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7/19/24 Friday

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Yemen is Doing What Gulf States Should Have

On Thursday, a Yemeni drone struck a building in the Israeli capital of Tel Aviv, killing at least one, according to Israeli officials. The Ansar Allah (Houthi) forces said its drone bypassed Israeli air defenses and declared Tel Aviv as an unsafe zone and a primary target for their weapons. Israel blamed the attack on human error and claimed its defenses were not breached.

Video on social media shows a gliding-type drone flying over the shoreline near Tel Aviv before arriving in the city and causing a large explosion. The Houthis said the new drone is undetectable by Israeli air defenses and named it the Jafa, after the Palestinian name for Tel Aviv before it was occupied by Israel. Its projected path indicates it bypassed far more than just Israeli defenses, traveling nearly 1000 miles (~1600 km) according to some estimates.

“The Yemeni drone did not just bypass Israeli air defenses, it also bypassed the US Navy, the UK Royal Navy. It bypassed Saudi air defenses… it bypassed Jordan, it bypassed everything and it managed to hit in the capital of the Israeli occupation state,” journalist and editor of The Cradle Esteban Carrillo told Sputnik. “[Israel is] calling it human error. "We saw something enter through the south, we didn’t think it was a threat.’ Well, they were wrong.”

The Houthis have made clear that their actions against Israel are done in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza who have been suffering under an Israeli military campaign that has been described as a genocide by multiple world leaders and human rights organizations. But Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the world and there are several rich Arab states in the area, with the resources to do more.

Carrillo says he is not surprised that they have declined to do more.

“This has been the status quo for decades at this point, right? When have the Saudis ever come to the aid of the Palestinians? When has Iraq? When have the Jordanians, right? Like, since the [Six-Day War], [which] seems like so long ago, they have essentially normalized [relations with Israel], same with Egypt.”

Carrillo noted that while many countries in the region have not officially normalized relations with Israel, it has become a “de facto normalization”due to their desire to keep warm relations with the West.

“They still believe in US supremacy and US primacy, and Israel is as we know [and] have absolutely no doubt anymore over the past nine months, it’s probably the most essential foreign policy project from the US,” which transcends political lines and administrations, Carrillo argued. “Israel has always been number one. Right now you have presidential candidates essentially in competition to show who is the most Zionist of them all.”

While certain Gulf states have been more willing to take actions that anger the US, such as when OPEC+ cut oil production against the wishes of US President Joe Biden, those actions usually have a financial benefit for the countries, while aiding the Palestinians only offers moral standing.

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"There's nothing to be gained from [helping the Palestinians] except the moral stance, right? The ethical stance to show that you care for human beings who are being shelled day in and day out for nine months, entire families exploding into bits," Carrillo explained, adding that "This is not something that interests the Gulf leaders."

Still, the Yemenis and Hezbollah in Lebanon are making a significant impact, not only with their shelling of Israel, where Hezbollah has forced the evacuation of the north but also in the Red Sea, where the Houthis have all but halted shipping to Israel and the combined forces of the US and the UK have been unable to stop them. The strike on Tel Aviv proves that the Houthis have even greater capability than previously thought, and represents a new phase in the war.

"[The Israeli papers] the Walla Daily said the drone incident proves that deference has collapsed. Haaretz… is saying this drone incident–that's what they keep calling it–reflects a new face in the war. The Maariv newspaper is saying this is the starting shot from Yemen," recounted Carrillo.

The Walla Daily also asked if this was the start of a war with Yemen, but openly wondered if the Israeli Defense Force was up to the task. "The question arises, in this sense, if the IDF has the appropriate means for a significant attack [against Yemen]," the paper wrote (translated).

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What Can Be, Unburdened By That Has Been

Calls for US President Joe Biden to step aside in the Presidential election have grown louder the past few days. Several US media outlets reported that the President is considering stepping aside, possibly this weekend. The White House has vehemently denied those reports.

Several alternatives for Biden have been proposed, but in recent days support has seemingly coalesced behind Biden's running mate Kamala Harris. The choice is not born out of any excitement for Harris, but rather because of the messy process that would ensue if party leadership leapfrogged Harris for another candidate, implying that the first black female Vice President was never ready to be President.

As meandering and incomprehensible as Biden's speeches have been in recent years, Harris likely won't be much of an improvement. She is known for using nonsensical euphemisms, leaving the crowd more confused than inspired. One of her favorites, used in dozens of speeches, has gone viral for its vapidness "What can be, unburdened by what has been."

Perhaps a modification is appropriate as Harris moves into the next stage of her political career. Harris is likely hoping that what she "can be" is President if she can "unburden" herself from the "has been" that is in the Oval Office now.

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Deep State Could Take ‘Another Shot’ at Trump - Two Former US Officials

Last week, the Republican nominee for President Donald Trump was shot in the ear during a campaign rally by a 20-year-old would-be assassin who had climbed up on a nearby roof less than 180 meters from the stage. The incredible failure of the Secret Service has led to theories that forces other than a lone gunman were involved.

Former US President and Republican nominee for President Donald Trump might not make it to the election, former CIA analyst and co-founder of the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity Ray McGovern and Former US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts speculated in separate interviews with Sputnik.

“My question is whether they (the deep state) will take another shot at Trump,” McGovern said on Friday. “I’m serious here. There’s so much at stake. So damn much at stake. And I just wonder if he’s going to make it and, call me a conspiracy theorist, but these people, they don’t have much conscience if they tolerate genocide in Gaza, if they tolerate half a million Ukrainian youths being killed for their whims.”

Roberts expressed similar sentiments on Sunday. “The real question is: will the deep state get away with its assassination attempt and will it attempt another?" Roberts said. "I expect that there will be more attempts on Trump's life.”

Roberts pointed out that they utilized multiple tactics to get rid of Trump before turning to assassination: "Russia-gate, two impeachments, porn star-gate, documents-gate, insurrection-gate and then 4 criminal indictments and several civil indictments."

"The Democrats acting for the deep state believed they could get rid of Trump in these ways," Roberts said. "When these attempts failed, they turned to assassination. Acoustic evidence of the shootings makes it completely clear that there were more than one shooter. [Thomas Matthew] Crooks was the patsy. Trump survived the assassination because he turned his head."

Crooks, the alleged deceased shooter, allegedly managed to get through security carrying a laser rangefinder and scaled a nearby building as onlookers attempted to warn police officers and Secret Service agents to no avail. Information from authorities has also been inconsistent, with initial reports saying Crooks carried his rifle with him, later reports said the gun was planted before the event.

During live coverage of the shooting on US media, several eyewitnesses reported that they heard two shooters, with at least one mentioning a nearby water tower which has since become the subject of online speculation.

The excuses for why the building was not covered have also been inconsistent. Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle initially said that the local police were in charge of the building an assertion state authorities denied. Later, she claimed the roof was too steep to safely place an agent on it.

Reports have also noted that the Secret Service was made aware of Crooks anywhere from ten to thirty minutes before Trump was shot.

Cheatle is scheduled to testify in front of Congress on Monday. Despite numerous calls from public officials, she has declined to resign from her post.

Meanwhile, The US House Committee on Homeland Security has issued a subpoena to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, demanding documents related to the security plan for the event. The letter says that Mayorkas “has failed to properly

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satisfy our requests for documents and information regarding the security efforts," related to the assassination attempt.

"Incompetence on the part of the federal agencies is the default position, you've got to know that first," explained McGovern. "There's so much ample evidence of that. But this one, [there's] too much evidence. It doesn't parse."

"In order to keep the public's focus off the attempted assassination, the Secret Service is being blamed for withholding sufficient resources necessary to protect Trump," argued Roberts. "This focuses attention away from a plot to kill Trump and places it on the sufficiency of the Secret Service's budget and the appropriateness of its 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' personnel policy."

But Roberts does not think the investigation, even if run by Republicans, will vigorously search for the truth.

"The Republicans are likely to agree to sweep the intent [of the alleged shooter] issue under the rug in order to 'protect America's reputation,'"Roberts said. "It wouldn't do to showcase the US as a country where presidents and would-be presidents are shot down by the opposition."

McGovern notes the deep state had the means, motive and opportunity to take our Trump.

"There are a lot of guys in the deep state, a lot of guys Trump knows did him in for four years and tried to prevent him from being elected and then successfully deprived him from being elected in 2020. And he has a book on these guys. If he throws this book at the guys, they have a lot to lose, so incentive, motive, I think the motive is there," McGovern explained.

"What better opportunity than a day or two right before the Republican National Committee nominates Trump? You get him before he's nominated. They're thrown into chaos and disarray… call me a conspiracy theorist if you will," he added.

McGovern noted the growing desperation of Trump's opponents as a contributing factor.

"That's why, in my view, one should look for another shot. One should look for desperate means to prevent Trump from becoming president."

On Tuesday, US media reported that US intelligence officials were concerned about an Iranian-funded attack against Trump, possibly on the eve of the election, but did not present any evidence and the sources cited remained anonymous. Iran vehemently denied the claim, calling them "unsubstantiated and malicious."

Veteran Tehran-based Iranian-American academic and international affairs observer Dr. Mohammad Marandi told Sputnik that he doubts the claim and agreed that forces within the US government could be involved. "We know that US intelligence always lies."

"The [attempted] assassination of Trump was obviously either an inside job carried out by the Biden regime, or elements within the Biden regime, or the US Secret Service was extremely incompetent because the shooter was very close and it should not have happened," Marandi said. "If this was Russia or Iran or any other country with a competent government, there would have been no chance for such a thing to happen," he added.

US officials, including US President Joe Biden and other Democrats, have been universal in their condemnation of the attack. However, since 2016, Democrats and left-leaning media outlets have falsely accused Donald Trump of being controlled by the Kremlin and called him an existential threat to democracy.

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Days before the assassination attempt, the Biden campaign released an ad accusing Trump of being the “Lap Dog” of Russian President Vladimir Putin.
“This is who Donald Trump is, a lapdog for a dictator who blames America first,” the ad, which was pulled after the shooting, said dramatically. “The United States must never be like Putin’s Russia; we don’t empower dictators, we don’t undermine freedom.”
“When he said he intended to normalize relations with Russia, Trump threatened the budget and power of the military and security complex, which needs Russia as an enemy," Roberts explained. "The director of the CIA, John Brennan, declared Trump to be a ‘traitor to America.’ This set the ruling establishment working against Trump."
In May, Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot five times in an assassination attempt. Like Trump, Fico’s killer was determined to be a lone wolf. Like Trump, Fico spoke out against some NATO policies, particularly in Ukraine.
“It is a carbon copy scenario,” Fico said of Trump’s and his assassination attempts. “Political opponents of Donald Trump are trying to imprison him, and when they don’t succeed, they enrage the public so much that some poor bugger picks up a gun.”

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Joly Says Told China’s Wang Yi Canada Won’t Tolerate Interference in Its Democracy

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) – Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly said she told her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that Canada would not tolerate interference in its democratic processes, The Globe and Mail reported on Monday.
On Friday, Joly departed South Korea and arrived in China on a previously unannounced trip at the invitation of China’s Wang to hold an “in-depth” discussion on Sino-Canadian ties and issues of mutual interests. It became the first visit by a Canadian foreign minister since 2017.
“I raised it very firmly, and specifically because this is core to our national interests. So I said clearly that we would not tolerate any form of interference in our democracy, intimidation of our people and our politicians,” Joly told The Globe and Mail in an exclusive interview.
The minister however acknowledged that the three-and-a-half-hour meeting with Wang did not break significant ground in the long-strained relations between Ottawa and Beijing and further noted that a major reset is unlikely to happen due to the negative perception of China among the Canadian public.
During the meeting, Joly brought up China’s alleged interference in Canada’s 2019 and 2021 federal elections, the setting of “police stations” to monitor and bully the diasporans and supposed intimidation and disinformation campaigns against lawmakers, the report said. Wang denied the accusations of interference in Canadian or other countries domestic affairs.
Canadian-Chinese ties took a nosedive in December 2018 after China detained two Canadian nationals, Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig, for allegedly spying on behalf of Canada. Ottawa maintained their innocence and argued that the move was politically motivated and in response to the detention of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou. The two were released in September 2021 following the return of Meng to China.
The ties continued to worsen amid allegations by Canadian media and the political

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establishment that China meddled in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections. The situation resulted in reciprocal expulsion of diplomats and the creation of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions to probe alleged meddling by China, but also Russia and India among others.

All the three countries have rejected the claims.

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Israeli Defense Forces Kill Canadian National Over Attempted Stabbing Attack – Reports

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) – The Israeli military has killed a Canadian national over an alleged attempt to carry out a stabbing attack outside of the Israeli village of Netiv Ha'Asara, near the border with the Gaza Strip, The Globe and Mail reported on Monday.

The now deceased individual was identified as Qawarshi Zakaria Adam, a Canadian-Muslim national who had arrived in Israel on Sunday, posing as a tourist, the report said, citing Israeli Army Radio and the Kan public broadcaster.

Upon arriving at the gates, the man stepped out of his vehicle and began to threaten soldiers with a knife. He was shot after reportedly rushing the security officers, the report said. There are no reported casualties on the Israeli side as a result of the alleged attack, it added.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale rocket attack against Israel and breached the border, attacking both civilian neighborhoods and military bases. Nearly 1,200 people in Israel were killed, and some 240 others were abducted during the attack. Israel launched retaliatory strikes, ordered a complete blockade of Gaza, and started a ground incursion into the Palestinian enclave with the declared goal of eliminating Hamas fighters and rescuing the hostages. The death toll from Israeli attacks on Gaza is nearing 39,000 according to the Gazan Health Ministry.

As the conflict continues, Canadians have grown increasingly divided over the ongoing war in the Palestinian enclave. Students and civilians alike have carried out mostly peaceful protests throughout the country's university campuses and major cities, demanding the government and academic instructions break ties with Israel.

However, the situation has also marked a rise in "antisemitic" acts in the country. Accordingly, several schools, synagogues and other Jewish-affiliated institutions have been targeted by shootings, vandalism and firebombing. The attacks have prompted strong condemnation from civil society and lawmakers alike, including prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who expressed his disgust over the incidents, calling them "plain and simple" antisemitism.

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Canada's Top Diplomat Heading to Japan July 22-24 for Bilateral Talks – Foreign Ministry

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) – Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly will visit Japan from July 22-24 for bilateral talks on a range of issues with her counterpart Yoko Kamikawa and other

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senior officials, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) said.

"In Tokyo, Minister Joly will meet Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, KAMIKAWA Yoko, to discuss progress made under the Canada-Japan Action Plan for contributing to a free and open Indo-Pacific region," GAC said in a statement.

During her visit, Joly and her counterparts will discuss ways to enhance bilateral political and economic ties and will highlight Canada's priorities for its 2025 presidency of the Group of Seven, it added.

The ministers are also set to exchange views on global and regional matters such as Russia's special military operation in Ukraine and Moscow's growing cooperation with Pyongyang, as well as tensions in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East, GAC said.

On Thursday, Joly embarked on an East Asian diplomatic tour. The top diplomat traveled to South Korea to launch a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Action Plan and to China marking the first visit of a Canadian foreign minister to the country since 2017.

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Biden's Choice to Quit US Election Not His Own, Ousted By Party - Congressional Candidate

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden's decision to end his re-election bid was a result of the Democratic Party ousting him after determining he was no longer useful, US Republican congressional candidate Kathleen Winn told Sputnik.

Earlier on Sunday, Biden announced that he dropped out of the 2024 US election after he decided it was in the best interest of the Democratic party and the United States. He endorsed his Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president, which she accepted.

"I don't think Biden dropped out as so much as the party pushed him out," Winn said on Sunday. "I think Biden was pretty clear he didn't want to drop out. It seems to me that the people in his party, especially like Chuck Schumer, and Adam Schiff, and George Clooney, apparently, all decided that it was time for him to go. And I think he outlived his usefulness. People should start to question who really has been in charge."

Winn added that it's questionable whether Biden is still fit to serve the remainder of his current presidency. Biden is taking the fall for the Democratic Party right now but the Democrats have overplayed their hand, Winn noted.

"We are in a place where Americans regardless of their party want to bring stabilization and normalization back to this country, and many feel that we are at risk of losing our country, and it's due to the policies of Harris and Biden," Winn said.

There were growing calls among top Democrats for Biden to suspend his reelection campaign following his poor performance in the first presidential debate against his Republican rival Donald Trump last month. The Democratic Party will pick a nominee for the presidential election at its convention in August or sooner.

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RPT: Democrats Have No Time to Create Winning Person for Presidential Race -Ex-US Official

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - The Democrats do not have enough time to create a person who could win the upcoming presidential election, former US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts told Sputnik.

"As there is not sufficient time for the Democrats to create a winning person for a new presidential candidate, they need someone with name recognition and existing support, such as Hillary Clinton," Roberts said. "Hillary and Obama are the main political figures in the Democratic Party. If Hillary has Obama's support, she is likely to be the candidate. Kamala Harris is not regarded as having any better chance than Biden."

US President Joe Biden said earlier in the day that he would withdraw from the presidential race. Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"I do not think the Democrats can come up with a candidate who can defeat Trump," Roberts said. "Democrats in the swing states have legalized the theft mechanisms they used in 2020 and 2022. If the race can be presented as close, the Democrats can steal the election, but they cannot win it."

Commenting on Biden's decision to withdraw from the presidential race, Roberts shared that he expected Biden to be moved aside.

"I wondered why the Democrats were waiting so long," he said. "They might have been waiting to see if the planned assassination of Trump succeeded. Biden is an issue because he cannot win or come close enough to winning for the Democrats to be able to steal the election as they did in 2020."

"As the assassination failed, the Democrats need a more viable candidate, one the media can hype as one who can run a close race and win," he added. "Fake polls will be published that show the Democrat to be leading Trump. This allows the Democrats to steal the election if necessary."

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Sunday called on President Joe Biden to resign after he announced withdrawal from the presidential race.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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Байден, возможно, поддержал Харрис для сохранения собранных на кампанию средств – политик

ВАШИНГТОН, 22 июл - РИА Новости. Действующий президент США Джо Байден, возможно, решил поддержать кандидатуру вице-президента Камалы Харрис в качестве

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кандидата от демократов на президентских выборах, чтобы сохранить сотни миллионов долларов, собранных их предвыборной кампанией, заявила РИА Новости кандидат в Конгресс от республиканской партии Кэтлин Уинн.

Байден в воскресенье сообщил, что не пойдет на второй срок. Он поддержал кандидатуру Харрис, которая уже заявила, что намерена заслужить номинацию демократов. Как отмечают в прессе, средства, собранные кампанией Байден-Харрис, смогут почти без ограничений быть использованы в случае, если Харрис остается одним из кандидатов, но если оба они покинут гонку, то на использование этих средств возникли бы законодательные ограничения.

"Я думаю, что его поддержка Харрис... Я слышала, что это скорее финансовый вопрос. Они собрали миллионы долларов, поэтому Харрис должна остаться в бюллетенях", - сказала Уинн.

Есть вероятность, что сенатор Марк Келли от штата Аризона может быть выбран кандидатом на вице-президента при Харрис, добавила политик, подчеркнув, что Харрис идет на выборы в невыгодном положении, поскольку она плотно ассоциируется с Байденом, чьи рейтинги существенно упали за последнее время.

"Демократы переиграли, и мы находимся в ситуации, когда американцы, независимо от партии, хотят вернуть стабилизацию и нормализацию в эту страну, и многие чувствуют, что мы рискуем потерять нашу страну, и это из-за политики Харрис и Байдена. Поэтому я не знаю, как она теперь отделит себя от человека, под началом которого она работала", - отмечает республиканская кандидатка.

Ранее СМИ по итогам анализа федеральных данных по избирательным кампаниям сообщили, что Трамп за период с апреля по июнь собрал 431 миллион долларов, что почти на 100 миллионов больше, чем кампания Байден-Харрис.

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Biden's Choice to Quit US Election Not His Own, Ousted By Party - Congressional Candidate

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Earlier on Sunday, Biden announced that he dropped out of the 2024 US election after he decided it was in the best interest of the Democratic party and the United States. He endorsed his Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president, which she accepted.

"I don't think Biden dropped out as so much as the party pushed him out," Winn said on Sunday. "I think Biden was pretty clear he didn't want to drop out. It seems to me that the people in his party, especially like Chuck Schumer, and Adam Schiff, and George Clooney, apparently, all decided that it was time for him to go. And I think he outlived his usefulness. People should start to question who really has been in charge."

Winn added that it's questionable whether Biden is still fit to serve the remainder of his current presidency. Biden is taking the fall for the Democratic Party right now but the Democrats have

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overplayed their hand, Winn noted.

"We are in a place where Americans regardless of their party want to bring stabilization and normalization back to this country, and many feel that we are at risk of losing our country, and it's due to the policies of Harris and Biden," Winn said.

There were growing calls among top Democrats for Biden to suspend his reelection campaign following his poor performance in the first presidential debate against his Republican rival Donald Trump last month. The Democratic Party will pick a nominee for the presidential election at its convention in August or sooner.

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Biden May Have Picked Harris for President to Save Campaign Fund - Congressional Candidate

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden may have felt obligated to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris for the Democratic presidential nomination out of respect for the millions of dollars raised for their reelection campaign, US Republican congressional candidate Kathleen Winn told Sputnik.

Earlier, Biden announced that he dropped out of the 2024 US election after he decided it was in the best interest of the Democratic party and the United States. He endorsed Harris to be the Democratic party's nominee for US president, which she accepted.

"I think him endorsing Harris ... I heard that it's more of a financial thing," Winn said on Sunday. "They've raised millions of dollars, so Harris has to remain on the ticket."

Winn noted that it is possible that Senator Mark Kelly could be picked to be Harris' running mate. Winn underscored that Harris is coming into the US election at a disadvantage since she is part of the same Biden White House.

"The Democrats have overplayed their hand, and we are in a place where Americans regardless of their party want to bring stabilization and normalization back to this country, and many feel that we are at risk of losing our country, and it's due to the policies of Harris and Biden," Winn said. "So I don't know how she separates herself now from the man that she served under."

Winn also highlighted that Harris is in no way prepared to serve as US president or to take on Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

"I think she's got the same issues as Joe, to be honest," Winn said. "Nothing cognitive issues, but I just don't think she's prepared. There's no evidence of her doing anything significant during these last three and a half years. I don't think that she is prepared to do this job."

Congressman Paul Gosar's office in a statement to Sputnik noted that polls consistently show Trump beating Harris, who they believe will likely be the Democratic nominee.

Gosar's office described Biden's decision to withdraw from the presidential race as result of the political "coup" by the Democratic party.

There were growing calls among top Democrats for Biden to suspend his reelection campaign following his poor performance in the first presidential debate against his Republican rival Donald Trump last month. The Democratic party will pick a nominee for the presidential election

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Biden Makes Right Decision to Leave Race, Will Continue Campaigning For Harris – Ex-Envoy

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden has made the right decision to leave the presidential race, but most likely will be campaigning for Vice President Kamala Harris, former US Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young told Sputnik.

Biden said earlier on Sunday that he is stopping his presidential campaign and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"I think that it was the right decision, and he made it just in time," Young said.

Young expressed confidence that Harris would be the presidential candidate from the Democratic Party at the election in November, and Biden will be campaigning for her.

"I think Kamala Harris will be the candidate. I do not know who will be the running mate, but there are so many good choices. I am pretty sure they will have a strong ticket," Young said.

The 92-year-old diplomat, who worked in the UN from 1977-1979 during the Carter administration, stressed that Biden could work on diplomacy during the rest of his presidential term.

"He could do a lot of work on Ukraine and Russia and the Middle East," Young said, adding that Biden could establish peace plans for both conflicts.

He pointed out that Biden has enough knowledge and has been a leader in world affairs for more than 50 years. Young recalled that Biden and he came together to the US Congress in 1973.

"I have watched him, and I have worked with him. I think that he is a man who understands that for democracy to work, it has to work for everybody," he added.

The Democratic National Convention will be held August 19 to 22 in Chicago. The Democratic presidential nominee is usually confirmed at the convention, but this year a nominee could be named sooner in order to avoid any legal challenges from the Republican party over a ballot issue in Ohio.

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US Cannot Be Unified, Trump's Statement to Contrary ‘Fatuous’ - Ex-US Official

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - The American public is currently so divided that it just cannot be unified, and the statement by former President Donald Trump that he can do that is "fatuous," former US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts told Sputnik.

"What America faces is a population more divided than in 1861," Roberts said. "To put it bluntly, America cannot be unified. Trump's statement that he is going to unify America is fatuous."

Roberts explained that one party, the Democrats, has as an agenda the "normalization and legitimization of sexual perversion." Meanwhile, the other party, the Republicans, are protective

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of traditional sexual morality.

"One party, the Democrats, has an agenda of open borders and a Tower of Babel instead of a nation," he added. "The other party, the Republicans, desire an ethnic-based nation. These agendas cannot be reconciled."

Roberts' comments come amid the announcement by US President Joe Biden on Sunday that he would withdraw from the presidential race. He endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president. US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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Ex-US Official Not Ruling Out Another Assassination Attempt on Trump in Future

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - There is a possibility that former US President Donald Trump will be the target of further assassination attempts due to his statements, including regarding relations with Russia., former US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts told Sputnik.

"The real question is: will the deep state get away with its assassination attempt and will it attempt another?" Roberts said. "I expect that there will be more attempts on Trump's life."

Roberts went on to say that Donald Trump's presidency was disrupted by the ruling elite - "deep state" - "because he presented as a threat to them."

"When he said he intended to normalize relations with Russia, Trump threatened the budget and power of the military and security complex, which needs Russia as an enemy," he explained. "The director of the CIA, John Brennan, declared Trump to be a 'traitor to America.' This set the ruling establishment working against Trump."

Roberts pointed out that there were "Russia-gate, two impeachments, porn star-gate, documents-gate, insurrection-gate and then 4 criminal indictments and several civil indictments."

"The Democrats acting for the deep state believed they could get rid of Trump in these ways," he said. "When these attempts failed, they turned to assassination. Acoustic evidence of the shootings makes it completely clear that there were more than one shooter. Crooks was the patsy. Trump survived the assassination because he turned his head."

Roberts underscored that the attempted assassination has given Trump a large sympathy vote.

"He cannot be honestly defeated," he said. "In order to keep the public's focus off the attempted assassination, the Secret Service is being blamed for withholding sufficient resources necessary to protect Trump. This focuses attention away from a plot to kill Trump and places it on the sufficiency of the Secret Service's budget and the appropriateness of its 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' personnel policy."

A 20-year-old man tried to assassinate Trump at a campaign rally in the state of Pennsylvania on July 13, but the bullet from the gunman's AR assault rifle grazed Trump's right ear. US Secret Service agents killed the gunman moments after he was able to fire several rounds toward the stage, killing one spectator and critically injuring two others. The FBI continues to investigate the

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shooting, but the suspect's motive remains unknown.

"The Republicans are likely to agree to sweep the intent issue under the rug in order to 'protect America's reputation," Roberts said. "It wouldn't do to showcase the US as a country where presidents and would-be presidents are shot down by the opposition."

The favorability rating of US presidential candidate Donald Trump has risen to 40% after the assassination attempt on him and is now at the highest point since 2020, a poll published on Sunday by ABC News and Ipsos showed.

The US presidential election is slated for November 5.

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Democrats Have No Time to Create Winning Person for Presidential Race - Ex-US Official

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - The Democrats do not have enough time to create a person who could win the upcoming presidential election, former US Assistant Treasury Secretary Paul Craig Roberts told Sputnik.

"As there is not sufficient time for the Democrats to create a winning person for a new presidential candidate, they need someone with name recognition and existing support, such as Hillary Clinton," Roberts said. "Hillary and Obama are the main political figures in the Democratic Party. If Hillary has Obama's support, she is likely to be the candidate. Kamala Harris is not regarded as having any better chance than Biden."

US President Joe Biden said earlier in the day that he would withdraw from the presidential race. Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"I do not think the Democrats can come up with a candidate who can defeat Trump," Roberts said. "Democrats in the swing states have legalized the theft mechanisms they used in 2020 and 2022. If the race can be presented as close, the Democrats can steal the election, but they cannot win it."

Commenting on Biden's decision to withdraw from the presidential race, Roberts shared that he expected Biden to be moved aside.

"I wondered why the Democrats were waiting so long," he said. "They might have been waiting to see if the planned assassination of Trump succeeded. Biden is an issue because he cannot win or come close enough to winning for the Democrats to be able to steal the election as they did in 2020."

"As the assassination failed, the Democrats need a more viable candidate, one the media can hype as one who can run a close race and win," he added. "Fake polls will be published that show the Democrat to be leading Trump. This allows the Democrats to steal the election if necessary."

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Sunday called on President Joe Biden to resign after he announced withdrawal from the presidential race.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of

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his presidency.

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Democratic Voters May Get Disappointed in Party After Biden's Dropout - Ron Paul Institute

WASHINGTON, July 22 (Sputnik) - The American voters were betrayed by the Democratic Party when they were told that US President Joe Biden was fine, while the party itself and the media knew it, and that may suppress the enthusiasm of the Democratic Party voters, Daniel McAdams, the Director of the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity told Sputnik.

"What does this mean for the millions of people who already voted for Biden? What is the Democratic Party going to tell them after they had been lied to throughout the entire primary process?," McAdams said. "They were told that Biden is fine so they voted for him. But the claim was fraudulent and the Democratic Party officials and media knew it. They were betrayed by their own party. That may well suppress enthusiasm among Democratic Party voters."

US President Joe Biden said on Sunday that he would withdraw from the presidential race. He endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"I am not surprised at the news, as the media has been pushing this narrative since the late June presidential debate," McAdams said. "Before that they had been pushing the false narrative for three years that Biden was just fine and that anyone who questioned it was just a right wing extremist. Anyone with a brain could notice that Biden was having problems with his brain."

McAdams went on to say that right now, especially after the assassination attempt, former President Donald Trump's chances of winning are growing by the day.

"There is no Democrat candidate waiting in the wings who can hope to gain the necessary traction in the short period between now and the election," he said. "The American people have already rejected Kamala Harris when she ran for president last time — she won zero delegates and the least number of votes. She is deeply unpopular and for good reason."

"Likewise Hillary Clinton, who has been resoundingly rejected by voters and remains deeply unpopular with Americans," McAdams Added. "California's Gavin Newsom has destroyed the state and his candidacy would play into Trump's hands. Who else? One wag suggested the Democrats should nominate Mitt Romney. Good luck with that."

McAdams concluded by saying that the US electoral process is in a state of "total chaos."

"Chaos favors the ambitious and avaricious. Look for bad things to happen," he said.

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Sunday called on President Joe Biden to resign after he announced withdrawal from the presidential race.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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Biden's Decision to Stop Campaign Is Best Thing for Democrats – Expert

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) – The decision of US President Joe Biden to stop his campaign is the best thing that could happen now for the Democratic Party, a member of the Albany County Democratic Committee in the state of New York Anton Konev told Sputnik on Sunday.

"It is the best thing that could happen right now for the Democratic Party. It allows the Democratic Party to regroup and to reunite," Konev said.

Biden said earlier on Sunday that he is stopping his presidential campaign and endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

Konev pointed out that Biden's campaign has become a distraction to the Democratic Party, splitting the party up.

"Now, it is time to reunite. We do know that we do not want a repeat of another four years of President Donald Trump," he said.

The expert emphasized that it is too early to comment on the potential candidate from the Democratic Party but did not rule out that it would be Harris.

"It is most likely going to be Vice President Kamala Harris, but the decision has not been made by the party yet," Konev said.

The Democratic National Convention will be held August 19 to 22 in Chicago. The Democratic presidential nominee is usually confirmed at the convention but this year a nominee could be named sooner in order to avoid any legal challenges from the Republican party over a ballot issue in Ohio.

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US Senate Hopeful Says Democratic Party Has No Potential Candidate Who Can Defeat Trump

WASHINGTON, July 21 (Sputnik) - Independent candidate for the US Senate from New York Diane Sare told Sputnik that the Democratic Party will unlikely have a candidate who would be able to defeat former President Donald Trump as the party seems to be set not to allow any qualified person to run for presidency.

"At the moment, I cannot think of any potential Democratic Party presidential candidate who would be able to defeat Donald Trump," Sare said. "The Democratic Party seems determined to not allow any person who is actually qualified to be President to run for that office."

US President Joe Biden said on Sunday that he would withdraw from the presidential race. He endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"While I disagree with some of his policies, especially his support of Israel's genocidal war against the Palestinian people, former President Donald Trump has pledged to end the Ukraine-Russia war," Sare said. "He has truthfully stated that Ukraine is not and cannot win that war, and he has publicly stated that NATO expansion was a factor in causing the conflict."

Sare went on to say that the United States is in a moment of transition where an old colonial system dominated by the British Imperial policy is coming to its long-awaited end.

"And unfortunately, the United States is not yet playing the role of the nation which defeated

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that ideology with its 1776 Declaration of Independence," she said. "Our nation and most of the Western nations are currently led by dinosaurs who cannot fathom a new dynamic on the planet based on mutual respect for sovereignty and the dignity of man."

Sare also believes that the United States is in a very dangerous period.

"Because the owners of the old bankrupt system are very desperate and seemingly will stop short of nothing to preserve their dying Empire," she explained. "The good news in this situation is that the dinosaurs are vastly outnumbered by the majority of the world's population and there are an increasing number of voices for peace, even coming from within the morally bankrupt institutions, as we see with Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban's efforts to end the Ukraine-Russia war."

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Sunday called on President Joe Biden to resign after he announced withdrawal from the presidential race.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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US Hasn't Had Functional President Since Biden Took Office - Senate Hopeful

WASHINGTON, July 21 (Sputnik) - The reality of the United States is that the country has not had a functional leader since President Joe Biden took office, independent candidate for the US Senate from New York Diane Sare told Sputnik on Sunday.

"My initial reaction to President Biden's announcement that he is withdrawing from the presidential election is that a glimmer of reality has entered the political scene," Sare said. "The truth of the matter is that we have not had a functional President since he's been in office, which has created the possibility for great instability, which instability has increased with the attempted assassination of leading presidential candidate Donald Trump."

US President Joe Biden said earlier in the day that he would withdraw from the presidential race. Biden endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's nominee for US president.

"Truthfully, president Biden should not be acting as president now, as he is obviously not fit," Sare added.

US House Speaker Mike Johnson on Sunday called on President Joe Biden to resign after he announced withdrawal from the presidential race.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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Congressman Gosar on Biden Decision to End Reelection Bid: Dems Political Coup Complete

WASHINGTON, July 21 (Sputnik) - US Congressman Paul Gosar told Sputnik on Sunday that President Joe Biden's decision to end his reelection bid in the 2024 election marks the completion of the political coup carried out against him by the Democratic party.

"The coup is complete," Gosar said regarding the Democratic pressure campaign against Biden.

On Thursday, Trump campaign adviser Chris LaCivita described the Democratic pressure against Biden to drop out of the presidential race as a political coup.

Biden said it was his intention to seek reelection but he now believes suspending his presidential bid is in the best interest of the Democratic party and the United States. Biden added that he will continue to serve the remainder of his current presidency but is endorsing his Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic party's nominee for US president.

The Democratic National Convention will be held August 19 to 22 in Chicago. The Democratic presidential nominee is usually confirmed at the convention but this year a nominee could be named sooner in order to avoid any legal challenges from the Republican party over a ballot issue in Ohio.

Gosar noted that polls consistently show Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump beating Harris, who will likely be the Democrat nominee.

Trump in response to Biden's decision said his former rival was never fit to serve as US president, adding that the country has suffered greatly because of his presidency.

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Remaining Ukraine Pilots in F-16 Training in US Will Graduate Late Summer - National Guard

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - The remaining Ukrainian pilots undergoing F-16 training in the United States are expected to graduate by late summer, an Arizona Air National Guard spokesperson told Sputnik on Saturday.

"The remaining pilots are expected to graduate by late summer," the spokesperson said.

Ukraine has reportedly been pressuring the United States and its European partners to step up F-16 training for Ukrainian pilots. However, the Arizona Air National Guard has said it is unable to accommodate Ukraine's request to train more of its pilots on F-16 fighter jets because training availability is scarce and multiple other countries have spots reserved throughout the year.

In May, an undisclosed number of Ukrainian pilots from a group of 12 completed training on F-16 fighter jets at Morris Air National Guard Base in Arizona, which is a premier F-16 fighter pilot training school.

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Пассажиры севшего в Красноярске рейса Air India высоко оценили сервис в РФ

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САН-ФРАНЦИСКО, 20 июл - РИА Новости. Пассажиры экстренно севшего в Красноярске рейса авиакомпании Air India рассказали РИА Новости, что, несмотря на вынужденную остановку в России, они хорошо провели время, а также высоко оценили уровень услуг, предоставленных им сотрудниками местного аэропорта.

"Нам было очень комфортно, русские люди очень хорошие. Нам понравилось, все очень чисто и аккуратно", - рассказала семейная пара, пожелавшая не называть имен.

Единственной, проблемой, с которой пришлось столкнуться пассажирам, большинство из которых индийцы, был языковой барьер.

"Это было проблемой, но в остальном услуги были превосходные. Мы хорошо провели время", - рассказали они.

Шантану Кемкар, который тоже прилетел резервным рейсом из Красноярска, рассказал, что сотрудники аэропорта оказывали всю необходимую помощь и были очень дружелюбны.

"Сначала был языковой барьер, но по прошествии одного или двух часов проблема решилась, они были очень отзывчивы и всячески нам помогали. Потом в аэропорт пришли люди из нашего посольства и все организовали", - сказал он.

Резервный борт Air India, который забрал пассажиров экстренно севшего в Красноярске рейса, приземлился ранее в американском городе Сан-Франциско.

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Родные пассажиров севшего в Красноярске борта были вынуждены искать информацию в соцсетях

САН-ФРАНЦИСКО, 20 июл - РИА Новости. Родственники пассажиров самолета, выполнявшего рейс из Нью-Дели в Сан-Франциско и совершившего аварийную посадку в Красноярске, долгое время не могли получить информацию от перевозчика о своих близких, из-за чего некоторые были вынуждены выяснять детали рейса из соцсетей, о чем они сами рассказали РИА Новости в аэропорту Сан-Франциско, куда прилетел самолет.

"Авиалинии не предоставили никакой информации, абсолютно. Очень сложно было что-то получить. Когда в СМИ появилась информация, я понял, что все в порядке, они приземлились в России", - рассказал Нобу.

Он рассказал, что узнал о том, что рейс совершил экстренную посадку в России, когда прибыл в аэропорт, чтобы встретить мать.

"Я начал проверять табло, затем узнал, что они сели в России. У меня не было никакого контакта с мамой", - добавил Нобу.

О том, что пассажиров экстренно севшего в Красноярске рейса сегодня в Сан-Франциско повезет резервный борт, он узнал из соцсетей.

Шишир, родители которого летели злополучным рейсом, также пожаловался на плохую организацию со стороны Air India.

"Все было просто ужасно. Персонал Air India просто уехал в отель, оставив пассажиров в аэропорту... Десять часов у пассажиров не было еды, воды, ничего", - рассказал собеседник агентства.

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По его словам, все информацию он тоже получал из соцсетей.

Шрейя, которая встречает в аэропорту свою 75-летнюю мать, рассказала, что поначалу она испугалась, когда узнала, что рейс совершает экстренную посадку в России.

"Но как только мы поговорили, мы успокоились, что с ними все в порядке. И к тому же, аэропорт в России был довольно новый и современный", - сказала она.

Рина, которая встречала своих родственников, рассказала РИА Новости, что в России пассажирам пришлось столкнуться с последствиями антироссийских санкций, так как их карты не работали в России, а магазины в аэропорту не принимали валюту.

"Только один магазин, где можно было купить кофе, принимал доллары. Они несколько раз смогли купить кофе", - сказала Рина.

Поздно вечером в пятницу представитель международного аэропорта Красноярск сообщил агентству, что резервный борт Air India вылетел из административного центра края. В американском посольстве в Москве РИА Новости заявили, что внимательно следили за ситуацией с экстренной посадкой самолета.

В четверг около 18.30 мск на высоте примерно 11 километров экипаж воздушного судна в Красноярске доложил диспетчерам о срабатывании индикации о пожаре в грузовом отсеке лайнера. Командир воздушного судна принял решение о посадке в аэропорту Красноярска. В 19.52 мск самолет авиакомпании Air India благополучно приземлился в аэропорту Красноярска. Признаков пожара или задымления не было, сообщили в Росавиации. Там отметили, что экипажу самолета Boeing 777 авиакомпании Air India, выполнявшего рейс из Дели в Сан-Франциско, оказали помощь.

Всем пассажирам рейса Air India, который вынужденно сел в Красноярске и следовал по маршруту Дели - Сан-Франциско, было предложено питание и отдых с выездом из аэропорта, сообщил ранее РИА Новости пресс-секретарь атташе представительства МИД РФ в Красноярске Артем Аспатурян.

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US Air Force Extends Space Tech Contract for Launch Services Through 2027 - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - Space Exploration Technologies has been awarded a more than $661 million US Air Force contract extension to continue providing launch services between fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2027, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"Space Exploration Technologies Corporation [of] Hawthorne, California has been awarded a $661,025,403 modification ... contract for National Security Space (NSS) Launch Phase for Launch Phase Two launch service procurements," the release stated on Friday.

Under the extended contract, the company will provide NSS launch services from fiscal 2020 through fiscal 2024, for launches planned between fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2027, the Defense Department explained.

"The modification brings the total estimated face value of the contract to $4 billion. ... Work will be performed [at] Hawthorne, California; Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida; and Vandenberg Space Force Base, California," the release continued.

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Work on the contract extension is expected to take just under four years and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2028, the Defense Department said.

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US House Panel Chair Subpoena's Mayorkas For Docs on Attempted Trump Assassination -Letter

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - The US House Committee on Homeland Security has issued a subpoena to Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas for documents regarding the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump after the department failed to comply with requests for information.

"Today, House Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Mark E. Green, MD (R-TN) subpoenaed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for documents and information regarding the failed security efforts surrounding the attempted July 13 assassination of former President Donald Trump in Pennsylvania," said the House Committee chairman Mark Green said in a release on Friday.

The committee initially requested documents and information in a letter on July 14 regarding DHS's planning for the July 13 rally where Trump was wounded in addition to information regarding their immediate response to the attempt on the former president's life by July 19. Part of the requests included the security plan for the event's perimeter, including the building from which the shooter made an attempt on Trump's life.

“The Department of Homeland Security has failed to properly satisfy our requests for documents and information regarding the security efforts to prevent and respond to the assassination attempt on President Trump–and the piecemeal information it has provided over phone calls is woefully inadequate. In order for this Committee to conduct proper oversight over DHS and the U.S. Secret Service, the department and agency must cooperate," Green added.

On Saturday, a 20-year-old man tried to assassinate Trump at a campaign rally in the state of Pennsylvania, but the bullet from the gunman's AR assault rifle grazed Trump's right ear. US Secret Service agents killed the gunman moments after he was able to fire several rounds toward the stage, killing one spectator and critically injuring two others.

The FBI continues to investigate the shooting but the suspect's motive remains unknown, according to US law enforcement.

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US Air Force Orders $1.1Bln in Satellite Launch Services Over Five Years - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) -United Launch Services has won a more than $1.1 billion contract extension from the US Air Force to provide launch services for satellite missions between fiscal years 2022 and the end of 2027, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

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"United Launch Services [of] Centennial, Colorado, has been awarded a $1,100,298,036 modification ...contract for National Security Space (NSS) Launch Phase Two launch service procurements," the release stated on Friday.

The extension will fund NSS launch services from fiscal 2020 through fiscal 2024 for launches planned between fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2027, the Defense Department explained.

"The modification brings the total estimated face value of the contract to $4.5 billion. ...Work will be performed at Centennial, Colorado; Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida; and Vandenberg Space Force Base, California," the release said.

The contract extension will fund services over the next almost four years and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2028, the Defense Department said.

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Northrop Grumman to Build Nine Hawkeye Alert Aircraft For US Navy, Japan - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - Northrop Grumman has received an almost 1.5 billion US contract extension from the US Navy to build nine more E-2D Hawkeye maritime reconnaissance and early warning aircraft for both American forces and Japan, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation Aerospace Systems [of] Melbourne, Florida, is awarded a $1,456,019,386 modification ...contract," the release stated on Friday.

The contract extension will purchase nine E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft - four for the US Navy and five for Japan, the Defense Department explained.

Work on the aircraft will be performed in Saint Augustine, Florida (25.3%); Liverpool, New York (17.4%); Melbourne, Florida (7.6%) and various other locations across the continental United States, the Defense Department said.

The task of manufacturing all nine of the advanced aircraft is expected to take just under five years and is scheduled to be completed in March 2029, the Defense Department said.

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UPDATE- Trump in Call With Zelenskyy Says He Will Resolve Ukraine Conflict If Elected in November

(Updates with details in para 4)

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in a recent telephone call with Volodymyr Zelenskyy told him that he would be able to resolve the ongoing conflict in Ukraine if he's elected to be the next US president in November.

"President Zelenskyy of Ukraine and I had a very good phone call earlier today...I appreciate President Zelenskyy for reaching out because I, as your next President of the United States, will bring peace to the world and end the war that has cost so many lives and devastated countless innocent families," Trump said in a statement on Truth Social on Friday.

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Trump further said that he believes both sides will be able to come together and negotiate a deal.

Zelenskyy said in a separate statement that both sides agreed to eventually meet in person for further talks on what steps can be taken to facilitate a negotiated settlement.

Earlier this month, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he takes seriously Trump's statements on being ready to help resolve the conflict in Ukraine. The Kremlin noted that Putin at present has no plans to conduct talks with Trump on achieving peace in Ukraine.

Moreover, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban recently went on a "peace mission" tour, during which he visited Russia, Ukraine, and China and met with their presidents to outline his vision of a peace process in Ukraine. Later, he also met with Trump in Florida. Some EU leaders criticized what they see as a misuse of the bloc's rotating presidency by Hungary's prime minister.

The US presidential election is slated for November 5. The main contenders expected on the ballot are incumbent President Joe Biden and his predecessor, Trump.

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UPDATE - Global Tech Outage Grounds Flights But Spares Stock Exchanges

(Modifies content throughout, with updates)

NEW YORK, July 20 (Sputnik) - A global technology outage impacted the computers of airlines, metro operators, banks and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, disrupting flights, train schedules and hospital operations although stock exchanges were largely unaffected.

The glitch occurred after the Austin, Texas-based cybersecurity company CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally.

The cascading failures that resulted in haywire for some businesses and services and minimal interference and annoyance for others underscored the vulnerabilities of the modern economy and the central role of security software, which runs operating systems worldwide.

CrowdStrike Holdings Chief Executive Officer George Kurtz said in a statement posted on the social media platform X that the fault had been identified and a fix had been deployed, adding that it was not an attack planned on the company or its users.

"Mac and Linux hosts are not impacted," Kurtz said, referring, respectively, to the operating system for Apple computers and a major business application. "This is not a security incident or cyberattack."

An unrelated issue with Microsoft's Azure cloud service that occurred simultaneously with the CrowdStrike software glitch added to Friday's problem. Microsoft also said the underlying cause had been fixed on its applications although "residual impact" continued to disrupt some services.

CrowdStrike shares closed down 11% while Microsoft fell 0.7%.

The biggest casualty of the tech outage was the aviation sector.

Nearly 2,500 US flights alone were canceled, with American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines being among the impacted carriers, according to media reports that also cited issues at airports in Germany, Amsterdam and Spain.

Ryanair, Europe's largest airline by passenger numbers, warned customers of disruptions that could not be avoided, while passengers at Edinburgh airport were reportedly unable to use automated boarding pass scanners.

On the US public transit front, The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington reported disruptions to its website and some internal systems while New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority said some customer information systems were temporarily offline.

Many US hospitals canceled nonessential surgeries. New York State Governor Kathy Hochul urged those having emergency issues in the state's 62 counties to dial 911 as usual, saying the state was working with localities to keep services going with backup facilities.

"Thankfully, all of them have backup systems for situations like this," she said.

US stock market operators, including Nasdaq, which lists the priciest technology stocks, reported no troubles for the day.

Similarly, Europe's exchange-operator Euronext said the outage had not affected equities trading in the region. The London Stock Exchange also said its news service RNS was briefly disrupted and restored later, with no disruption elsewhere.

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Biden Removal From 2024 Election Could Lead to His Son Hunter's Prosecution - US Activists

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) - A potential withdrawal by US President Joe Biden from the 2024 election could lead to the prosecution of himself and that of his son Hunter, including for crimes conducted in Ukraine, US antiwar activist and Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space Coordinator Bruce Gagnon told Sputnik.

"The Biden crime family likely worries if the current president is removed from the November ticket, he and his son could well be prosecuted for multiple crimes - particularly for their crimes in Ukraine," Gagnon said.

This might lead to Biden cutting a deal to get a pardon for himself and his son as a trade-off for stepping down, Gagnon said.

Earlier on Friday, US media reported that members of the Biden family have begun discussions about the president's potential plan to exit the election amid growing pressure on him to drop out. The White House, however, called these reports "wrong."

Former Hunter Biden business associate Anthony Bobulinski said in a congressional testimony in February that the Biden family received tens of millions of dollars from foreign actors, including in China and Ukraine, to get access to the White House.

Gagnon emphasized that the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump strengthened Trump's position in the race and raised the Democrats' concerns regarding Biden.

"Already we see the Democrats in Congress increasingly worried that it will impact their reelection races. Thus, the call for removal of Biden is growing," Gagnon said. "It is clearly an indication that elections in the United States are not about 'free democratic expression' but are events controlled by competing regional oligarchs who will use any methods to win."

Gagnon expressed concern that this situation shows the United States is inching toward internal instability that could lead to the break-up of the country.

"I believe it will be worse here in the United States than it was in Russia after the break-up of the former Soviet Union. We don't have any leaders on the scale of Vladimir Putin who helped restore Russia," Gagnon addedd.

Rick Sterling, an activist from the United National Antiwar Coalition, said he was not surprised by Trump's assassination attempt.

"This was very predictable because of the extreme polarization of politics in the United States and the demonization of Trump personally," Sterling said.

The Democratic party is maintaining a "hate-fest" against Trump after his victory in the 2016 election and the assassination attempt following the attempt to imprison him are indicators of the declining US empire, he said.

"The whole world can see it, even if the US empire's proponents are blind to it," Sterling said.

However, Sterling expressed hope that the failed assassination attempt may cause both sides to start thinking and talking more with each other.

Phil Wilayto, a coordinator of the Odessa Solidarity Campaign of the Virginia Defenders for

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Freedom, Justice and Equality, said the assassination attempt is an indication of the deep political divide in the United States that has been building for years.

"The storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, by a mob of Trump supporters has been the most dramatic example of this divide, but there have been many others. After the 2008 election of the country's first Black president, Barack Obama, gun sales increased dramatically," he said.

Wilayto also said that social tensions grew with the backlash to the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, themselves a reaction to a series of highly publicized police killings of unarmed Black people., and expressed concern that any result of the upcoming November presidential election could deteriorate the internal political situation in the United States.

In case Trump wins, the situation can turn the way of Ukraine but if he loses, there may be a much greater right-wing backlash than in 2021, he said.

"Either way, the United States is sailing into ever-more treacherous waters with no clear way to a safe harbor," Wilayto added.

The presidential election in the US will take place on November 5.

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Gold Has First Weekly Loss Since Mid-June After Record High Streak

NEW YORK, July 19 (Sputnik) - Gold booked its first weekly price decline in five weeks after investors sent the precious metal to record highs, closing in on $2,500 an ounce.

In New York futures trading on Friday, an ounce of US gold for delivery in August settled at $2,399.10 an ounce on the Comex exchange, down 2.23% on the day.

For the week, August gold finished down 0.9% - its first weekly decline after a 0.8% weekly dip for the week ended June 12. Prior to Friday, August gold hit record highs over three consecutive sessions, peaking at $2,488.40 on Wednesday.

The spot price of gold, which reflects real-time trades in bullion, hovered at just under $2,400 an ounce in Friday's late afternoon trade in New York. Spot gold's all-time high this week was $2,483.78.

Gold's run to record highs came after heightened speculation this week that the US Federal Reserve will embark on its first interest rate cut in four years by September - talk that sent the value of the dollar tumbling. Investors see gold as an alternative play to the dollar, hence the contrasting performances of the two assets.

"It's been two steps forward and one step back for pretty much all asset prices since winter last year," and Wednesday's record for gold prices "came on a spike in … speculation as betting on a September cut flipped to 100% odds," Adrian Ash, director of research at BullionVault, said in comments carried by MarketWatch.

Some commentators termed this week's pullback in gold as "healthy," saying gold was still poised to breach $2,500 in the near-term.

"It's fairly typical behavior for a market that's being driven … largely by … investor speculation," Brien Lundin, editor of the Gold Newsletter, said.

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The Fed is closing in on its first rate cut in four years amid steadily softening US economic data, although inflation remains well above its target, Chris Waller, one of the central bank's seven governors, said on Wednesday.

Most Fed policy makers are of the opinion that there can be at least two rounds of cuts before the end of 2024.

The Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee will meet four times before the year ends to review rates: July 31, September 18, November 7 and December 18.

US rates are currently in a range of between 5.25% and 5.5%, their highest in two decades. Wall Street is expecting a 0.25% cut each in the two easings projected for this year. The last time the Fed cut rates was in March 2020 - at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic - when it slashed a full 100 basis points or 1%.

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SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Sputnik) -

GLOBAL IT OUTAGE

* Microsoft Azure said on Friday that it was aware of the large-scale global IT outage and it is considering alternatives that customers could use.
* The global IT failure of Windows-based equipment did not affect the Kremlin's resources, everything is working fine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.
* Russia's airports, aircraft and airlines are operating normally amid reports of IT failures around the world, which also interfered with the work of international airports, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency (Rosaviatsiya) said.
* The global outage has affected companies in the Dutch port of Rotterdam, which is the largest port in Europe, but it is still unknown to what extent, the port's spokeswoman, Sigrid Hesselink, told RIA Novosti.
* There was no impact on US Defense Department operations as a result of a global IT outage, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* Russia's army group Center took control of the village of Yuryevka (Yurivka), repelled 38 attacks and eliminated up to 2,215 Ukrainian soldiers and 11 armored vehicles, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday.
* White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said US policy on Ukraine's strikes deep into Russia using US weapons remains the same but did not rule out it may change in the future.
* Future US administrations are free to set their own policies for Ukraine in light of the high chances of Donald Trump returning to the White House in 2025, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

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US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

* It would be great if former President Donald Trump could end the Ukraine conflict in 24 hours, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. CQ Brown said on Friday.
* US President Joe Biden said in a statement that he will resume his 2024 campaign next week despite mounting calls for him to withdraw from the race against Trump.
* Media reports alleging that the Biden family is in discussions about Biden's withdrawal from the 2024 race are wrong, White House Senior Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates said.

MIDDLE EAST

* Israel needs to end its unlawful presence on the Palestinian territories as soon as possible and pay reparations for the damage caused during the occupation, International Court of Justice (ICJ) President Nawaf Salam said on Friday.
* The ICJ finds that Israel's settlement activities in the Palestinian territories violate international law, ICJ President Nawaf Salam said.
* Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a ruling of the ICJ that Israel's settlement activity in the West Bank was in fact an "annexation."
* Palestine calls on all countries and the United Nations to review relations with Israel after the ICJ issued its opinion on Friday, the Foreign Ministry said.
* The visit of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to Russia is being prepared, it is in the final stages of preparation, and specific dates will be announced later, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.
* UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will quickly submit the decision of the ICJ regarding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories to the UN General Assembly, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

EVAN GERSHKOVICH CASE

* The Sverdlovsk Regional court sentenced Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich to 16 years in prison for espionage, a Sputnik correspondent reported from the courtroom on Friday.
* The prosecutor's office will decide on the legality of the sentence against Gershkovich in the espionage case after studying it, the head of the criminal justice department of the prosecutor's office of the Sverdlovsk region, Mikael Azdoev, told reporters.
* President Joe Biden said that the United States will continue "pushing hard" to secure the release of Gershkovich after he was sentenced to 16 years in prison by a Russian court.
* Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said hat he will leave unanswered the the question of whether an exchange for Gershkovich, accused of espionage, is possible.

WESTERN SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

* The Euroclear depositary will transfer about 1.55 billion euros ($1.69 billion) of income from frozen Russian assets to the so-called European Fund for Ukraine in July, the organization reported.
* The United States is expected to impose more sanctions on China and other nations in the coming weeks for their cooperation with Russia, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

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* The EU foreign ministers may introduce a new anti-Russian sanctions regime in September in connection with the alleged cyber threats that are coming from Moscow, a senior European official said.

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Biden Says 'Tentative Agreement' by Flight Attendants A Win For Unions, Economy -Statement

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden on Friday said that the tentative agreement reached between the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) and American Airlines is a win for unions and the economy.

"This is the culmination of over 5 years of negotiations and proves once again that collective bargaining benefits workers, companies, and our economy," Biden said in a statement.

He expressed gratitude to Acting Secretary Su, Secretary Buttigieg, and other members of his administration for their efforts in helping both sides secure the agreement, which averted a strike that would have been devastating for the industry and consumers.

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Wall Street Suffers Worst Week in 3 Months as Stock Investors Seek Value

NEW YORK, July 19 (Sputnik) - Pricey tech stocks and other blue chips on Wall Street suffered their worst weekly loss in three months as investors in US equities sought value by rotating into shares of industries that indicated longer-term returns.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index, which comprises stocks such as Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, closed at 17,732 for a loss of 0.8% on the day. For the week, Nasdaq fell 3.6% - the most for a week since late April.

The S&P 500 Index, which tracks stocks of the top 500 US companies, settled at 5,508 for a decline of 0.7% on the day. For the week, the S&P lost 2%, also the most for a week since late April.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the broadest indicator for US equity markets, finished at 40,288 for a deficit of almost 1%. The Dow was the outlier of the week, rising 0.7%, after back-to-back gains of 1.6% and 0.7% in the prior two weeks.

“Through the first half of this year, large caps carried the market,” Alan Wynne, investment product specialist at JPMorgan Wealth Management, said in reference to large-capitalized stocks. “Since the midpoint, however, the tables have turned.”

Wynne said the S&P and Nasdaq outperformed small-cap stocks by more than 16% and 18%, respectively, in the first half of the year.

In the second half, small-cap shares have rallied over 9%, compared to just over 2% for the S&P and less than 1% for the Nasdaq.

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Canada Warns Citizens to Avoid Travel to Bangladesh Due to Civil Unrest - Advisory

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The Canadian government in an alert on Friday warned its citizens not to travel to Bangladesh if it's not necessary due to civil unrest across the nation.

"Avoid non-essential travel to Bangladesh due to violent political demonstrations and clashes, and nationwide general strikes. The security situation can deteriorate without warning," the advisory stated.

Protests against the Bangladeshi government's quota system for public positions have escalated this week following violent clashes at Dhaka University. On Tuesday, The Daily Star newspaper reported that the clashes had left 19 people dead and more than 2,500 injured.

Protesters are urging an end to the quota system, which reserves 30% of government roles for veterans' families from the 1971 War for Independence. They allege discrimination and favoritism toward supporters of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose party, the Awami League, led the independence movement.

After protests in 2018, the government stopped the quotas but reinstated them in June due to High Court orders after appeals from veteran families. The Bangladeshi Supreme Court will decide on August 7 after the government appealed the High Court's decision.

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Biden to Focus on Working With Netanyahu to Get Hostage Deal in Coming Weeks- Sullivan

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is focusing on collaborating with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to get a deal on the hostages held in Gaza done in the coming weeks, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Friday.

“The president will focus his energy with Prime Minister Netanyahu on what it is going to take working together- the US and Israel, and then the US working with the other guarantors, the other mediators in this process to get this deal done in the coming weeks,” Sullivan said.

On Thursday, Netanyahu confirmed that he plans to visit Washington next week to address Congress.

Earlier in the month, Israel and Hamas, through mediators, resumed talks on a ceasefire in Gaza in exchange for the return of Israeli hostages.

The talks have been frozen since May, when US President Joe Biden announced a plan for a ceasefire deal in the Gaza Strip and an exchange of hostages.

Israel has been conducting military operations in the Gaza Strip as a response to the attack on its territory by Palestinian movement Hamas on October 7, 2023. At least 120 hostages are still being held by Hamas in the Palestinian enclave, of which more than 40 are considered dead, according to Israeli officials. During various operations and humanitarian efforts, 135 people have been freed from captivity, a figure that includes the dead hostages, whose bodies were taken from the enclave.

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Oil Price Down Second Week in Row on US Fuel-Stock Build, China Demand Worries

NEW YORK, July 19 (Sputnik) - Crude prices ended down a second straight week on Friday in belated reaction to data showing huge fuel stockpile builds in the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer.

Also weighing was weaker demand out of China, the leading oil importer and second largest consumer.

US West Texas Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude's front-month contract, August, settled at $80.13 per barrel - down $2.69, or 3.3%.

For the week, the US crude benchmark fell 2.5%, after the prior week's 1.5% loss. For the year though, WTI remained up 10%.

UK-origin Brent crude for September settled at $82.63 per barrel, down $2.348, or 2.9% on the day.

The global crude benchmark fell 2.8% on the week, adding to the previous week's decline of 1.7%. For the year, Brent remained 7% higher.

The EIA reported a gasoline build of 3.328 million barrels for the week that ended July 12, versus the prior week's decline of 2.006 million. Analysts had forecast a decline of 1.7 million barrels for last week. Gasoline is the primary motor fuel in the United States and makes up the largest component of the country's energy mix.

In distillates, the EIA reported a build of 3.454 million barrels for last week, negating the prior week's draw of 4.884 million. Analysts had forecast a 500,000-barrel drop instead for last week. Distillates are primarily processed into the diesel required by trucks, buses and ships, and also goes into making airline fuel.

Notwithstanding the increases in fuel stockpiles, the EIA reported a crude inventory decline of 4.87 million barrels during the week ended July 12, adding to the prior week's tumble of 3.443 million. US crude inventories have fallen more than 20 million barrels in all over the past three weeks.

Still, the market's focus was on the overwhelming fuel builds.

"This is the time of the year when you should be seeing runaway fuel demand," John Kilduff, partner at the New York energy hedge fund Again Capital, told Sputnik earlier this week. "Without that, any drawdown in US crude will have limited impact, especially with Chinese demand still in the woods."

Scott Shelton, an energy future broker at ICAP in Durham, North Carolina, concurred.

"To me, this … suggests lower oil prices are coming," Shelton said.

Oil traders constantly look to China for a guide on demand. Last week's slide in crude prices came after data showed China's refinery output fell 3.7% in June from a year earlier.

This week, data showed China's economy growing by just 4.7% in April-June, its slowest rate since the first quarter of 2023, well below the forecast 5.1%.

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US Understands Global Outage Not Due to Cyber Attack But Technological Issue - Official

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is aware that CrowdStrikes' global IT outage is not the result of a cyber attack but stems from a faulty technical update, a senior Biden administration official said on Friday.

"The White House is in regular contact with CrowdStrike's executive leadership and tracking progress on remediating affected systems," the official said in a statement. "We have offered US government support. Our understanding is that this is not a cyber attack, but rather a faulty technical update."

Flight operations have resumed across the United States, but some congestion remains, the official said. Moreover, the White House has been convening federal agencies to assess impacts to the US government's operations and entities around the country, the statement said.

The glitch occurred after Texas-based CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally. The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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US Leaves Open Possibility of Conducting Nuclear First Strike - US Defense Official

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States leaves open the possibility that it may conduct a nuclear first strike against an adversary, acting US Assistant Defense Secretary for Space Policy Vipin Narang said on Friday.

"We still leave open the possibility that we may have to use and employ nuclear weapons first against a strategic attack or to deter a nuclear attack," Narang said in an interview with the Center for a New American Security.

However, the central challenge is how to deter the employment of nuclear weapons by Russia, Narang said.

Russia is a nuclear peer to the US and China is not yet a nuclear peer but developing its capabilities, Narang said, adding not to "sleep" on North Korea.

The most likely employment of nuclear weapons in the contemporary and future security environment arises from a long and intense conventional conflict, Narang said.

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DoorDash Delivery Says Its Platform Unaffected by CrowdStrike Internet Glitch

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – DoorDash, a popular US food delivery company, told Sputnik in a statement on Friday that its online platform has not been affected by the global Internet glitch related to the US cybersecurity company CrowdStrike earlier in the day.

"The DoorDash platform is unaffected by the outage and remains fully operational. We are aware of a small number of our merchants that are experiencing technical difficulties and we're working to support them as they work to get back to normal, " the statement said.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment began, which affected telecom operators, banks, and airlines around the world. US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure in Windows had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks, and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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Baltimore Mayor Says City's Internet Provider Developed Outage

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The city of Baltimore's internet provider developed an outage that is impacting some services, Mayor Brandon Scott said on Friday.

"The city's internet provider has now developed an outage," Scott said via social media platform X. "Some services are impacted, including 311, the City's payment page, and internet in City buildings."

Scott said that the outage did not impact 911 emergency services.

The city is working to determine the cause of the outage and whether it is linked to the global CrowdStrike outage, Scott added.

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Largest Healthcare System in Washington Area Experiencing Minimal Impact From IT Outage

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The largest healthcare system in the Washington area, Johns Hopkins Medicine, has experienced minimal impact from the global technology outage and continues receiving patients, a JHM spokesperson told Sputnik on Friday.

"Johns Hopkins Medicine (JHM) facilities are open and providing patient care. JHM is aware of the Microsoft and CrowdStrike technology outage and is currently experiencing minimal impact to our normal IT functions," the spokesperson said.

JHM has emergency preparedness protocols, including downtime procedures, in place that ensure it is able to maintain continuity in operations, they added.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks, and airlines around the world. US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

Johns Hopkins Medicine encompasses six hospitals, four healthcare and surgery centers, and

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over 40 patient care locations across the Washington area.

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US Understands Global Outage Not Due to Cyber Attack But Technological Issue - Official

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is aware that CrowdStrikes' global IT outage is not the result of a cyber attack but stems from a faulty technical update, a senior Biden administration official said on Friday.

"The White House is in regular contact with CrowdStrike's executive leadership and tracking progress on remediating affected systems," the official said in a statement. "We have offered US government support. Our understanding is that this is not a cyber attack, but rather a faulty technical update."

Flight operations have resumed across the United States, but some congestion remains, the official said. Moreover, the White House has been convening federal agencies to assess impacts to the US government's operations and entities around the country, the statement said.

The glitch occurred after Texas-based CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally. The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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UN Chief to Transmit ICJ's Opinion on Israel's Occupation to UN General Assembly - Office

UNITED NATIONS, July 19 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will quickly submit the decision of the International Court of Justice regarding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories to the UN General Assembly, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

"The International Court of Justice has delivered today its Advisory Opinion in the proceedings concerning Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," the statement said. "The Secretary-General will promptly transmit the Advisory Opinion to the General Assembly, which had requested the Court's advice. It is for the General Assembly to decide how to proceed in this matter."

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US to Impose Additional Sanctions on China, Others Over Ties With Russia - Sullivan

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is expected to impose more sanctions on China and other nations in the coming weeks for their cooperation with Russia, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Friday.

"What we have shown over time is that we have been prepared to tighten the screws, to apply sanctions against specific entities and the individuals, including in China, as well as in other countries, and that pattern will continue as we go forward," Sullivan said during the Aspen Security Forum. "I don't have any announcements to make, sitting here, but I think you can expect to see additional sanctions measures as we watch this picture continue to evolve in the coming weeks."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has called the US interference with the normal trade and economic interaction between Russia and China "hypocritical and irresponsible," notably as the US is "adding fuel to the fire" of the Ukraine conflict.

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US Admits India Won't Cut Off Russia But Wants to Continue to Address Concerns - Sullivan

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Friday admitted that the United States does not expect India to cut off its historic ties with Russia but Washington will continue to express concerns about their relationship.

"India has a historic relationship with Russia that they're not going to cut off, but we do believe that we want to continue to have a deep dialog with India about the specifics and the nature of that relationship," Sullivan said at the Aspen Security Forum.

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Sullivan Not Ruling Out Change in Policy on Strikes Deep Into Russia

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Friday that the US policy on Ukraine's strikes deep into Russia using American weapons remains the same but did not rule out it may change in the future.

"I can’t give you a definitive answer to that question for the future," Sullivan said when asked about circumstances if Washington allowed Kiev to use weapons to strike deep into Russia and about whether it’s totally off the cards because of potential escalation.

"What I can tell you is that the President’s current position is that circumstances changed, Russia actually launched a new offensive directly across the border towards Kharkiv and common sense dictated that Ukraine had to be able to fire back against that offensive … But this far, his policy on long-range strikes into Russia has not changed," he added.

Sullivan noted that the United States is constantly looking at the situation and what Ukraine needs and what the US can offer.

"We make our judgments accordingly," he added.

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NASA Operations Not Impacted by Global Tech Outage - Spokesperson

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - NASA's operations have not been impacted by a global tech outage that occurred earlier in the day, the space agency's spokesperson told Sputnik on Friday.
"No impact to our operations," the spokesperson said.
The glitch occurred after Texas-based CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally.
The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks, and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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un chief will promptly transmit icj's Advisory Opinion on israel's occupation to General Assembly, it will to decide how to proceed - spokesman

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additional us sanctions expected against china, other countries 'aiding' russia - sullivan

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UPDATE - Top General Brown Says US Can Defeat China If Beijing Tries to Take Taiwan

(Fixes lede, adds details in para 4)
WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The US could win a war with China if Beijing decides to take Taiwan, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said on Friday.
"Yes, I am fully confident in our force," Brown said at the Aspen Security Forum when asked if the US can win a war against China should it try to take Taiwan.
However, Brown noted that if such a war takes place, it would take "all the nation" to win it.
Brown pointed out that only a mix of defense capabilities, like the use of drones and cyber, can help Taiwan be a much tougher "target" for China.
Earlier on Friday, Defense News reported that the United States is close to finalizing its approval of $2 billion in security aid for the Indo-Pacific region as part of a larger strategy to help countries there counter China.
The package includes $500 million for the Philippines; $1.2 billion for Taiwan and some $300 million to distribute among other partners like Vietnam, parts of South Asia, and the Pacific

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Island nations, the report said.
China has repeatedly called on the United States to act on its commitment not to support Taiwan's independence and to stop arming Taiwan in any way.

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Top General Brown Says US Can Defeat China If Beijing Tries to Take Taiwan

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) –The US could win a war with China if Beijing decides to take Taiwan, the United States could win a war with China, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said on Friday.
"Yes, I am fully confident in our force," Brown said at the Aspen Security Forum when asked if the US can win a war against China should it try to take Taiwan.
However, Brown noted that if such a war takes place, it would take "all the nation" to win it.
Earlier on Friday, Defense News reported that the United States is close to finalizing its approval of $2 billion in security aid for the Indo-Pacific region as part of a larger strategy to help countries there counter China.
The package includes $500 million for the Philippines; $1.2 billion for Taiwan and some $300 million to distribute among other partners like Vietnam, parts of South Asia, and the Pacific Island nations, the report said.
China has repeatedly called on the United States to act on its commitment not to support Taiwan's independence and to stop arming Taiwan in any way.

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Biden Still Has Cough and Hoarseness, But Improved Meaningfully From Yesterday - Physician

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden is still dealing with a cough and hoarseness after his coronavirus diagnosis but he has improved meaningfully since Thursday, White House Physician Kevin O'Connor said on Friday.
"[Biden] His loose, nonproductive cough and hoarseness continue to be his primary symptoms, but they have improved meaningfully from yesterday," O'Connor said in a letter. "His pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and temperature remain absolutely normal. His oxygen saturation continues to be excellent on room air. His lungs remain clear."
O'Connor also noted there's no evidence Biden has any bacterial infection.

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Democrats Plan for Possible Kamala Harris Presidential Campaign - Reports

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - A group of Democrats, who favor Vice President Kamala Harris as the party's nominee should President Joe Biden step down, have begun quietly organizing her potential presidential campaign, NBC News reported on Friday.

According to the report, Democrats believe the party must unite to win, with strategies including rallies in key states with figures like the wife of former US President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, and the 42nd President Bill Clinton.

However, Harris continues to support Biden remaining in the race both publicly and privately and has not endorsed the effort, the report added.

On June 27, Biden, 81, appeared confused and incoherent throughout the first debate with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, 78. The dismal performance reinforced, rather than alleviated, ongoing concerns about Biden's cognitive abilities, leading many Democratic politicians and donors to call for his removal as a candidate.

The Democratic Party can theoretically replace Biden at its convention in August. So far, Biden is saying that he intends to stay in the race.

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Majority of US Voters Approve of Vance as Trump's Running Mate - Poll

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - A majority of likely voters in the United States approve of former US President Donald Trump's decision to select Senator JD Vance as his running mate, according to a Rasmussen Reports poll released Friday.

Most respondents, 51%, approve of Vance as Trump's running mate, including 31% who strongly approve, the poll report said.

Three-quarters of Republican respondents, 75%, approve of Vance, as well as 48% of unaffiliated respondents and 30% of Democrats, the poll report said.

A majority of male respondents, 54%, approve of Vance, compared to 47% of female respondents, the poll report said.

Moreover, 52% of white respondents, 55% of Hispanic respondents and 40% of black respondents approve of Vance, the poll report said.

Vance, 39, is the youngest vice presidential candidate since Richard Nixon appeared alongside Dwight Eisenhower on the 1952 Republican Party ticket.

The poll surveyed 995 likely US voters from July 15-16. The poll has a margin of error of plus-or-minus three percentage points with a 95% confidence level.

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Air India Plane En Route To SF After Emergency Landing In Krasnoyarsk, Landing At 8 PM PDT

SAN FRANCISCO, July 19 (Sputnik) - A reserve Air India plane has collected the emergency flight passengers in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, and is currently en route to San Francisco, California,

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a spokesperson for Krasnoyarsk International Airport told Sputnik on Friday.
"The plane took off," said the spokesperson.
Earlier today, Air India sent a reserve plane from Mumbai to collect the passengers of an aircraft that landed urgently in Russia's Krasnoyarsk, the company said on Friday.
On Thursday, a Boeing passenger plane on Air India flight AI183 made an emergency landing in Krasnoyarsk. Emergency services told Sputnik that the aircraft's fire alarm went off.

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US House Oversight Panel Requests Briefings From Crowdstrike, Microsoft Amid IT Outage

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The US House Oversight Committee has requested briefings from CrowdStrike, Microsoft and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to assess the impact of the IT outage across the federal government, US Congresswoman Nancy Mace said on Friday.
"We've requested briefings from CrowdStrike, Microsoft, and CISA Cyber. We're also trying to determine the breadth of impact, especially across the federal government at this time. Cybersecurity and tech subcommittee on Oversight. Stay tuned," Mace wrote via the social media platform X.
On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks and airlines around the world. CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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US Has Options to Stop Iran Militarily From Getting Nuclear Weapon - Top General Brown

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – The United States has military options to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said on Friday.
"We have options to do so," Brown said during a discussion at the Aspen Security Forum when asked if the US is prepared to act militarily to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

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Democratic National Committee Plans to Nominate Biden Despite Calls to Drop Out

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Democratic National Committee (DNC) leadership on Friday said they look forward to nominating President Joe Biden as their nominee for the 2024 presidential election despite calls to drop out of the race.
"Every voter in this country will have the equal opportunity to vote for our nominees because of

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you. Joe Biden-Kamala Harris will be reelected because of you," DNC Chair Jaime Harrison told supporters on Friday. "Because of you, we can look forward to nominating our president through a virtual roll call and celebrating with fanfare together in Chicago alongside all of our delegates who are supporting the Biden Harris ticket."

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, who serves as a DNC co-chair, said during a virtual meeting with DNC members that they'll make sure Biden has a clear path in the nomination process.

The DNC Rules Committee during the meeting emphasized that the virtual roll call vote must happen by August 7 to prevent any Republican legal challenges to Biden's Ohio ballot eligibility question, even though the state moved the certification deadline to September 1.

On Wednesday, The New York Times reported that Biden is expected to drop out of the race this weekend.

There have been growing calls among Democrats to nominate another candidate to replace Biden after his failure in the debate. Theoretically, the party will have such an opportunity at its convention in August, but in practice, it will be difficult to remove the primaries-winning candidate from the race if he does not refuse to participate. So far, Biden is saying he intends to stay in the race.

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If Trump Can Stop Ukraine Conflict in 24 Hours, That'd Be 'Great' - Top US General Brown

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - It would be "great" if former President Donald Trump could end the Ukraine conflict in 24 hours, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. CQ Brown said on Friday.

"If [Trump] can get it done in 24 hours, that'd be great," Brown said at an interview during the Aspen Security Forum.

Brown's comment comes in response to a question about whether or not Trump could end the Ukraine conflict in 24 hours if elected like he has said.

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Congress Members Landsman, Lofgren Urge President Biden to Step Down

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Congressman Greg Landsman announced on Friday that after extensive discussions, he believes US President Joe Biden is no longer the best Democratic candidate, urging him to step aside for a new leader.

"After weeks of consideration and hundreds of conversations with constituents, I have come to the conclusion that Joe Biden is no longer the best person to make that case," Landsman wrote on X.

Landsman added that it is time for Biden to step aside and allow a new leader to be nominated to effectively challenge former President Donald Trump and advocate for America's future.

US Representative Zoe Lofgren, in a separate letter to Biden, expressed respect for his work

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but voiced doubts about his chances of a positive outcome in the upcoming election, urging him to step aside for new leadership.

After Biden's disastrous debate performance on June 28, some politicians and journalists have said that the current US president should be replaced and that Harris is the most suitable replacement.

At the Democratic National Convention in August, theoretically, the party can nominate another candidate if Biden pulls out, but so far, the president has said he intends to go all the way.

On September 10, a second debate between Biden and Trump is scheduled, and the presidential election in the United States will be held on November 5.

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Texas Oil Regulator Says Global IT Outage Did Not Have Big Impact on Energy Operations

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The global IT outage that occurred earlier did not have a significant impact on Texas energy operations, the regulator of the top oil producing US state told Sputnik on Friday.

"The RRC [Texas Railroad Commission] experienced temporary system interruptions this morning due to the global CrowdStrike outage but many of those have now been restored," the RRC spokesperson said. "The Commission has not received reports of the outage causing significant impact on energy operations."

The glitch occurred after Texas-based cybersecurity company CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally.

The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks, and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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if trump can stop ukraine conflict in 24 hours, that'd be great - top us general Brown

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No Impact on Pentagon Operations as Result of Global IT Glitch - US Top General

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - There was no impact on Department of Defense (DoD) operations as a result of a global IT glitch related to the cybersecurity company CrowdStrike earlier on Friday, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said.

"For all reports I have right now, no impact on DoD operations," Brown said during a discussion at the Aspen Security Forum.

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On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks and airlines around the world. The US cybersecurity company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Elon Musk Says Just Deleted Crowdstrike From 'All Our Systems'

(Updates with additional details in para 3; modifies headline)
WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US billionaire entrepreneur said on Friday that he has completely removed the cybersecurity company CrowdStrike from all systems, halting any further rollouts.
"We just deleted Crowdstrike from all our systems, so no rollouts at all," Musk wrote on X.
Musk also said that unfortunately, many of his companies' suppliers and logistics firms use CrowdStrike.
On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks and airlines around the world. CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure in Windows had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Elon Musk Says Just Deleted Crowdstrike From All X Corporation Systems

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US billionaire entrepreneur and X Corporation owner Elon Musk said on Friday that his company has completely removed the cybersecurity company CrowdStrike from its systems, halting any further rollouts.
"We just deleted Crowdstrike from all our systems, so no rollouts at all," Musk wrote on X.
On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks and airlines around the world. CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure in Windows had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Global Tech Glitch Impacting New York State Government Systems - Governor

NEW YORK, July 19 (Sputnik) - A global technology outage is impacting government information systems and private businesses in New York State although backup facilities have minimized the disruption, State Governor Kathy Hochul said Friday.
“The outage is having impacts here in New York for private sector businesses that rely on CrowdStrike, and for systems even within the New York State Government, " Hochul said in a

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statement. She added: "Thankfully, all of them have backup systems for situations like this."
Hochul urged those having an emergency in New York's 62 countries to dial 911 as usual, saying the state was working with localities to keep services going with backup facilities.
She also reinforced CrowdStrike's messaging from earlier in the day that the tech glitch was not a planned attack.
"I want to be very clear, at this time, we have no indication that this is a hack or a cyber security threat," Hochul said. "It is more of a technical issue."
The glitch occurred after Austin, Texas-based CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally.
The outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks, and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

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US Senator Coons Says Lots of 'Concern and Anxiety' Related to 2020 Presidential Race

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - There is a lot of concern and anxiety related to the United States' 2024 presidential election and whether the Democratic Party should move forward with US President Joe Biden as its nominee, US Senator Chris Coons said on Friday.
"There is a lot of concern and anxiety about this because the stakes are so significant. The consequences of this election are profound," Coons said during a panel discussion at the Aspen Security Forum.
Biden is weighing who is the best candidate to win in November, Coons said.
Coons said he disagrees with Democrats who claim Biden is not strong or capable enough to serve another term as president.
Some Democrats have called on Biden to end his reelection bid, following a disastrous debate performance against Republican nominee Donald Trump. However, the Biden campaign has insisted that it intends to move forward, despite the concerns.

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Biden Says He Anticipates Resuming Campaign Trail Next Week - Statement

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said in a statement on Friday that he will resume his 2024 campaign trail next week despite mounting calls for him to drop out of the race against Republican challenger Donald Trump.
"Donald Trump's dark vision for the future is not who we are as Americans. Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box. I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025

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agenda," the statement said.

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biden says he anticipates resuming campaign trail next week - statement

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Global Tech Outage Has Not Caused Problems With UN Secretariat Work – Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, July 19 (Sputnik) – The global failure of Windows-based equipment has not caused any particular problems in the work of the UN Secretariat, United Nations Spokesperson Farhan Haq told Sputnik.

"There are no particular problems involving work in the UN Secretariat," Haq said when asked whether the secretariat work had been impacted.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks, and airlines around the world.

The US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Air Canada, Air Transat Not Affected by Ongoing Global Technology Outage - Statements

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Air Canada and Quebec's Air Transat have not experienced major impacts due the worldwide IT outage, the companies told Sputnik on Friday.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks, and airlines around the world. The US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

"We are monitoring the situation closely, at this time there is no major impact on Air Canada operations," Air Canada said. "No impacts on our operations," Air Transat said.

Earlier on Friday, Alberta-based WestJet also informed that its systems and operations had not been directly impacted by the outage but noted that delays might occur across their network as it operates from and to impacted airports.

Porter Airlines is the only Canadian air carrier so far reporting being affected by the outage. The company canceled all flights until 12:00 p.m. ET and vowed to refund individuals needing to cancel travel plans.

The Canadian air navigation service provider NAV Canada stated that the ongoing worldwide IT outage has not affected its systems.

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Democrats Launch TV Ad Urging Biden to Drop Out of 2024 Race – Reports

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – A group of Democratic lawmakers have launched a TV ad urging US President Joe Biden to drop out of the presidential race amid mounting calls for him to make way for a more promising nominee against Donald Trump, CNN reported on Friday.

The ad launched by Pass The Torch, a newly formed super political action committee (PAC), features several people speaking in front of a camera and asking Biden to make room for a nominee "who can bring new energy" to the party while thanking him for defeating Trump in 2020, according to the report.

"President Biden, you saved democracy in 2020. Now you have a chance to do it again. It's time to pass the torch and let us choose a new nominee. One who can bring new energy, new hope, and make sure Donald Trump never gets near the White House again. Our country's future is in your hands. So please, be the leader we know you are," the report quoted the ad as stating.

The TV ad will be running on the MSNBC channel during the "Morning Joe" show and the network's daytime hours in the Washington D.C., and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, media markets, the report said.

Newsmax commentator Mark Halperin said on Thursday that Biden has agreed to withdraw his candidacy, which could happen as early as this weekend, with Sunday being the most likely day, and added that there is already a speech prepared for him and he will continue his duties as the sitting president.

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Blinken Says Will See Chinese Counterpart Next Week in Laos

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday that he will see Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi next week at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Laos.

"I speak to him on a fairly regular basis, and I'll be seeing him next week, in fact, in Laos," Blinken said in an interview at the Aspen Security Forum, in response to a question about how often he meets with his Chinese counterpart.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will also participate in ASEAN meetings next week, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

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Future US Administrations Free to Set Its Own Policies on Ukraine – Blinken

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Future US administrations are free to set their own policies for Ukraine in light of the high chances of Donald Trump returning to the White House in 2025, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday.

"Every [US] administration has an opportunity, of course, to set his own policies [with respect to Ukraine]. We can't lock in the future," Blinken said during a discussion at the Aspen Security Forum.

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US Nears Approval of $2Bln Security Aid for Indo-Pacific Region - Reports

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is close to finalizing its approval of $2 billion in security aid for the Indo-Pacific region as part of a larger strategy to help countries there counter China, Defense News reported on Friday.

The package includes $500 million for the Philippines; $1.2 billion for Taiwan and some $300 million to distribute among other partners like Vietnam, parts of South Asia and the Pacific island nations, the report said.

However, the amounts are provisional because the Biden administration is still consulting with Congress on the goal to allocate nearly all of the $2 billion in US-funded foreign military financing that was approved for the region in April.

On April 23, the US Senate passed legislation providing security assistance to the Indo-Pacific region, sending it to President Joe Biden for signature. The bill includes $8.12 billion in funding for security initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region, with $2 billion in foreign military financing for Taiwan and other partners.

China has repeatedly called on the United States to act on its commitment not to support Taiwan's independence and to stop arming Taiwan in any way.

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US Leaves Open Possibility of Conducting Nuclear First Strike - US Defense Official

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States leaves open the possibility that it may conduct a nuclear first strike against an adversary, acting US Assistant Defense Secretary for Space Policy Vipin Narang said on Friday.

"We still leave open the possibility that we may have to use and employ nuclear weapons first against a strategic attack or to deter a nuclear attack," Narang said in an interview with the Center for a New American Security.

However, the central challenge is how to deter the employment of nuclear weapons by Russia, Narang said.

Russia is a nuclear peer to the US and China is not yet a nuclear peer but developing its capabilities, Narang said, adding not to "sleep" on North Korea.

The most likely employment of nuclear weapons in the contemporary and future security

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environment arises from a long and intense conventional conflict, Narang said.

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Good Prospects for CSTO to Participate in UN Peacemaking Activities - Russia's Vershinin

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Russia sees good prospects for the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to participate in UN peacekeeping operations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said on Friday.

"We think there are good prospects for involving CSTO in peacekeeping activities being conducted by the UN. We already have the necessary legal base for the participation of the organization in UN peace operations," Vershinin said during a UN Security Council meeting.

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Porter Airlines Cancels Flights Over IT Outage, WestJet Says Operations Not Impacted

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Canadian air carrier Porter canceled all flights until 12:00 p.m. ET over the ongoing worldwide IT outage, whereas WestJet has not reported direct impacts to its operations, the companies said on Friday.

"Porter Airlines is cancelling flights until 12 p.m. ET, July 19, 2024, due to prolonged third-party technology systems outages affecting multiple global industries. This applies to all areas of our website, mobile app, reservations, flight changes and inquiry systems. Further delays and cancellations are possible," Porter said in a statement.

Passengers cannot currently be rebooked to other flights and the process might take longer than usual but Porter will refund individuals needing to cancel travel plans, the statement said.

"At this time, there has been no direct impact to WestJet's IT systems or operations and any flight cancellations across our network are unrelated to the CrowdStrike outage," WestJet said in a statement.

However, WestJet said it expects delays across their network as it operates from and to impacted airports. Guest traveling via the WestJet and connecting onward with other airlines may be affected.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks, and airlines around the world. The US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Mark Zuckerberg Says Has No Plans to Endorse Either Trump or Biden in Election

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – The CEO of Meta (banned in Russia as an extremist organization), Mark Zuckerberg, told Bloomberg that he is not planning to endorse either Donald Trump or President Joe Biden in the 2024 presidential race.

"I'm also planning on not playing a significant role in the election. I've done some stuff personally in the past I'm not planning on doing that this time, and that includes not endorsing either of the candidates," Zuckerberg said in an interview published on Friday.

Zuckerberg noted that he understands why Trump's image is so appealing to American voters, especially in light of the way he behaved after the bullet hit him on Saturday. He called Trump's reaction following the failed assassination attempt "badass" and inspiring.

Zuckerberg's remarks come amid media reports that Biden plans to drop out of the presidential race following his dismal performance at the June 27 debate against Trump and growing pressure from his fellow Democratic Party members to do so.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that several members of Biden's cabinet are beginning to have private conversations about whether he should suspend his presidential campaign amid the steep decline in support from his Democratic allies.

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US Sanctions 2 Members of Russian 'Hacktivist' Group - Treasury Dept.

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is sanctioning two members of the Russian hacktivist group Cyber Army of Russia Reborn (CARR) for their alleged ties to cyber operations against US critical infrastructure, the Treasury Department said on Friday.

"Since 2022, CARR, which also uses the name Cyber Army of Russia, has conducted low-impact, unsophisticated DDoS [distributed denial of service] attacks in Ukraine and against governments and companies located in countries that have supported Ukraine. In late 2023, CARR started to claim attacks on the industrial control systems of multiple US and European critical infrastructure targets," the Treasury Department said in a statement.

CARR has been responsible for manipulating industrial control system equipment at water supply, hydroelectric, wastewater and energy facilities in the US and Europe, the statement said.

The sanctions target CARR leader Yuliya Vladimirova Pankratova and primary hacker Denis Olegovich Degtyarenko, the statement added.

However, the Russian Foreign Ministry's International Information Security chief Artur Lyukmanov told Sputnik it is Russia's critical computer networks that has been increasingly attacked since the start of Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine in 2022.

In June, Ukrainian hackers targeted three of Russia's largest banks - Gazprombank, Alfa-Bank and VTB Bank - as well as the the country's National Payment Card System.

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Biden After Sentencing Says US to Keep 'Pushing Hard' for Release of Gershkovich

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – President Joe Biden said on Friday that the United States will continue "pushing hard" to secure the release of Wall Street Journal journalist Evan Gershkovich after he was sentenced to 16 years in prison by a Russian court earlier in the day.

"Today, Evan Gershkovich received a sentence of 16 years in a Russian prison, despite having committed no crime. Rather, he was targeted by the Russian government because he is a journalist and an American. We are pushing hard for Evan's release and will continue to do so," Biden said in a statement.

On Friday, the Sverdlovsk Regional Court sentenced Gershkovich to 16 years in a maximum-security prison on charges of espionage.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference earlier this week that Moscow had evidence of journalist Gershkovich's involvement in espionage activities, and Russian and US intelligence services were in contact about the possibility of an exchange.

Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Gershkovich in March 2023 on suspicion of trying to collect classified defense information for the United States while he was on assignment in Yekaterinburg. The Wall Street Journal denied the charges and Washington argued the reporter had been detained "wrongfully."

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Trudeau Appoints Steven MacKinnon as Canada's New Labor, Seniors Minister - Statement

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has appointed Steven MacKinnon as the country's new Minister of Labor and Minister of Seniors, Trudeau's office said in a statement on Friday.

"The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced a change to the Ministry: Steven MacKinnon becomes Minister of Labor and Seniors," the statement said.

MacKinnon previously acted as leader of the government in the House of Commons and will assume his duties as of today.

On Thursday, MacKinnon predecessors Seamus O'Reagan announced his resignation as Minister of Labor and Minister of Seniors and saying that he would not seek reelection. However, O'Reagan will continue to serve as a lawmaker until the next general elections in 2025.

Although O'Reagan said the decision was made over personal and family reasons, his departure arrives at a moment when concerned and dissenting voices arise from within the Liberal Party over their debacle in the Toronto-St. Paul federal by-election, which was lost to their Conservative counterparts after holding the region for 30 years.

In mid-June, an Ipsos poll revealed that Nearly 70% of Canadians would like to see Prime Minister Justin Trudeau step down from the premiership position. In addition, three in four Canadians would like to have another party take over the government and only a quarter say

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they believe the Liberals deserve to be reelected.

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US Continuing to Address Effects on Transportation Systems From Tech Outage - Buttigieg

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The United States is continuing to deal with the impact of the widespread tech outage on its transportation systems, with many flights impacted, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said on Friday.

"We're continuing to address effects on transportation systems from today's widespread tech outage," Buttigieg wrote on X. "Many flights are impacted as systems recover—passengers should check with their airline for updates and visit our website for more on passenger protections."

The global technical outage has also affected a wide range of other businesses, including hospitals, hotels, public transportation, and more. It is being attributed to a software update issued by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike that led devices running Microsoft Windows cloud computing systems to crash.

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US Arms Control Official Will Visit Romania for Energy, Climate Event - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Bonnie Jenkins will visit Romania from July 20-24 for a climate and energy ministerial meeting, the US State Department said on Friday.

"While in Romania, the Under Secretary will participate in the 5th Partnership for Transatlantic Energy and Climate Cooperation (P-TECC) Ministerial and attend events to celebrate a significant milestone in the Romania small modular reactor (SMR) project based on US technology," the State Department said in a statement.

Romania is leading the region on developing clean, safe and reliable SMR technology, the statement said. The developments support critical sustainability and energy security goals, the statement said.

The United States is proud to be Romania's partner on the matter, the statement added.

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More than 3,850 Flights Delayed in US Over CrowdStrike Outage – FlightAware

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – More than 3,850 flights have been delayed in the United States and more than 25,500 flights have been delayed worldwide as of Friday 10 a.m. EST, as

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a result of a global technical outage caused by a CrowdStrike software update, according to FlightAware data.

The flight data website reported 3,854 delayed flights within, into, or departing the United States on Friday out of 25,536 delayed flights across the world. Additionally, it reported 1,423 flight cancellations within, into, or departing the US out of 2,465 cancellations across the world.

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport bore the brunt of delays and cancellations in the US, with 222 delayed and 133 canceled flights originating from the airport, and 228 delayed and 125 canceled flights destined there.

The global technical outage has also affected a wide range of other businesses, including hospitals, hotels, public transportation, and more. It is being attributed to a software update issued by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike that led devices running Microsoft Windows cloud computing systems to crash.

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Global Tech Outage Grounds Flights But Spares Stock Exchanges

NEW YORK, July 19 (Sputnik) - A global technology outage impacted the computers of airlines, banks and healthcare systems from Europe to the United States on Friday, causing flights to be grounded while stock exchanges seemed unaffected.

Nasdaq, one of the major US stock market exchanges, said it expected to trade as usual for the day.

"Our European markets and US pre-market are operating normally," a spokesman of Nasdaq, which lists mainly technology stocks, said in an update issued through US media.

Earlier, in Europe, exchange-operator Euronext said the outage had not affected stocks trading in the region. The London Stock Exchange also said its news service RNS was down earlier in the day, although securities trading was not affected.

While stock markets were spared, American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines were forced to ground flights, according to media reports that also cited airports in Germany, Amsterdam and Spain experiencing issues.

Ryanair, Europe's largest airline by passenger numbers, warned customers of potential disruptions while passengers at Edinburgh airport were reportedly unable to use automated boarding pass scanners.

The glitch occurred after the Austin, Texas-based cybersecurity company CrowdStrike, a major provider of malware and virus protection to a large array of companies, issued a single software update that impacted millions of users of Microsoft's Windows devices globally.

Media reports noted there had been few outages of such a scale and that the cascading failures underscored the vulnerabilities of the modern economy and the central role of security software, which ran the operating systems governing businesses and services.

CrowdStrike Holdings Chief Executive Officer George Kurtz said in a statement posted on the social media platform X that the fault had been identified and a fix has been deployed, adding that it was not an attack planned on the company or its users..

"Mac and Linux hosts are not impacted," Kurtz said, referring, respectively, to the operating

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system for Apple computers and a major business application. “This is not a security incident or cyberattack.”

An unrelated issue with Microsoft’s Azure cloud service that occurred simultaneously with the CrowdStrike software glitch added to Friday’s problem. Microsoft also said the underlying cause had been fixed on its applications although "residual impact" continued to disrupt some services.

CrowdStrike shares plunged as much as 13% in Friday’s pre-market US trading before steadying with a 3% decline, similar to Microsoft’s.

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Global IT Outage Did Not Affect Canada’s Air Navigation Services - NAV Canada

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - The air navigation service provider NAV Canada said on Friday that the ongoing worldwide IT outage has not affected its systems.

"The reported global IT outage has not affected NAV Canada systems," the air navigation service provider said via X. "We are working closely with our industry partners to understand how we can best support their operations and passengers."

NAV Canada advised passengers to check their flight status directly with the airlines they are flying with.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment affected telecommunications operators, banks, and airlines around the world.

The US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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White House Denies Reports About Biden Family Discussing His Exit From Race

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) - Media reports alleging that the Biden family is in discussions about President Joe Biden’s withdrawal from the 2024 race are "wrong," White House Senior Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates said on Friday.

"Wrong. Keep the faith," Bates said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, NBC reported that the Biden’s family have begun discussions about his potential plan to exit the 2024 presidential race amid growing pressure on him to drop out.

The discussions are focused on putting the Democratic Party in the best position to win the upcoming election and not letting Donald Trump come back to the White House, the report said.

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Biden Briefed on CrowdStrike Outage, Team in Touch With Impacted Entities - White House

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WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden has been briefed on the CrowdStrike-related global IT outages and his team is in touch with impacted entities, the White House press pool said on Friday.

Biden tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday and self-isolated in Delaware.

Biden's team is engaged across the interagency to get sector-by-sector updates throughout the day and is ready to assist, the pool said.

The president was also briefed on the drone attack overnight n Tel Aviv.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment began, which affected telecom operators, banks, and airlines around the world. US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure in Windows had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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Транспортный гигант DHL заявил РИА Новости, что влияние сбоя на их работу ограниченное

ВАШИНГТОН, 19 июл - РИА Новости. Мировой транспортный гигант DHL в пятницу заявил РИА Новости, что глобальный сбой не сильно повлиял на их работу, но в ряде регионов у поставщиков возникли проблемы.

"Сбои, связанные с CrowdStrike, в настоящее время оказывают лишь очень ограниченное и локальное влияние на DHL Group. В некоторых регионах были затронуты поставщики и деловые партнеры. Мы внимательно следим за ситуацией и находимся в постоянном контакте с нашими деловыми партнерами", - заявила представитель компании Памела Дуке Рай.

Утром в пятницу начался глобальный сбой техники, работающей на базе Windows, из-за которого пострадали операторы связи, банки и авиакомпании по всему миру. Американская компания CrowdStrike подтвердила, что глобальный сбой в работе Windows случился из-за ее обновления для приложения кибербезопасности Falcon Sensor.

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DHL Group Says CrowdStrike Outage Has Limited Local Impact on Its Operations

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – DHL Group told Sputnik on Friday that it is experiencing "very limited and local" impact on its operations amid IT outages related to cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike with some regional suppliers and business partners being affected.

"The Crowdstrike-related outages currently have only very limited and local impact on DHL Group. In some regions suppliers and business partners are affected. We are closely monitoring the situation and are in continuous contact with our business partners," a DHL Group spokesperson said in a statement.

On Friday morning, a global failure of Windows-based equipment began, which affected

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telecom operators, banks, and airlines around the world. US company CrowdStrike confirmed that the global failure in Windows had occurred due to its update for the Falcon Sensor cybersecurity application.

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biden briefed on CrowdStrike outage, drone attack near us embassy office overnight in Tel Aviv - white house

Sputnik

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DHL has experienced 'very limited impact' from Crowdstrike outage, suppliers and business partners affected In some regions - spokesperson to sputnik

Sputnik

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Biden's Family Starts Discussing His Exit Plan From 2024 Race – Reports

WASHINGTON, July 19 (Sputnik) – Family members of US President Joe Biden have begun discussions about his potential plan to exit the 2024 presidential race amid growing pressure on him to drop out, NBC reported on Friday. citing two people familiar with the matter.

Discussions about a possible plan for Biden are focused on putting the Democratic Party in the best position to win the upcoming election and not letting Donald Trump come back to the White House, the report said.

Newsmax commentator Mark Halperin said on Thursday that Biden has agreed to withdraw his candidacy, which could happen as early as this weekend, with Sunday being the most likely day. There is already a speech prepared for him and he will continue his duties as the sitting president, Halperin reported.

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