acknowledged that services inflation, which is more sensitive to wage increases, is also declining, though more slowly than headline inflation.

The report added that recent wage growth and inflation data had registered a slight pickup in annual terms, reflecting, in part, one-off factors.

“Nonetheless, the broad set of wage trackers and measures of underlying inflation point to deceleration ahead as nominal wage growth moderates from its high levels seen in 2023 and corporate profit shares compress,” the IMF said.

The IMF also said the risks for inflation are two-sided. Monetary tightening or geopolitical tensions could cause lower growth, which could drag inflation below the baseline. Meanwhile, upside risks include stronger-than expected wage pressures, as well as new price spikes or shipping disruptions.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 06/21/2024 11:09:31 AM