Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

7/25/24 Thursday

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

Harris Coronation Demonstrates America's Democratic Deficit – Analyst

Over the weekend, US President Joe Biden bowed out of this year's presidential race and in the same swift move endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris while transferring his campaign funds to her. While the VP is not the official Democratic nominee, many Democratic lawmakers and elites have already endorsed her candidacy.

A recent article by activist and former Green Party vice presidential candidate Ajamu Baraka considers the Democratic Party's substitution of Kamala Harris as its presumptive presidential nominee and the development's significance within the US political system. "The gangster move by the oligarchs that control the Democrats stripped away any pretense that any real structures of democracy exist in that party," Baraka suggests.

The article argues that special interests appear to hold sufficient power to remove a presidential nominee and quickly fill that role with whomever they choose.

On Thursday, writer and activist Margaret Kimberley joined Sputnik's The Critical Hour program to discuss the current crisis of democracy in the US as well as Nicaragua's struggle against US intervention as they recently celebrate 45 years since the Sandinista revolution, which ushered in a government the United States deems to be undemocratic.

"If this happened anywhere else in the world, we'd call it a banana republic," Kimberly said of Joe Biden's replacement. "We'd say it was authoritarianism. We'd say it's not democratic. All of those things apply here, except we're talking about this country. We see how undemocratic the system is, how undemocratic the Democratic Party is."

"They pushed Biden through, they rigged it for him four years ago. They lied about his health for the past four years. Told us not to believe our lying eyes when we could see his declining state of health."

"And when they saw the failure of their plan, they unceremoniously shoved him under the bus. They have anointed Kamala Harris. Everybody fell into line. Millions of dollars for her campaign and all because rich donors, the people that Ajamu points out really run the Democratic Party, had a change of mind about who the nominee ought to be," she concluded.

Baraka argues that for nearly two years, it seemed obvious that "Biden would not be a credible candidate in 2024 due to his noticeable cognitive decline and the ineptitude of his administration". Baraka suggested Biden was coerced into taking part in a debate against Trump in order to hasten his removal as the Democratic Party candidate.

"They knew they could not go forward with him and they went along with this early debate to try to speed up the process and get rid of him before the convention," Kimberley suggested. "I also believe they thought Trump would be out because of all these criminal charges. I think they thought Trump would be out. He either wouldn't run again or that Republican voters would turn to someone else, and they would be running against a Republican with less of Trump's popularity."

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

“But, all of this happened because of corruption. And I think that's the way we should discuss it, that these are the people who run everything, and the last thing they want is for the voters to have a choice,” she argued. “We are now – the Democratic Party – going to have a presidential nominee who nobody voted for to be president."

"There's not one voter anywhere in the country this year or in 2020 who said 'I want Kamala Harris,'" Kimberley emphasized.

“Despite misgivings that many Democratic voters have about her, they're going to go along,” she claimed. “The panic, the fear of a Republican victory, a Trump victory no less, is something that most Democrats will just get behind. So I think she has a chance to win, especially with the money, the corporate media, and all Democratic politicians being behind her.”

Meanwhile, the United States frequently labels other countries which demand self-determination and national sovereignty “undemocratic”, Kimberley wrote in a recent article.

“The US is under the thumb of billionaire oligarchs who restrict what we see and hear. The corporate media play the role of servant and keep the people simultaneously uninformed and misinformed,” Kimberley wrote. “Knowledge of the rest of the world is extremely limited and only those who are sufficiently self-motivated will venture outside of the bubble. Yet doing so is imperative.”

“This is a country that has long struggled against US intervention," Kimberley said of Nicaragua. "We've seen in the 1850s they actually tried to overthrow the government. In the 1900s, they sent in Marines. They put in the [US-backed] Somoza family for decades, murdered the revolutionary leader [Augusto] Sandino, hence the name Sandinista."

Kimberley noted that Nicaragua has not “aided and abetted a genocide in Gaza,” nor has it killed “thousands of Ukrainians in a proxy war.” Rather, the country is committed to providing free healthcare and university education, yet ironically, both of these policies are declared to be "impossibilities in the US and are dismissed out of hand by Democrats and Republicans alike”.

“The Sandinistas won, then actually lost an election because of the US intervention, the Contra war... The World Court said the US owes Nicaragua money for all the damage that it caused. They won the election again. Trump was behind a coup attempt in 2018.”

“Biden has, as always, gone along with Trump administration policy and has used sanctions to try to weaken this government, which is an elected government," Kimberley said. "Daniel Ortega is the elected president of his country. Meanwhile the United States, as we just discussed, lives under the rule of an oligarchy. So, which country is democratic? Nicaragua or the US?”

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

More Than 100 Bottles of Champagne Discovered at Site of 19th Century Shipwreck

The team has found a number of wrecks in the Baltic Sea, but it was rare to discover a site with such a boozy bounty.

A group of divers working to comb through the Baltic Sea for shipwrecks have made a significant discovery about 20 nautical miles south of the Swedish island of Öland. The team of divers discovered a 19th century sailing ship loaded with a large stock of champagne, wine, mineral water and porcelain.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Tomasz Stachura, the leader of the Polish diving group Baltictech, said the ship was in “very good condition” and was “brimming with historical treasures, including crates of champagne, baskets of mineral water and porcelain.”
Stachura said the divers did not initially expect the wreck to be “anything significant” and added that the team “even hesitated for a moment whether to dive at all.”
The Balitctech team has found “numerous wrecks” in the Baltic Sea, but it was rare for them to discover a site with such a boozy bounty.
More than 100 bottles of champagne were discovered – however, it is not the oldest champagne found in a Baltic shipwreck. In 2010, diving instructor Christian Ekstrom and his team found 30 or more bottles on a ship near the Aland Islands. The bottles are thought to date back to the 1780s, and were most likely on route to Russia.
"It tasted fantastic," said Ekstrom. "It was a very sweet champagne, with a tobacco taste and oak."
The divers notified Swedish regional authorities about their discovery, but probably won’t be able to open the champagne just yet. Several formalities will have to be settled before they can crack open the loot.
However, Stachura said he is not intimidated over the wait.
“It had been lying there for 170 years, so let it lie there for one more year, and we will have time to better prepare for the operation,” he said.

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

Weeks Where Decades Happen: Three Dramatic Developments in US Presidential Race

The attempted assassination of Donald Trump on July 13 followed a much commented upon debate with President Biden two weeks earlier. This weekend, Biden officially dropped out of the race.
In a recent article in CounterPunch Dr. Jack Rasmus writes that “any number of crises on the foreign policy front” are possible as US President Joe Biden can be seen as a "lame duck." The "neocons running US foreign policy and US wars the past two years may now run amuck,” he claimed.
On Thursday Sputnik’s The Critical Hour program sat down with Rasmus, an author and professor of economics at Saint Mary’s College in California with a PhD in political economy.
Rasmus said “three bombshells have gone off” in less than a month in the US presidential race.
“[During] the June 27th first presidential debate the general public got to see what the insiders had been looking at for well over a year and keeping quiet, and that was the obvious deterioration, mentally, of President Biden,” Ramsus said. “That was the first thing that got set off.”
“And then the second, of course, was the botched assassination attempt of former President Trump or candidate Trump, whatever you want to call him, and obviously, very, very lax Secret Service coverage."
“People are aware that the Trump campaign's been asking for a long time for better coverage from the Secret Service, but the Democrats have been preventing it,” Rasmus claimed. “And

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

then the third one was this abrupt turnaround after weeks and months saying [Biden is] not going to leave, he's in good health and all the Democrat media and politicians pretty much confirming that. Then, all of a sudden Biden says, 'I'm gone.'"

Rasmus said the donors to the president's campaign were the force that very clearly kicked off an effort to drive him out and that politicians joined the effort afterwards. The author remarked that it was strange to hold a presidential debate in June, more than four months out from November's election.

"Why did we ever have a presidential debate in June? I can't remember any time we had one in June," Rasmus said. "Why in June? To me that means that the money bags, the donors, and their political leadership in the Democratic Party knew this guy was having problems and they just wanted to see whether he could weather them publicly. And, of course, he couldn't. He failed."

"But that gave them plenty of time to do what they just did, which is to get him out of there before the convention that comes up in August," he added. "So bottom line: that means that the money bags, the donors manipulated the leadership of the party, who manipulated this guy, both in the election and when he got elected back in 2020."

Sputnik's Wilmer Leon asked the show's guest for his take on Vice President Kamala Harris' likelihood of becoming the Democratic nominee. Following his exit from the race, Biden threw his support behind Harris and moved to transfer campaign funds to her new team.

"Several days ago I would have said it's up for grabs," Rasmus claimed. "It all depends on whether the donors actually come back or not. If they didn't come back, then it would really be up for grabs. But it seems that a lot of them have come back, and now they have the holdouts, which of course were Obama and Pelosi."

"Pelosi has joined back and said she's our candidate and then, of course, we've got Obama, who's getting closer to the absolute announcement that he's for it, if he hasn't already done it before. So I think they are now coalescing around Harris."

Former President Barack Obama is reportedly planning to endorse Harris' presidential bid, Politico reported. The former president holds powerful sway over the Democratic Party faithful and was a staunch supporter Biden's aborted campaign. Obama was recently criticized by activists from the group 'Black Men for Harris,' who claimed it was insulting that the former president has yet to endorse the Vice President.

"The chance of another alternative in the convention, that possibility, has declined – significantly so," said Rasmus. "It looks like she will be [the nominee], although it's still an open possibility. But the top-down controls that party. The leadership is so strong in the coalition with the moneybags that if you challenge it, you're out."

Democrats reportedly plan to hold a virtual roll call vote to confirm their nominee as early as August 1 and no later than August 7. The Democratic National Convention will begin August 19.

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

UPDATE - Fed's Choice Inflation Gauge PCE Up 2.5% in Yearto June, Closing In Rate Cut Hopes

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

(Adds details, comments and context in paras 4-15)

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - A US inflation tracker closely followed by the Federal Reserve grew 2.5% in the year to June, closing in on the central bank's target that could pave the way for an interest rate cut by September, data from the Commerce Department showed on Friday.

The Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, often simply known as the PCE, is closely watched by the Fed for signs on whether inflation has cooled sufficiently to bring rates down from two-decade highs.

The central bank will get its first opportunity to review rates at its policy meeting on July 31, although Wall Street is betting on a cut happening at the Fed's September 18 meeting.

Historical data showed the PCE grew 2.6% year-on-year in May. Economists on Wall Street had bet on a 2.4% growth for June.

While the number reported by the Commerce Department on Friday was a touch higher than forecast, it nevertheless inched in on the Fed's flat 2% target for annual inflation.

Economist Greg Michalowski said in a post after the PCE data release that the Fed appeared on course to cutting as much as 67 basis points, or 0.67%, from rates in 2024.

The central bank itself has only indicated two rounds of cuts before the end of this year, typically in installments of 25 basis points, or 0.25%, per reduction.

"A cut in September [is] priced in," Michalowski wrote on the ForexLive forum, concurring with most of Wall Street that the Fed will likely pass on a rate change when its policy-making Federal Open Market Committee, or FOMC, meets end of this month.

Aside from the July and September FOMC meetings, the central bank will meet two more times this year — on November 7 and December 18 — to review rates.

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%.

Rates are currently in a range of between 5.25% and 5.5%, their highest since 2002.

Besides the PCE, another popular US Inflation gauge — the Consumer Price Index — showed 3% annual growth in June, down from its pandemic peak of 9.1% two years ago.

"We are making real progress fighting inflation," President Joe Biden said in a statement released by the White House on Friday.

Until the coronavirus outbreak, the Fed had trouble with inflation that was too low. Between 2015 and 2020, core PCE — a reading stripped of volatile food and fuel prices — grew just 1.7% per year at the average versus the Fed's 2% target. The central bank said then that it needed higher inflation to spur economic growth.

The latest readings on the economy, as measured by Gross Domestic Product, showed a 2.8% growth in the quarter ended June, double that witnessed in the three months to March. It was further evidence that the Fed could cut rates, without the worry of a looming recession.

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

US Takes 2 Alleged Sinaloa Cartel Leaders Into Custody - Justice Dept.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - US Attorney General Merrick Garland announced on Friday that the Justice Department took two more alleged leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel into custody.

"On Thursday, the Justice Department took into custody in El Paso two more alleged leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the most violent and powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world. Both men are facing multiple charges in the United States for leading the cartel's criminal operations, including its deadly drug manufacturing and trafficking networks," Garland said in recorded remarks.

The two alleged leaders are Ismael Zambada Garcia (known as El Mayo), a co-founder of the cartel, and Joaquin Guzman Lopez, a son of the cartel's other co-founder known as El Chapo.

Garcia faces charges for fentanyl trafficking, money laundering, firearms offences, kidnapping and conspiracy to commit murder.

Guzman Lopez faces charges for trafficking cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine, among other drugs.

Both men will initially appear in US federal court in the coming days.

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

Russia Contacted Pentagon on July 12 to Prevent Another Ukrainian Terror Attack - Reports

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - The last conversation between Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov and his US counterpart Lloyd Austin on July 12 included a request from Moscow to put pressure on Kiev to abandon plans to carry out another terrorist attack inside Russia, the New York Times reported on Friday, citing two US officials.

During the call, Belousov asked Austin if he was aware of the Ukrainian plot in the works and warned that if the attack goes ahead, it will increase tensions between Moscow and Washington, the report said.

While the Defense Department responded that it was unaware of the plot, it took Belousov's request and warning seriously and contacted the Ukrainians to force them not to proceed with the plans, the report said.

The Defense Department in a statement to Sputnik refused to confirm the details of the call between the two officials.

Since February 2022, Ukraine has carried out dozens of terrorist attacks on Russian territory, including the bombing of the Kerch Bridge and the assassinations of Russian journalists and military personnel.

Belousov and Austin spoke two times over the past month. The Defense Department initiated the first call on June 25 for the first time since 2023 to emphasize the importance of maintaining lines of communication open between the two countries.

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

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Netanyahu in White House Meeting Protests US Sanctions Against Israeli Settlers – Reports

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) – Israeli Prime Minister complained to US National Security adviser Jake Sullivan about Washington's sanctions against Israeli settlers involved in violence in the West Bank, Axios said on Friday, citing two Israeli and US officials.

The officials described the conversation between the Israeli leader and Sullivan as difficult, the report said.

One official said Netanyahu forcefully protested the sanctions. He called them counterproductive and expressed concerns that the US could impose restrictions against several members of his cabinet, according to the report.

The Israeli prime minister also raised the issue with US Vice President Kamala Harris, it added.

"The Vice President also expressed her concern about actions that undermine stability and security in the West Bank, such as extremist settler violence and settlement expansion," Harris spokesperson said, as quoted by Axios.

Officials from both countries emphasized that Sullivan expressed disagreement with Netanyahu's position and stressed that the Biden administration policy on this issue would continue, the report added.

Earlier in July, the United States imposed sanctions on three Israeli individuals and five entities for acts of violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, saying that Washington is deeply concerned about extremist violence and instability in the West Bank and urging Israel to take immediate action against the responsible individuals and entities. The US State Department also warned of continued US accountability measures if no action is taken.

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

Fed's Key Inflation Gauge PCE Index Up 2.5% in Year to June, Closing In Rate Cut Hopes

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - A US inflation tracker closely followed by the Federal Reserve grew 2.5% year-on-year in June, closing in on a central bank target that could pave the way for an interest rate cut by September, data from the Commerce Department showed on Friday.

The Personal Consumption Expenditures Index, often simply known as the PCE, is being closely watched by the Fed for signs on whether inflation has cooled sufficiently to bring rates down from two-decade highs. The central bank will get its first opportunity to review rates at its policy meeting on July 31, although Wall Street is betting on a cut happening at the Fed's September 18 meeting.

Historical data showed the PCE grew 2.6% year-on-year in May. Economists on Wall Street had bet on a 2.4% growth for June. While the number reported by the Commerce Department was a touch higher than forecast, it nevertheless inched in on the Fed's flat 2% target for annual inflation.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

Neuralink's First Brain Chip Patient Says Elon Musk 'Incredible,' His Support 'Amazing'

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Elon Musk's company Neuralink is one of a kind and the billionaire businessman's support for a startup that aims to help people with disabilities regain control of their bodies is nothing short of incredible, the company's first brain-chip implant recipient Noland Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview.

"I like Elon Musk. I think a lot of what he's doing is incredible," Arbaugh said. "Doing the work that he's doing for people like me who are handicapped, who had disabilities, it's like having the most powerful man in the world in some respects backing what I believe is most important to me in a lot of ways. It's amazing."

Arbaugh, who was left paralyzed from the shoulders down after a 2016 diving accident, became the first person to receive a Neuralink brain implant in January. The implant includes an N1 computer chip in his skull and an electrode array in his brain that allows him to control a computer with his thoughts.

"I knew it would come with a lot of media attention, but luckily, I enjoy talking to people," Arbaugh said of his decision to become Neuralink's first patient.

"I think we have a shared vision in a lot of ways, of wanting to help humanity, wanting to better humanity," Arbaugh said of Musk.

Neuralink has said its main mission is to create a generalized brain interface to restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs today and unlock human potential tomorrow.

While the work Neuralink is doing is important, Arbaugh said he also recognizes that there are similarly important developments in many other fields in the world.

The work of Musk's spacecraft manufacturer, launch service provider and satellite communications company SpaceX is incredibly important, he said.

"There are important things going on in every field in the world … I don't necessarily think that what I'm doing is the most important piece of the puzzle in the world," Arbaugh added.

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

Neuralink's First Brain Chip User Says Hopes to Keep Using Implant After Study Ends

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Neuralink's first brain chip implant recipient Noland Arbaugh told Sputnik that he hopes to keep using the implant even after his six-year study with the company concludes.

"Once I'm out of the study, hopefully at some point, I would get an upgrade and continue being able to use it, because it would be hard going from this back to nothing again. I'm sure there's going to be a time when that will be the case," Arbaugh said when asked whether he would like to continue participating in Neuralink's studies.

Arbaugh, who is a quadriplegic and paralyzed from the neck down since severely harming his

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

spinal cord in 2016, said he knows what it is like to live without the chip for seven years.
"I think I'll be fine without it after the study is over," Arbaugh said.
In January, Arbaugh became the first person to have Neuralink implant the company's N1 chip in his skull with an electrode array in his brain that allows him to control a computer with his thoughts.
The first Neuralink study is expected to last six years and Arbaugh emphasized that the first year is the initial phase of the trial study.
Neuralink has said its mission is to create a generalized brain interface to restore autonomy to those with unmet medical needs today and unlock human potential tomorrow.

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

First Brain Chip Patient Says Pairing With Optimus Robot Would Make Him 'Most Independent'

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - The first Neuralink brain chip patient Noland Arbaugh told Sputnik that operating the Optimus robot via his implant would make him the most independent.
"The Optimus robot would probably be the best. It would make me the most independent, I think, that I have been since my accident if I had a full Optimus robot," Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview.
Arbaugh, who is quadriplegic, having suffered a severe spinal cord injury in 2016, made the comment in response to a question about what Neuralink-paired innovation would help him the most in his daily life.
Optimus is a general-purpose human-like robot under development by Elon Musk's company Tesla. The company showed a prototype of the robot in 2022.
Arbaugh said the Optimus robot could replace his caretaker and do everything for him, which would be "a huge step forward" in how he organizes and lives his life.
"I think that would change a lot of people's lives," Arbaugh said, referring to the possibility that the pairing could have a positive impact on the lives of other affected individuals.
Neuralink owner Elon Musk has said that he would like to pair the company's brain chip implant with its Optimus robot.
Earlier this month, Musk said that he and the Neuralink team want to give people "superpowers" rather than just restore their prior brain functionality, given that they have functionality far greater than a human being.

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

First Neuralink Brain Chip Patient Says Hopes Implant Will Help Him Obtain Job

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Noland Arbaugh, the first Nauralink patient to have the company's N1 chip implanted in his brain, told Sputnik that he hopes the implant would help him obtain a job, among other tangible benefits

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

"I might be able to get a job that I wasn't able to before because I'm able to do a lot that other people are able to do. I could go back to school and I think that's a huge advantage," Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview.

Arbaugh made the comment in response to a question as to what he sees are the biggest advantages of the having the device implanted in his brain.

He is quadriplegic, having suffered a severe spinal cord injury while swimming in a lake in 2016.

Arbaugh said going back to school has been a long-standing desire despite not knowing how to submit written homework or perform mathematics problems.

Arbaugh has had the chip embedded in his skull and an electrode array in his brain for seven months. The chip includes 1,024 electrodes distributed among 64 threads.

In January, Arbaugh underwent an approximately 30-minutes-long operation with Neuralink to become the first person to have the chip implanted in his brain.

The device, which is about the size of a quarter but somewhat thicker, is connected to Arbaugh's motor cortex part of the brain.

Neuralink has said it aims to develop a comprehensive computer-brain interface that incorporates a generalized input and output device to enable interactions with all aspects of the brain.

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

First Neuralink Patient With Brain Chip Says Hopes to Test Drive Car by Using Implant

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Neuralink's pioneering N1 brain chip may be used in the future to enable operating a vehicle, patient Noland Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview.

Arbaugh, who is paralyzed from the neck down due to a severe spinal cord injury in 2016, has had the chip implanted in his skull and an electrode array in his brain for seven months and has started fingerspelling and even handwriting with the help of the implant.

"But maybe at some point in the study, it's something that they will be able to do, hook me up to a car and let me test it out or something," Arbaugh said.

Arbaugh made the comment in response to a question about what experiments he finds most exciting.

The patient also said the Neuralink implant may help him potentially control other devices such as a telephone, gaming consoles and different objects around the room as well as other assistive devices.

The chip includes 1,024 electrodes distributed among 64 threads, with some of them having retracted due to natural brain movements.

In January, Arbaugh underwent an approximately 30-minute-long operation during which time the Neuralink team implanted the chip.

The device is about the size of a quarter although thicker and is connected to the patient's motor cortex part of the brain.

Neuralink has said it aims to develop a comprehensive computer-brain interface that incorporates a generalized input and output device to enable interactions with all aspects of the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

brain.

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

Neuralink Figuring Out How to Install Brain Implant App on Other Devices - First Patient

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Noland Arbaugh, Neuralink's first patient with a computer chip brain implant, told Sputnik that the company's team is aiming to install the same application he uses for remote control use on other devices.

"They're trying to figure it out for a Mac at this point. And all that they would be able to do is just take that application and upload it onto really any device: onto a phone, on a different computer, onto a tablet, anything like that, and I would be able to control it," Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview.

Arbaugh, who is quadriplegic, made the comment in response to a question about what aspect of the current use of the implant he finds most exciting.

As of now, much of the effort he exerts to control a cursor has to be "tweaked" given that there is no cursor control on the telephone, he said.

Arbaugh has had the computer N1 chip implant embedded in his skull and an electrode array in his brain for seven months.

The chip includes 1,024 electrodes distributed among 64 threads, with some of them having retracted due to natural brain movements.

In May, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Neuralink's request to implant the brain device in a second person. Neuralink chief Elon Musk said the second person should undergo the operation soon.

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

China Not Going to Interfere in US Presidential Election - Chinese Ambassador to US

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - Beijing does not plan to interfere in the upcoming presidential election in the United States and hopes that Washington would exercise a similar approach toward China, including on "the Taiwan question," Chinese Ambassador to the US Xie Feng has told an event held in the Chinese Embassy.

"China is willing to be a partner, a friend of the United States. We did not bet against the United States and will not interfere in US domestic affairs, including this election. Likewise, we hope the United States side will not suppress China's development, interfere in China's domestic affairs, or export China-US relations to its national," the ambassador told the event held on the occasion of the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Thursday.

The ambassador added that "the Taiwan question is the first and foremost requirement that should not be crossed" in the bilateral relationship.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

Ukraine Crisis Should Not Become Issue in China-US Relations - Chinese Ambassador to US

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is not and should not become an issue in the China-US relationship, and any conflict between Beijing and Washington would cause "unimaginable consequences" for the entire world, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Xie Feng has told an event held in the Chinese Embassy.

"The Ukraine crisis is not and should not be an issue in China and the United States, and an early ceasefire serves the interests of all states," the ambassador told the event on the occasion of the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on Thursday.

Xie added that Beijing and Washington should "value peace and put a law of no conflict and no confrontation," as progress in the bilateral relationship has historically been difficult for them.

"The China-US relationship is too big to fail. Any conflict or confrontation would cause unimaginable consequences for both countries and the entire world," the ambassador said.

"We choose openness and cooperation, global development and prosperity we have a great hold. We hope the United States summit will work with us in the same direction: to stabilize and improve the bilateral relationship in the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and willful cooperation, with a sense of responsibility for the people, for the world, and for the nation," the diplomat said.

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

Neuralink's Brain Chip Implant Allows Controlling Cursor by Imagining Movements - Patient

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Neuralink's N1 brain chip allows the user to control a cursor solely by imagining the desired movement, the company's first implant recipient Noland Arbaugh told Sputnik.

"I no longer have to attempt to move my hand in order to get the cursor to move. I just think that I want the cursor to move and it moves," Arbaugh said as he described what the company calls an "imagined movement."

Arbaugh pointed out that it takes a while for the operating algorithm to learn how to move a cursor, but eventually it is "more than capable" to do so.

There are several ways to move the cursor, including by so-called "attempted movement," during which his signals for movement are picked up by the threads implanted in his brain's motor cortex and translated into actions.

Arbaugh said that with time, this attempted movement turns into the aforementioned imagined movement. But the transition was not intuitive and took about a week to figure out, he said.

For over seven months, Arbaugh, who is a quadriplegic, has had a computer chip implant embedded in his skull and an electrode array in his brain. In 2016, Arbaugh suffered a severe spinal cord injury while swimming and became paralyzed from the shoulders down.

The N1 chip includes 1,024 electrodes distributed among 64 threads, some of which retracted

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

due to natural brain movements. Neuralink says it has since fixed this issue.
In January, Arbaugh underwent an approximately 30-minute long operation with Neuralink, which implanted the in-brain device in a human subject for the first time. The device is about the size of a coin but a bit thicker, and is connected to Noland's motor cortex part of the brain.
Neuralink has said it aims to develop a comprehensive brain interface that incorporates a generalized input and output device to enable interactions with all aspects of the brain.

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

Neuralink 1st Patient With Brain Chip Implant Says Successfully Practices Fingerspelling

AUSTIN, July 26 (Sputnik), Lenka White - Noland Arbaugh, the first patient with a computer chip implanted in his brain by Elon Musk's company Neuralink, told Sputnik that he has successfully practiced fingerspelling with the help of the implant.
Arbaugh, who is quadriplegic, has had the N1 computer chip implanted with an electrode array in his brain for seven months.
"We did one that's fingerspelling, like sign language, which I thought is really, really cool," Arbaugh told Sputnik in an interview. "I can fingerspell in sign language, the alphabet and it seems that the algorithms picked that up really well."
Arbaugh explained that he recently began practicing handwriting with the assistance of the Neuralink team.
The handwriting practice started with five or six characters and together with the earlier spelling exercise provided enough information for the algorithm to pick up the practice.
"This all is just the beginning," Arbaugh said with a sense of enthusiasm. "We are only six months in."
The N1 implant has been designed to record and transmit neural activity. It operates with the help of 1,024 electrodes spread across 64 threads. The implant has seen some electrodes retract due to the brain's natural movement.
In May, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved that Neuralink install the brain implant in a second person, which, according to Musk, should undergo the operation soon.

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

US Navy Issues $106Mln Contract For Support Services on Guam in Pacific - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - The US Navy has awarded a more than $106 million contract to a New Jersey company to provide support services on the island of Guam in the Pacific Ocean, the Department of Defense announced in a press release,
"DZSP 21 [of] Marlton, New Jersey is awarded $106,304,464 for [a] ...modification ...contract ...for the exercise of Option Period Four for base operating support services in Joint Region Marianas," the release stated on Thursday.
Work on the contract will be performed in Guam, the Defense Department added.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

The contract is scheduled to last for a year and is expected to be completed by July 2025, the Defense Department said.

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

US Navy Orders $181Mln Work on Virginia Nuclear Subs From Electric Boat - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - The US Navy has awarded General Dynamics Electric Boat a $181 million modification contract to prepare materials to build Virginia Class Block nuclear submarines, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"General Dynamics Electric Boat Corporation [of] Groton, Connecticut, is awarded a ...$181 million ...modification ...contract for long lead time material associated with the Virginia Class Block VI submarines," the release stated on Thursday.

Work on the contract will be performed in Sunnyvale, California (19%) and other locations across the United States, the Defense Department said.

Work on the contract is expected to take more than 11 years and is expected to be completed by September 2035, the Defense Department said.

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

US Navy Orders $496Mln in Machinery For Surface, Submarine Fleets - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, June 26 (Sputnik) - Eleven companies have received an almost half-a-billion dollar combined US Navy contract to manufacture machinery and systems for the US surface and submarine fleets, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"The contracts awarded to the 11 vendors are not to exceed a combined or total value of $496,122,397, over a five-year ordering period," the defense department said in the release on Thursday.

The Defense Department identified the first six companies as MaContinental Tide Defense Systems of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania; Delphinus Engineering of Eddystone, Pennsylvania; Epsilon Systems Solutions of Portsmouth, Virginia; General Dynamics Information Technology of Falls Church, Virginia; HII Fleet Support Group of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Life Cycle Engineering of North Charleston, South Carolina, the release said.

All 11 companies will provide "hull, mechanical and electrical machinery and systems services in support of surface fleet, submarine, shore-based installations, other federal agency vessels, and select maritime agency vessels," the Defense Department said.

The remaining companies were named NDI Engineering of Thorofare, New Jersey; QED Systems of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Serco of Herndon, Virginia; Valkyrie Enterprises of Virginia Beach, Virginia and VT Milcom of Virginia Beach, Virginia, the release said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

Raytheon Gets Nearly $2Bln Deal to Build Standard Missile 3 For US, Japan - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - Raytheon Technologies has won a more than $1.944 billion Missile Defense Agency contract to manufacture Standard Missile-3s for the United States and Japan, the Department of Defense announced in a press release.

"Raytheon Technologies, Tucson, Arizona, is being awarded a ...contract for $1,944,082,765 to perform the manufacture and assembly of Standard Missile-3 Block IIA All-Up Rounds for the US government and Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD)," the release said on Thursday.

The work will be performed in Tucson, Arizona; and Huntsville, Alabama, the Defense Department said.

Work on the contract is estimated to take six and a half years with an expected completion date of February 28, 2031, the Defense Department said.

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

US Air Force Blames Crew for Total Loss of B-1B Stealth Bomber - Report

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - A trained crew failed to monitor the loss of speed of a Rockwell B-1B Lancer Stealth bomber before a routine landing and was directly responsible for the bungled crash landing of the almost half a billion dollar aircraft on January 4, an official report has concluded..

"The Accident Investigation Board President found by a preponderance of the evidence that the cause of the mishap was the lack of an effective composite crosscheck by the MC [Mishap Crew]," the report said on Thursday,

The super-expensive high tech aircraft, which was in the elite striking force of the US nuclear-capable manned bomber force, crashed because the crew failed to monitor its dangerously accelerating loss of speed and altitude, the report said.

"The MC failed to conduct an effective crosscheck by not recognizing the MA [Mishap Aircraft] 's decreasing airspeed, accelerating descent rate," the report said.

The B-1B bomber crash-landed at Ellsworth Air Force Base 100 feet short of Runway 13. The crew of four safely ejected but the aircraft caught fire and was a total loss, costing $456,248,485, the report added.

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

Pentagon Confirms Strike Near Ain Al-Asad Airbase, Says No Damage or Casualties Occurred

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - A Pentagon spokesperson confirmed to Sputnik that a strike hit near the Ain al-Asad Airbase in Iraq, although there were no casualties or damage to the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

facility as a result of the attack.

"We can confirm that there was a strike that landed outside the base with no damage or injuries," the Pentagon said on Thursday.

It is not known at this time what equipment was used to conduct the strike or how many munitions were launched, the Pentagon added.

Earlier this month, two drones attacked Ain al-Asad Airbase, similarly resulting in no damage or casualties.

US and coalition forces in Iraq and Syria have been targeted with multiple attacks since October 2023, following Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel and the subsequent conflict in the Gaza Strip.

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

ANALYSIS - VIPER Rover Cancellation Puts Entire US Human Return to Moon Artemis Program at Risk

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) - NASA's decision to cancel its almost half-a billion-dollar Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) project puts the entire Artemis Program to land US astronauts on the Moon for the first time in five and a half decades at risk, analysts told Sputnik.

The US space agency announced earlier that it was pulling the plug on the already long-delayed, problem-plagued project that had been presented as a crucial preparation for the ambitious and also delayed manned Artemis missions to establish a permanent American base at the lunar South Pole.

Retired US Army Colonel Earl Rasmussen warned that NASA's decision, which was presented as a cost-cutting measure to stay within the agency's operating budget, put the entire Artemis program and vision at risk.

"I think the entire Artemis program is at risk," Rasmussen, a political consultant and former vice president of the Eurasia Foundation said. "The rover and lander are key components. And both have technical, schedule, and cost challenges. Complex supply chains only complicated the situation more and increased overall risks."

The Artemis Program now urgently needed a detailed review to include its objectives, team participants, technical challenges, schedule as well as costs, Rasmussen advised.

Cost issues were far from the only factors at work in the cancellation decision and the seriousness of supply chain production issues had not been sufficiently anticipated, Rasmussen observed.

"Perhaps cost is a driving factor: But I think there are many more we are not aware of; And that NASA may not be aware of. Multiple supply chain issues are potential indicators of hidden technical development challenges as well. The supply chain seems to be very complex, and a thorough examination needs to be taken of what are the underlying causes," he said.

The VIPER Rover was already 18 months behind schedule when the cancellation was announced and more problems were likely before the Rover could ever become operational, Rasmussen explained.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

TESTING CHALLENGES AND DELAYS

Rasmussen mentioned that, despite the completion of VIPER's development, testing challenges and delays are anticipated.

In addition, he stressed the need for further inquiries to resolve many outstanding questions.

Many of the problems plaguing the project appeared due to poor advanced planning and over-optimistic reliance on individuals, or far too few companies to manufacture the components, Rasmussen noted.

Canadian economic historian and industrial analyst Matthew Ehret, vice president of the Rising Tide Foundation in Montreal warned that NASA's decision to cancel the Rover was part of a momentous retreat from technological development and exploration that would have dire consequences for America's future.

"The cancellation of the already constructed Rover represents not only a failure in vision or any long-term thinking that may have given the decaying republic any viability but also a failure in understanding the basics of economic value," he said.

In reality, the United States was already admitting defeat in a technological race that would determine the future of the human race for centuries to come, Ehret predicted.

NASA had now written off nearly half a billion dollars on a project that was vital to the survival and spread of the human race, Ehret charged.

Moreover, NASA's announced justification for selling off the Rover for spare parts did not make any business sense, Ehret noted.

American University in Moscow President Edward Lozansky, a former Soviet nuclear physicist, added that many of the design and engineering problems plaguing the Rover and other key elements of the Artemis program could have been avoided or efficiently resolved already if the Biden administration had not rejected any prospect of cooperation on the project with the Russian and Chinese space programs.

NASA's original plan called for VIPER to reach the lunar surface in December 2022, adventuring across miles of Moon territory for a 100-day period and also using its four science instruments including a 1-meter drill to gather soil samples across a range of light and temperature.

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

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, July 26 (Sputnik) –

ARMS CONTROL

* The United States has repeatedly offered Russia to engage in talks on arms control but the vast majority of these offers have been rejected, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability Mallory Stewart.

* The United States respects the security concerns expressed by Russia and China even if it disagrees that Washington is the cause, Stewart said.

* The United States is open to risk reduction and arms control engagement with both China and Russia, Stewart said, commenting on the planned deployment of US long-range missiles in

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Germany.

* The United States hopes that it can maintain a political commitment with Russia to abide by the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) caps on warheads as long as each side complies, Stewart said.

NETANYAHU'S VISIT TO US

* The State Department would not assess Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's comments made during his address to Congress, where he described American protesters as "Iran's useful idiots," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Thursday.

* The United States does not consider the International Criminal Court (ICC) findings on Netanyahu appropriate, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said.

* US Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement that she denounces the unpatriotic and hateful acts of protesters who committed acts of vandalism at Wednesday's pro-Palestinian rally in Washington, DC.

US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

* US President Joe Biden will explore new opportunities on his foreign policy agenda after suspending his reelection campaign, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.

* Biden did not suspend his reelection campaign for medical reasons, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

* US Vice President Kamala Harris has published the first video of her election campaign, announcing that she will run in the US presidential election.

MIDDLE EAST

* US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller refuted on Thursday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims that no civilians have died in Rafah as a result of the ongoing military operation there.

* The United States will dismantle the $230 million temporary maritime pier into Gaza at the end of July after being operative for less than two months, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

* The United States is not currently withholding or slowing weapon deliveries to Israel, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* China does not profit from the conflict in Ukraine and strictly controls civilian and military dual-use items, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Fu Cong said on Thursday.

* Ukraine's purported willingness to negotiate is in line with Russia's position and is the preferred way, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said.

* The United States wants to create logistics centers in the Black Sea region to speed up arms supplies to Ukraine and deploy long-range weapons, Russian presidential aide Nikolai Patrushev said.

* A jet ski stuffed with explosives presumably from Ukraine was found in the sea off the coast of Istanbul, the military will inspect the finding, the Haber Global broadcaster reported.

RUSSIA-CHINA COOPERATION

* Moscow will work with Beijing to prevent interference from external forces and the central role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Thursday.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

* China is ready to cooperate with Russia to support each other in ensuring their basic interests, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.
* Lavrov and Wang Yi have discussed the prospects for the implementation of the concept initiated by Russia to create a new security architecture, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

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

Oil Continues To Crawl Out of 6-Week Lows After Upbeat US GDP Report

NEW YORK, July 25 (Sputnik) - Crude prices continued to crawl their way out of a six-week low after the US economy's upbeat performance in the second quarter gave traders and investors reason to chase up the oil market, which typically sees higher consumption in good times.

Both the US and UK crude benchmarks have gained almost 2% since the close of Monday's trading.

In Thursday's session, US West Texas Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude settled at $78.28 a barrel, up 69 cents, 0.9%. That added to the prior day's rebound of 0.8%, after the six-week low of $76.41 hit by WTI on Wednesday over worries about summer fuel demand. The US crude benchmark lost a combined 4% over two prior weeks but remains up about 9% for the year.

UK-origin Brent settled at $82.37 per barrel, up 66 cents, or 0.8%. That was in addition to Wednesday's gain of 0.9%. The global crude benchmark fell 4.5% over two prior weeks, reaching a six-week low of $80.53. Year-to-date, Brent is up 7%.

The US economy grew by an estimated annual rate of 2.8% in the second quarter of 2024, double that of the first quarter, the Commerce Department said Thursday in its preliminary reading of gross domestic product (GDP) for the period that beat Wall Street's 2% forecast.

More importantly, the growth numbers suggested an economy in robust expansion with moderating inflation that could encourage the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates by September, without the worry of recession, some commentators said. A rate cut could further boost the economy and, correspondingly, the oil market.

The GDP reading came after significant across-the-board draws in US stockpiles of crude and fuel reported by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) on Wednesday.

"US oil stocks data have now surprised with larger or unexpected drawdowns for the fourth consecutive week," Fawad Razaqdada, analyst at London-based Stone X, said, commenting on the phenomenon. "All these factors have helped to alleviate demand concerns somewhat, reducing the pressure on oil prices."

The (EIA), its Weekly Petroleum Status Report, noted a crude inventory decline of 3.741 million barrels for the week ended July 19, adding to the prior week's tumble of 4.87 million. US crude inventories have fallen almost 25 million barrels in all over the past four weeks.

For gasoline, the agency cited a decline of 5.572 million barrels in the latest week versus a build of 3.328 million barrels the prior week. Analysts had a forecast build of 1.4 million barrels instead. 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 drop of 2.753 million barrels, against the gain of 1.53 million forecasts by analysts after the prior week's build of 3.454 million. Distillates are primarily

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

processed into the diesel required by trucks, buses, and ships, and also go into making airplane fuel.

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

Harris, Trump 'Virtually Tied' in White House Race - NYT/Sienna Poll

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris and her challenger Donald Trump, the former president, are neck-to-neck in the 2024 race for the White House, according to a New York Times/Siena College poll released Thursday.

The poll showed the two candidates in a "virtual tie," with Trump leading Harris 48% to 47% in a head-to-head match. The poll surveyed 1,142 voters nationwide from July 22 to 24 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

The NYT-Siena poll came after a Reuters/Ipsos poll on Tuesday that found Democrat Harris leading Republican Trump by two points.

The two polls suggest improved chances for the Democratic party in the November 5 election after President Joe Biden stepped down at the weekend as its nominee, handing the torch to his deputy Harris.

Until last week, Biden had been trailing Trump by between 2 and 5 points in most polls for the election. The president left the race after pressure within his Democratic party to make way for another candidate, following his disastrous televised debate with Trump in June.

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

VP Harris Says Ready to Debate Trump, Claims Former President Back-Pedaling on It

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) – US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday accused former President Donald Trump of back-pedaling on having a debate with her, while she is ready to do it.

“He [Trump] agreed to that previously [having a debate on September 10]. Now appears he is backpedaling, but I'm ready, and I think the voters deserve to see the split screen that exists in this race on a debate stage and so I'm ready. Let's go on,” Harris told reporters.

The first and last debate between US President Joe Biden and Donald Trump took place on June 27. The incumbent president appeared confused and incoherent throughout the debate with the Republican presidential candidate, reinforcing rather than alleviating ongoing concerns about his cognitive abilities. Less than a month afterward, on July 21, Biden announced in a statement that he was withdrawing from the 2024 race.

The second debate between Biden and Trump was scheduled for September 10. Still, it remains to be seen whether the latter will agree to instead debate Harris, who is yet to be formally nominated by the Democratic Party.

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

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

US State Dept. OKs Possible $115Mln Sale of Small Diameter Bombs to Belgium -Pentagon

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The US State Department approved a potential $115 million sale of 196 small diameter bombs to the government of Belgium, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said on Thursday.

"The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Belgium of Small Diameter Bomb-Increment II and related elements of logistics and program support for an estimated cost of $115 million," DSCA said in a press release.

Besides the bombs, the government of Belgium also requested to purchase SDB-II Weapons Load Crew Trainers, training aids and devices, spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support, among other related support services, the release said.

Belgium will use the bombs to maintain its F-35 jet fleet in combat-ready status and to provide a credible deterrent to regional threats, the release added.

RTX Corporation, formerly known as Raytheon Technologies Corporation, will be the principal contractor, according to the release.

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

US Repeatedly Offered Russia to Engage on Arms Control, Most Offers Rejected - State Dept

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States has repeatedly offered Russia to engage in talks on arms control but the vast majority of these offers have been rejected, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability Mallory Stewart.

When asked about her perspective on US-Russia dialogue on arms control, Stewart said, "It's clearly a perception challenge between us."

"Our clearly felt position is that we are constantly offering, especially China, to engage in a conversation to reduce the risks that are growing in our relationship," Stewart said. "We have offered repeatedly in the past to engage with Russia as well, as well as to engage with the DPRK [North Korea]. ... The vast majority of our offers have been rejected."

Earlier in July, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said the decision of the United States to deploy long-range missiles to Germany is aimed at undermining Russia's security,

Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said in June that Russia is not evading dialogue with the United States, but does not consider it possible to separate strategic arms control from the general package of issues.

US National Security Council told Sputnik earlier that the United States is open to talks with Russia on nuclear risks and arms control, but without reference to the Ukrainian conflict.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

US Respects Security Concerns by Russia, China Even if Disagreeing on Cause - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States respects the security concerns expressed by Russia and China even if it disagrees that Washington is the cause, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability Mallory Stewart said on Thursday.

"We hear a lot from Russia, historically, but also from China, that we somehow don't respect their security concerns. I don't believe that to be correct. We respect they have this security concern. We may not agree as to why or how or in what manner we are responsible for it, but we should engage with them because we respect they have a concern," Stewart said during an event at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

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

State Department Says Will Not Assess Netanyahu's Remarks on American Protesters

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The State Department would not assess Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's comments made during his address to Congress, where he described American protesters as "Iran's useful idiots," US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said during on Thursday.

"I am not going to make assessments about what the Prime Minister [Netanyahu] said or what he believes," Miller said during a press briefing.

The remarks were in response to a reporter's question about the appropriateness of Netanyahu addressing Congress and labeling protestors as "useful idiots."

On Monday, Netanyahu arrived in Washington to hold a series of meetings, including with Biden on Thursday and with his Republican opponent Donald Trump on Friday, as well as to address a joint session of Congress on Wednesday night.

Netanyahu's arrival to Washington has been marked by massive pro-Palestinian and anti-war protests near Capitol Hill, attended by several thousand people.

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

Biden to Explore New Opportunities on Foreign Policy After Ending Campaign - White House

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden will explore new opportunities on his foreign policy agenda after suspending his reelection campaign, White House National Security Council Communications Adviser John Kirby said on Thursday.

"Now that he's not running for reelection, certainly you can expect that there'll be opportunities on a calendar that may not have been there before, and so we're all exploring what those opportunities can look like in terms of advancing his foreign policy agenda and national security

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

opportunities here and around the world," Kirby said during a press briefing.

Although there are no announcements to make at present regarding Biden's schedule on foreign police matters, Kirby told reporters to "stay tuned" because the US president has some opportunities that he may want to explore.

On Wednesday, Biden said in an address to the nation that he will be focused on his duty as president for the remaining six months of his presidency following his decision to suspend his reelection campaign.

Biden said on Sunday 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 Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic party's nominee for US president, which she accepted.

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

State Dept on US Missiles in Germany:Open to Risk Reduction,Arms Control with China,Russia

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States is open to risk reduction and arms control engagement with both China and Russia, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence, and Stability Mallory Stewart said on Thursday, commenting on the planned deployment of US long-range missiles in Germany.

“From the US government's perspective, we’ve been very clear that we are open [to] risking reduction, arms control engagements with both China and Russia,” Stewart said.

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

US Hopes New START Treaty Caps on Warheads Can be Maintained - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States hopes that it can maintain a political commitment with Russia to abide by the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) caps on warheads as long as each side complies, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability Mallory Stewart said on Thursday.

"I am hopeful that we can maintain our political commitments to abide by the [New START] caps, as long as each side is complying with that," Stewart said at a discussion on the future of US nuclear arms control policy.

The New START treaty between Russia and the United States is set to expire in 2026. Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said that extending the treaty is possible only after the United States stops supplying weapons to Ukraine and blocks that country's accession to NATO.

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

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

US Hopes for 'Broader Conversations' on Nuclear Arms Control Within P5 Group - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States hopes there will be "broader conversations" on nuclear arms control within the P5 group of countries, US Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Deterrence and Stability Mallory Stewart said.

"I hope in a P5 context we will have some broader conversations," Stewart said on Thursday, referring to the permanent members of the UN Security Council - United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom.

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

White House Says Biden Did Not Suspend Reelection Campaign For Medical Reasons

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - President Joe Biden did not suspend his reelection campaign for medical reasons, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Thursday.

"I can tell you it was not a medical decision," Jean-Pierre said during a press briefing.

Jean-Pierre declined to disclose whether Biden suddenly suspended his campaign because of poor polling.

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

US Does Not See ICC Findings On Netanyahu As Appropriate – White House

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) – The United States does not consider the International Criminal Court (ICC) findings on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appropriate, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Thursday.

“We do not find the ICC’s finding to be relevant or appropriate in this case,” Kirby told reporters.

On May 20, ICC prosecutor Karim Khan filed arrest warrant requests for officials, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, as well as for leaders of the Palestinian organization Hamas.

Neither Israel nor the United States are parties to the treaty establishing the ICC.

On October 7, Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israel, killing nearly 1,200 people and abducting some 240 others. Israel subsequently launched military operations in the Gaza Strip, which have killed more than 36,500 people in the Palestinian enclave, according to local authorities.

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

US Wants to Engage With China Bilaterally on Strategic Risk Reduction - State Department

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States would like to engage directly with China on strategic risk reduction, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Mallory Stewart said on Thursday.

"I would like to engage on risk reduction with China bilaterally," Stewart said at a Washington think thank discussion on the future of US nuclear arms control policy.

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

State Dept. Refutes Netanyahu's Claims That No Civilians Killed in Rafah

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) – US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller refuted on Thursday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claims that no civilians have died in Rafah as a result of the ongoing military operation there.

"When it comes to civilian casualties in Rafah, of course, there have been civilian casualties in Rafah," Miller said during a press briefing.

During his Wednesday address to the joint session of Congress, Netanyahu said that there have been no civilian casualties in Rafah since the IDF started its military operation there.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, close to a hundred civilians have been killed and several hundred more injured as a result of Israeli strikes in Rafah alone. In an Israeli strike that took place in May, at least 45 people died at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah.

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 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. As many as 120 hostages are believed to be still held by Hamas in Gaza and 43 hostages have died in captivity.

More than 38,300 people have been killed and some 88,200 others have been wounded in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israel's military operations, Gaza authorities said.

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

US hopes it can maintain political commitment to abide by new start treaty caps on warheads, as long as each side complying - state department

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

us does not see icc findings on netanyahu as appropriate - white house

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

State Dept. Says Recently Intercepted Russian, Chinese Bombers Not Threat to US Security

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Thursday that the recent interception of Russian and Chinese bombers off the coast of Alaska did not pose a threat to US security.

"When it comes to this specific action, I believe off the coast of Alaska... we did not assess that in any way it's a threat to the security of the United States," Miller said during a press briefing.

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

UN Chief Guterres Says Gaza Place of 'Total Lawlessness, Order Completely Disappeared

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday that order in Gaza is non-existent and nobody is in charge of security.

“We are in a situation of total lawlessness, a situation where the law and order has completely disappeared, nobody is in charge of security anywhere in the area of Gaza,” Guterres said during his press conference with UN journalists.

On Wednesday, demonstrations took place in Washington in protest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to the United States and his address to the US Congress.

The Israeli prime minister is expected to meet with US President Joe Biden at the White House on Thursday to discuss security in the Middle East. He will also reportedly meet with Vice President Kamala Harris, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, and follow up with talks with Republican candidate Donald Trump on Friday.

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

NASA, Boeing Will Not Yet Set Date for Safe Return of Starliner Crew From ISS - Official

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - NASA and Boeing engineers will hold a review meeting over this weekend to possibly set a date for when the troubled CST-100 Starliner can return to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS) carrying US astronauts Barry Gilmore and Sunita Williams, US space agency Commercial Crew Program Director Steve Stich said on Thursday.

"We don't have a major announcement today in regard to a return date. I don't have a specific time but it is either [on] Saturday or Sunday," Stich said. "This weekend the next thing we are going to do is a hot fire test. We are going to fire 27 of the [28] thrusters."

However Stich avoided setting any specific deadline or date for when the Starliner, which has experienced problems with at least five of its 28 thrusters and five helium leaks from valves, will be officially assessed as safe to bring the astronauts home.

"We 'll come home when we're ready. ... We've extended the battery waiver [on the Starliner].

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

We had 45 days before. We've doubled that time to 90 days," Stich said.
Flight tests on an identical thruster carried out over the past few weeks at the White Sands testing facility in New Mexico had revealed some degradation in a teflon seal from oxidized permeation of leaking vapor, Stich added.

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

us did not assess in any way that russian and chinese bombers' mission off alaska was threat to security of united states - state dept.

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

UN Chief Says Extreme Heat Kills Almost Half Million People, 30 Times More Than Cyclones

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Thursday that extreme heat is the cause of death for nearly half-a-million people per year and kills about 30 times more than tropical cyclones.
"It [extreme heat] is estimated to kill almost half a million people a year and that's about 30 times more than tropical cyclones," Guterres said during his press conference.
Extreme heat is also increasingly negatively affecting economies, widening inequalities and undermining the UN sustainable goals, Guterres added.
In March, the United Nations weather watchdog World Meteorological Organization said in an annual report that 2023 marked the hottest year and the end of the hottest decade on record.

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

US Offers $10Mln for Information on Hacker Allegedly Related to North Korea Cyberattacks

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States is offering a $10 million reward for information about a North Korean national who is allegedly linked to his country's cyberattacks against US businesses, the State Department said on Thursday.
"Rim Jong Hyok is a national of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) who is associated with a malicious cyber group known as Andariel," the State Department said in a statement.
The group is allegedly controlled by North Korea's military intelligence agency - the Reconnaissance General Bureau - and targets foreign businesses, government entities and the defense industry, the statement said.
"Rim and others conspired to hack into the computer systems of US hospitals and other healthcare providers, install Maui ransomware, and extort ransoms. The ransomware attacks encrypted victims' computers and servers used for medical testing or electronic medical records and disrupted healthcare services," the statement said.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

US law enforcement investigators have documented that Andariel actors victimized five healthcare providers, four US-based defense contractors, two US Air Force bases and NASA's Office of Inspector General, the statement added.

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

G7 'Advancing Work' In Getting Additional $50Bln To Ukraine By Year-End — Yellen

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The Group of Seven (G7) economies are making progress in getting the promised additional aid of $50 billion to Ukraine before the end of 2024, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday.

"As the G7 Leaders agreed in Apulia, we are also advancing work to make available approximately $50 billion in additional funding to Ukraine by the end of this year," Yellen said in a speech delivered at the meeting of the Group of 20 finance ministers and central bank governors in the US capital.

In June, G7 leaders agreed to give a $50 billion loan to Ukraine using funds generated from frozen Russian assets.

However, the deal could face delays if the US Congress views the agreement as risking US taxpayer money, a Politico report said.

The US wants reassurances that the assets will remain frozen until Russia compensates, the report said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the seizure of Russian assets by Western countries will not go unpunished.

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

California Governor Issues Order to Address 'Urgently' Homeless Encampments - Statement

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25 (Sputnik) - California Governor Gavin Newsom has issued an executive order instructing state agencies to urgently address homeless encampments, the Governor's Press Office said in a statement on Thursday.

"Governor Newsom today issued an executive order directing state agencies to urgently address homeless encampments while respecting the dignity and safety of Californians experiencing homelessness," the statement said.

The order came in response to a US Supreme Court's ruling in the in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson that encourages local governments to utilize significant state funding for similar initiatives.

In a separate statement, Newsom said the June 28 US Supreme Court ruling clarifies that enforcing laws on public camping does not violate the Eighth Amendment, granting officials clear authority to remove unsafe encampments.

California is allocating $1 billion through the Encampment Resolution Fund to relocate individuals experiencing homelessness from unsafe encampments to shelters and housing, the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

statement said.

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

Europe Will Face Aftermath of Uncontrolled Weapons Market - Ex-Austrian Foreign Minister

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (Sputnik) - Europe will be forced to face the consequences of an uncontrolled weapons market in Eastern and Central Europe, Austria's former foreign minister Karin Kneissl said on Thursday.

"Europe will have to face the aftermath of an uncontrolled weapons market in Eastern and Central Europe," Kneissel told the UN Security Council members during a meeting on Ukraine.

In addition, she added that the consequences will be "tougher" than during the war in Yugoslavia.

Western countries have provided hundreds of billions of dollars worth of aid to Ukraine since the start of Russia's special military operation in February 2022. Aid shipments began in 2022 with artillery munitions and training and have escalated to include tanks, advanced air-defense systems, missiles and cluster munitions. The Kremlin has consistently warned against the West's continued arms deliveries to Ukraine, saying that they only prolong the conflict.

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

US to Dismantle $230Mln Maritime Pier Into Gaza at End of July - Austin

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States will dismantle the $230 million temporary maritime pier into Gaza at the end of July after being operative for less than two months, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday.

"We're going to take it [pier] out at the end of July," Austin said during a press briefing.

The Biden administration dubbed the pier a "success" even though it had to cease operations on several occasions due to bad weather after it was installed in mid-May.

US Central Command Deputy Commander Vice Adm. Brad Cooper said earlier that the flow of humanitarian aid to those in need in Gaza will be directed to the Israeli port of Ashdod to the north of the Palestinian enclave.

At least five million pounds (2,500 tons) of humanitarian cargo is sitting in Cyprus waiting to be delivered to the residents of Gaza.

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

US, Western Allies Instructors 'Legitimate Targets' for Russian Air Force - Envoy to UN

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (Sputnik) - Western instructors have also become legitimate targets for the Russian Air Force given their increasing presence, the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said on Thursday.

"Meanwhile, given the absolute unwillingness of Ukrainians to fight and die for Western geopolitical interests, the United States and its allies are forced to become involved more and more in this conflict, sending not only their mercenaries but also instructors, who of course become legitimate targets for the Russian Air Force," Nebenzia said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

A recent Russian airstrike killed 18 British Special Air Service personnel, a fact that NATO confessed to, Nebenzia said.

European countries are also increasingly upset about the ongoing Ukrainian conflict, forming political coalitions to oppose additional funding and weapons supplies to Ukraine.

In June, the Hungarian Fidesz, the Freedom Party of Austria and the Czech Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO) announced the formation of Patriots for Europe. With the addition of a number other parties, Patriots for Europe became the third largest alliance within the European Union.

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

US Not Withholding or Slowing Weapon Deliveries to Israel – Top General Brown

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) – The United States is not currently withholding or slowing weapon deliveries to Israel, US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Charles Brown said on Thursday.

“We’re not,” Brown said during a press briefing when asked whether the US was withholding weapons or slowing the pace of their deliveries to Israel.

In late June, media reported that the United States had sent Israel more than 10,000 bombs and missiles since the start of Israel's military operation in Gaza last October. US officials have set the value at approximately $6.5 billion.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his address to the US Congress urged the body to expedite weapon deliveries to Israel amid the ongoing in the Gaza Strip.

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 Gazan health ministry says the death toll from the Israeli offensive in the enclave has passed 39,000, with more than 90,000 others injured.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

US Doesn't Believe In Currency Intervention To Create Friendlier Exports - Yellen

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - Governments should let markets set exchange rates for their currencies and resist the temptation of using central bank intervention to create friendlier export regimes, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday.

"On export competition … the views that our administration has about the dollar is that we believe in a market-determined exchange rate and that large economies, especially, should allow their exchange rate to be determined by international markets," Yellen told a news conference at the Group of 20 (G20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. "Over time, I think, fundamentals are reflected in the value of currencies."

The Treasury secretary was responding to a question about the surge in the dollar's value over the past few years that had made US exports pricier when paid for in other currencies.

Yellen instead cited what was a standard for the Group of 7 (G7) countries, including the United States, when it came to currency values.

"The G7 is committed to market-determined exchange rates, intervening only rarely and in situations where there's judged to be undue [currency] volatility, and after consultation with partners," Yellen said.

She said the situation with the dollar was also unique, given its status as the world's reserve currency and the appreciation it had gained from the huge capital inflows attracted by the United States since the end of the COVID-19 outbreak.

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

China Never Takes Advantage in Ukraine Conflict, Strictly Controls Dual Use Items - Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, July 25 (Sputnik) - China does not profit from the conflict in Ukraine and strictly controls civilian and military dual use items, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Fu Cong said on Thursday.

"China has never put oil on the fire or taken advantage of the situation nor has it provided lethal weapons to any party to the conflict. China exercises strict control over military and civilian dual use items," Fu said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

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

China has never put oil on fire or taken advantage of ukraine conflict, exercises strict control over military and civilian dual use items - un envoy

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

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

Joint Russian-Chinese Patrol Near Alaska This Week 'Not a Surprise' to US - Pentagon Chief

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The joint patrol of Chinese and Russian aircraft near the state of Alaska this week was not a surprise to the United States, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday.

"Regarding the Russian and Chinese aircraft that flew together in the north here recently, this was not a surprise to us," Austin said during a press briefing. 'We closely monitored these aircraft, tracked the aircraft, intercepted the aircraft."

Austin declined to get into any intelligence related to this patrol but noted that the aircraft did not enter US airspace.

The Russian Defense Ministry said earlier that an aviation group of the Russian Aerospace Forces Tu-95MS and the PLA Air Force H-6K performed an air patrol over the Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea waters and the northern part of the Pacific Ocean.

The mission was part of the 2024 Russian-Chinese military cooperation plan. While carrying out their tasks, the jets acted in accordance with provisions of international law, with no violations of foreign airspace being committed, the ministry said.

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

Harris Condemns 'Hate-Fueled Acts' of Protesters at Pro-Palestinian Rally in Washington

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement on Thursday that she denounces the unpatriotic and hateful acts of protesters who committed acts of vandalism at Wenesday's pro-Palestinian rally in Washington, DC.

“Yesterday, at Union Station in Washington, D.C. we saw despicable acts by unpatriotic protestors and dangerous hate-fueled rhetoric,” Harris said. “I condemn any individuals associating with the brutal terrorist organization Hamas, which has vowed to annihilate the State of Israel and kill Jews. Pro-Hamas graffiti and rhetoric is abhorrent and we must not tolerate it in our nation.”

Harris also condemned the burning of the American flag that occurred at the square in front of the Union Station.

“That flag is a symbol of our highest ideals as a nation and represents the promise of America. It should never be desecrated in that way,” she said. “I support the right to peacefully protest, but let’s be clear: Antisemitism, hate and violence of any kind have no place in our nation.”

Wednesday's mass protest drew several thousand participants from across the United States. The protest began in front of the US Capitol, where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was addressing Congress, and then continued as most of the participants moved to nearby Union Station.

Some protesters replaced the US flags on the poles in front of Union Station with Palestinian ones, vandalized the statues and fountains on the square and set the US flag ablaze.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Earlier on Wednesday, police used pepper spray against the protesters to clear out the area in front of the US Capitol building. Dozens of people were affected by the pepper spray.

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

US Targets One-Third of All Countries on Earth With Some Sort of Sanctions - Analysis

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The United States is the all-round champion in the number of sanctions imposed on its adversaries and rivals, with one-third of all countries on Earth subject to some sort of restrictions, a new analysis by the Washington Post revealed on Thursday.

Starting in the 1990s, successive US administrations have made economic punitive measures and economic warfare the main instrument of their foreign policy, which all too often are ineffective and backfire, the analysis said.

Decades-long sanctions on North Korea for instance have failed to dissuade Pyongyang from pursuing nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missile capabilities, the analysis said.

The US sanctions on Nicaragua and Cuba have proved completely ineffective in removing the respective administrations of Daniel Ortega and Fidel Castro (now Miguel Diaz-Canel).

While the United States at present imposes three times more sanctions than any other country or international body, the overuse of such restrictive measures is increasingly recognized at the highest levels of the US government, the analysis said.

The Biden administration has never been able to say "no" to the temptation of the power of sanctions and the apparent ease of their application, as Treasury Department staffers have had to shelve their drafts on the restructuring of the sanctions system and give way to new economically suffocating measures, the analysis said.

The thousands of sanctions have made lobbyists and former US officials richer due to the billions of dollars paid by foreign countries and oligarchs to help them safely navigate the changing geopolitical and economic environment, the analysis added.

Between February 2022 and January 2024 alone, the United States imposed sanctions on more than 16,000 individuals, over 9,000 companies, and more than 3,200 institutions from Russia, making the country the most sanctioned one in the world.

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

Yellen Says Sanctions Against Russia Should Be Reinforced, Taken in New Directions

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Thursday that the sanctions imposed on Russia should be reinforced and taken in new directions.

"As is true with all sanctions programs, as sanctions begin to bind, Russia looks for ways to skirt those sanctions and to accomplish its goals in other ways," Yellen said. "And so, our

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

approach constantly needs to be reinforced, strengthened, taken in new directions."

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

us treasury secretary says sanctions against Russia should be reinforced, taken in different directions

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

US House Passes Resolution Condemning Harris' Handling of Border Crisis

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives passed a resolution on Thursday condemning US Vice President Kamala Harris' failure to secure the United States' borders from illegal migration.

In March 2021, US President Joe Biden tasked Harris with leading the administration's efforts to address the root causes of illegal migration. However, there have been millions of illegal immigrant encounters and known gotaways under the Biden administration.

House lawmakers passed the resolution condemning Harris' failure to secure the border in a vote of 220 in favor and 196 opposed.

"Resolved, that the House of Representatives strongly condemns the Biden Administration and its Border Czar, Kamala Harris's, failure to secure the United States border," the resolution said.

The resolution also affirms that the American people deserve elected officials who understand the gravity of the crisis and will execute policies to fix it.

Moreover, the resolution states that continuing the Biden administration's border policies would be disastrous for the US.

Harris is the Democratic Party's presumptive presidential nominee for the 2024 race, following Biden's decision to end his reelection bid.

Former US President Donald Trump said that Harris would make the border crisis "exponentially worse" if elected president.

National Border Patrol Council President Paul Perez also said that the situation at the border would become "even more ridiculous" under Harris' leadership.

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

Ukraine's Purported Willingness to Negotiate 'In Line' With Russia's Position - Nebenzia

UNITED NATIONS, July 23 (Sputnik) - Ukraine's purported willingness to negotiate is in line with Russia's position and is the preferred way, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said on Thursday.

"I will say right away in this regard that Kiev's purported willingness to engage in negotiations as such is in line with our position that the diplomatic path is the preferable way to resolve the

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Ukrainian conflict," Nebenzia said during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

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

Trump Releasing New Book 'Save America' on September 3

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump will release his new book "Save America" on September 3, Winning Team Publishing said on Thursday.

"In 'SAVE AMERICA,' President Donald J. Trump offers an unparalleled look into his four years as the 45th President of the United States, and a vision for his next term! "SAVE AMERICA" is filled with iconic moments from the first Trump administration," the publisher said in a notice.

The book includes photos of Trump's meetings with world leaders, among others, alongside his words that provide insight into what will shape his next four years in office, the notice said.

"'SAVE AMERICA' is the only book which highlights the past and offers a roadmap for the future directly from President Donald J. Trump!" the notice said.

The cover of the book shows a photo of wounded Trump right after an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13.

The photo book will be Trump's third since leaving the White House in 2021.

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

Melania Trump's Office Says Former First Lady to Release Her First Memoir in Fall 2024

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) – Former US First Lady Melania Trump announced on Thursday plans to release her first memoir "Melania" this Fall that includes a recollection of personal stories and family photos.

"Mrs. Melania Trump today announced that her first memoir, Melania, will be released this fall," the former First Lady's office said in a press release.

Melania Trump's office describes her first book as "a powerful and inspiring story of a woman who has carved her own path, overcome adversity, and defined personal excellence."

The book will be released in three editions starting at $40 for a regular copy, $75 for a signed copy, and $150 for a collector's edition with a personal signature and additional photos.

Skyhorse Publishing will release the book, but the exact date of publication is unknown yet, according to the release.

Melania, 54, became the wife of Donald Trump, 78, in 2005, and became the first ever naturalized First Lady of the United States between 2017 and 2021. She is Slovenian by origin and her maiden name was Knavs.

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

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM

UPDATE - US GDP Up 2.8% in 2nd Quarter in Boost to Hopes for Interest Rate Cut

(Updates with more details, background in paras 2-10; modifies headline and lede)

WASHINGTON, July 25 (Sputnik) - The US economy grew by an estimated annual rate of 2.8% in the second quarter of 2024, double that of the first quarter, the Commerce Department said on Thursday in its preliminary reading of (GDP) for the period that beat Wall Street's 2% forecast.

Growth in consumer spending and services were catalysts for the upbeat performance during the April to June stretch, the department said in its so-called advance estimate for the three months.

In the prior quarter between January and March, GDP was finalized at 1.4%.

"The increase in consumer spending reflected increases in both services and goods," the Commerce Department said. "Within services, the leading contributors were health care, housing and utilities, and recreation services."

The growth numbers suggested an economy in robust expansion with moderating inflation that could encourage the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates, without the worry of recession, some commentators said.

"Growth in the first half of year [is] near 2%," James Bullard, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, said in comments carried by the CNBC network. "That is likely to begin to signal [that] they [the US central bank] may be ready to go in September. These numbers are not pointing to a recession at this time."

The last time the Fed cut rates was in March 2020 when it slashed a full 100 basis points, or 1%.

Rates are currently in a range of between 5.25% and 5.5%, their highest in two decades.

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index stood at just 3% during the year to June, down sharply from the pandemic peak of 9.1% two years ago.

Wall Street is expecting the Fed to cut 25 basis, or 0.25%, each in two rounds of easings for 2024. The central bank's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee will meet four times between now and the year-end to review rates: July 31, September 18, November 7 and December 18.

Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 07/26/2024 1:34:44 PM