

10/1/24 Tuesday

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Committed to Zionism: US Reportedly Green-Lit Israel's Attack on Lebanon

Israel has continued to bomb Lebanon, killing more than 700 people since September 23 as a result. Meanwhile, the US government has secretly supported Israel's plans to expand its war. On Tuesday, Iran said its supreme leader made the decision to fire dozens of missiles into Israel as a retaliation for Israel's invasion of Lebanon as well as the assassinations of top Hezbollah and Hamas leaders. About 400 ballistic missiles were fired into southern and central Israel, and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that if Israel responds to the attack, it would be followed by more destructive strikes.

President Pezeshkian accused the US of their complicity in the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hasan Nasrallah who died in an Israeli airstrike on Beirut, [Hezbollah confirmed](#) on Saturday. [Turkiye Today](#) published images of Netanyahu allegedly issuing the order for the airstrike while in New York. Following the attack Iran vowed to continue to support Hezbollah's efforts against Israel.

"I think Iran has been reluctant and patient and Israel has struck them in ways that are outrageous... striking in Tehran and killing Hamas negotiators, striking in Lebanon and killing the leader of Hezbollah, the chief negotiator, and leaders of the IRGC and the Palestinian resistance," Dr. Jim Kavanagh, an independent journalist who joined [The Critical Hour](#) said on Tuesday.

"So, if Iran didn't respond in some way that was very strong and that hurts Israel, then they would have lost their legitimacy in the eyes of the Axis of Resistance and those who support the Palestinian resistance against Israel at this point," he explained.

"I'm worried about this situation. I think Israel kind of wanted something like this to happen. I think they're probably going to respond in a very nasty way, including, maybe even at this point, nuclear weapons. But, the game is on," he added. "And, the problem is the US supports Israel, is going to support them, whatever Israel does in response. It is a terrible situation. It's the crime of the century and it's the closest we've ever come, I think, to nuclear war."

Following Iran's launch of ballistic missiles at Israel, US crude oil prices rose more than 2%, [CNBC](#) reported. An analyst who spoke to the American news source said traders will have to determine if there is a scenario where Iranian oil supplies will be at risk.

"...and the Israeli economy, this is the weakness of Israel. It's a small country with a small population," Kavanagh said. "They cannot, and they're not there to fight and be killed and to be blown up and to blow up. They want to have 'nice' Western European lives [like] colonial masters, and get rid of the Arabs who are annoying them all the time. And, clearly, this isn't happening. And they're being driven out of the cities near the borders now."

"...they can't have a war of attrition with Iran or with Hezbollah, and that's why they have to either quickly kill off as many people or drive them out, or stop Iran in some way that's devastating and they think will stop Iran. It's an extremely dangerous situation. And, the most

dangerous thing about it is that the US is part of it. The US considers Israel a 51st state," he added.

"American culture and political culture has been thoroughly Zionized. They're committed to Zionism, to the Zionist project. And they and the people in control of this country right now will do anything to prevent the Zionist project from being stopped. And, Israel knows. That's what's at stake now. The future of the Zionist project. And the other side knows that, too."

This spring, two US government authorities on humanitarian assistance concluded that Israel had deliberately blocked deliveries of food and medicine into Gaza, [Scheer Post](#) reported. The US Agency for International Development gave Secretary of State Antony Blinken an assessment of what they found, while the State Department's refugees bureau reported their findings to top diplomats in late April, the report found.

However, US law requires the government to cut weapons shipments to any country that prevents the delivery of US-backed humanitarian aid. The US has not curbed their shipments of weapons to Israel since the war began, but have instead flooded their ally with bombs and other weaponry.

"[Israel] will use every weapon at their disposal before they will relinquish control of Gaza, which is whatever it says what this is about now," the analyst said. "...the ethnic cleansing and the genocidal attack on Gaza - is not going to stop until the Israelis are forced to give up control of Gaza. All these things we're talking about, the humanitarian aid, etc. Why do the Israelis get to control what humanitarian aid comes into Gaza? The Israelis have no right to control anything about Gaza."

"And, this is what's at stake now. The Israelis are fighting in Gaza for the expansion of the Zionist project and the continuation of the Zionist project. And the Americans are supporting them 110%. And they won't stop that unless they're hurt, badly hurt, unless there's a price for them to pay, both the Israelis and the Americans, that they decide is too high. And I don't know what that price could possibly be."

The US government allegedly green-lit Israel's military attack on Lebanon, [The New Republic](#) wrote. US officials reportedly told Israel that the US would support their decision to bomb Hezbollah targets, even with Biden urging a cease-fire. The report names presidential adviser Amos Hochstein and White House coordinator for the Middle East Brett McGurk, who told Israeli officials that the US supported their strategy to launch military attacks on Lebanon.

However, when asked on Monday if he was comfortable with Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon, Biden said, "I am comfortable with them stopping. We should have a cease-fire now."

"[Biden is] talking as if he's a spectator of this. He's not a spectator. He's giving all the weapons. The Israelis say it time and time again. They've said that we could not do this without the weapons you give us. So this is an American project."

"And this, go[es] back to the fact that [...] Israel is not entitled under US law to a dime of American aid because they have nuclear weapons and they're not a signatory to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty. And the US government has to lie every year. The president has to certify to Congress that Israel doesn't have nuclear weapons in order to, or else it would be against the law to give them any kind of aid. So, this is going on forever," Kavanagh explained.

"And, I don't know what's going to stop it, but we're in it. We're getting to a stage where there's a military fight over it and that is going to decide at least for the next 10, 20 years what's going to happen."

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Iran Responds to Assassinations With Missile Strikes as Israel Seeks to Expand Conflict

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks to expand his war in Gaza by invading southern Lebanon, Iran has fired about 400 ballistic missiles into southern and central Israel. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that if Israel responds to the attack, it would be followed by more destructive strikes.

On Tuesday, Iran said its supreme leader made the decision to fire dozens of missiles into Israel as a retaliation for Israel's invasion of Lebanon as well as the assassinations of top Hezbollah and Hamas leaders, [The Guardian](#) reported. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the attack was a "decisive response to the aggression of the Zionist regime", and warned Netanyahu that Iran is "not belligerent" but stands "firmly against any threat".

Hamas welcomed Iran's missile launch and deemed it "heroic" while urging others to join in the confrontation against the "Zionist enemy and its fascist government" that will "deter and rein in their terrorism", [Al Jazeera](#) reported.

"...Israel might be able to bamboozle the world by show[ing] off its operations that don't have significant strategic value and are mostly for the public opinion, for the amusement of public opinion and in order to restore faith in their crumbling regime. But, that doesn't scare the Iranians nor does it scare the Lebanese, most certainly not Hamas and the Palestinians who are fighting for liberation from this apartheid ethno-state," said Ehsan Safarnejad, an Iranian-based journalist who joined Sputnik's [Fault Lines](#) on Tuesday.

"But after the initial contact [Israel] had with Hezbollah, they were quick to understand and actually to an extent be surprised about how well the Hezbollah fighters were able to coordinate and basically perform different formations which showed that the core of the leadership is still in place, the protocols, the strategies have been solidified in the group itself," Safarnejad said.

"But, moving past that, Iran doesn't rely on this strategy that people like to talk about with very particular rhetoric calling Iranian allies as proxies. Iran doesn't rely on that. Iran fights its own wars. Iran retaliates for the murder of its own generals itself," the journalist explained.

"...but there is always that sense of camaraderie and brotherhood between Iranians and particularly people in Lebanon. We are very much close to them," he added. "That feeling is mutual between the people in the Axis of Resistance, but again, that sense of brotherhood and camaraderie is the strongest between the Iranians and the Lebanese."

President Pezeshkian accused the US of their complicity in the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hasan Nasrallah who died in an Israeli airstrike on Beirut, [Hezbollah confirmed](#) on Saturday. The report also showed images of Netanyahu allegedly issuing the order for the airstrike while in New York. Following the attack, Iran vowed to continue to support Hezbollah's efforts against Israel.

"The international community will not forget that the order for this terrorist attack was issued from New York and the Americans cannot absolve themselves from collaborating with the Zionists," Pezeshkian said.

"...if you ask me or many other Iranian analysts, this is not the opinion of the majority, but they would consider US policies to remain roughly the same, no matter whether the red party is in

power or the blue party is in power. And that comes from the fact that the US has a very strong bureaucracy. You have these unelected officials in different groups, like FBI and CIA, they're letter agencies, I'm not going to name them, not to really agitate anybody," Safarnejad said.

"But, when you talk about them, when you talk about the power that the National Security Council has in the US, the power that the think tanks like Rand Corporations or like other think tanks that have a strong influence over the US foreign policy, when you consider everything, you see that the establishment in the US is very strong. You know, that you have many of these pieces that are pinned down on a board, you don't really move them. The president just can't come into power and then start waging war on the intelligence agencies."

Iranian First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Reza Aref said on Monday that the country intends to "seriously strengthen" relations with Moscow, as well as resolve controversial issues in cooperation with each other, [Sputnik](#) reported on Monday.

"In the new government, we insist on a pragmatic approach and aim to introduce negotiations and ensure that the concluded agreements would be implemented in practice in the near future," Aref said. Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin added that Russia is interested in taking cooperation with Iran to a "higher level".

"The relations between Iran and Russia are of a complicated nature... But, I can say for certain that the US' aggression to both countries has driven them very, very close to one another. To the point that I would say that Iran and Russia are now on the verge of becoming strategic partners."

At least two people were wounded by shrapnel in Tel Aviv following Iran's missile strike, [Sputnik](#) reported, citing Israeli medics. Iran's Fars News also claimed that 80% of missiles in Iran's first wave of attacks hit their intended targets including gas platforms in Israel's Ashkelon. On Monday, a [US official](#) said the White House was attempting to develop a defense plan with Israel against a possible retaliatory attack from Iran.

"[Iranians] are very patient," Safarnejad explained. "But I think that even the patience of Iranians who basically had become like an integral part of our identity is running out now," the journalist said.

Israel "don't want the knowledge out there" about Iran's penetration of the Iron Dome – ex-CIA analyst

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Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson spoke with Sputnik Tuesday about Iran's retaliatory strike on Israel, claiming the US ally is attempting to obfuscate its weakness against Russian-provided Iranian military technology.

"I've seen the videos and you can see the missiles continue to rain down and hit targets. Israel is imposing a news blackout," said Johnson. "They don't want the knowledge out there about what happened. But Iran made sure that it was not going to hit and run the risk of killing hundreds or thousands of Israeli civilians. They were not going to act like the Israelis... [but] the Iron Dome proved to be a bust."

The analyst claimed Iran was forced to strike Israel after false assurances from the United States that Israel would cease attacks on its neighbors after its killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week. He compared Israel's Iron Dome to the US Patriot missile system, claiming the US is unable to replenish the defense system rapidly enough to allow Israel to fight a long war of attrition.

"Lockheed Martin... can make about one and a half, one and a quarter [missiles] a day," said Johnson. "If Iran continues to launch missile strikes like this... this right now has a chance to really get out of control."

The Iranian attacks come as Israel readies itself for an invasion of Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has launched strikes primarily against military targets in northern Israel in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

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With superior Russian military tech, Iran would outlast Israel – former CIA analyst

Ex-CIA analyst Larry Johnson said high-quality Russian military equipment would give Iran the edge in a war against Israel, allowing the country to outlast Tel Aviv and defend its territory against Israel's US-provided armaments.

"I cannot rule out that Israel is going to try to launch some conventional weapons at Iran, but I think they're going to be defeated," Johnson claimed. "Russia has provided Iran with significant air defense capabilities. Those will, I think, be very effective against anything that Israel tries to launch against Iran. Israel may be tempted to try to use a nuclear device against an Iranian target. If that happens then we're going to really be into another dimension, and this is going to get very, very serious."

The commentator said Israel would not be able to support military engagement against multiple enemies, even with the United States backing it up.

"Israel is not in a position to fight a multi-front war and it does not have the strategic depth to fight wars of attrition. And that's exactly what it's got itself into now," Johnson pointed out. "If US ships are involved that are off the coast of Iran, then we'll see Iran react and they may even end up attacking some US ships. But they'll certainly retaliate against Israel. Israel is not out of the woods at all, despite all the delusional nonsense that the extreme Zionist supporters are saying."

The development comes as Democrats attempt to hold onto the White House in November's presidential election.

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Tucker Carlson Says US, Russia Nuclear Escalation Could Destroy World

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) – American talk show host Tucker Carlson said he feared that nuclear escalation between the United States and Russia would "destroy the entire world," according to an interview with The American Conservative.

"It's really concerning how most Americans don't understand that we are actually in a hot war with Russia—right now—and by extension how close we are to nuclear war," Carlson said.

"What happens if a nuclear bomb hits a nuclear reactor?" he continued. "I'm really fearful it would set off a chain reaction that would destroy the entire world. In a year, no one could be alive if we continue sleep-walking into a wider war with Russia."

Carlson warned that a nuclear war would be more dangerous now than it was during the Cold War, considering the advancements in technology since then.

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RPT - US Officials Say Israel's Nevatim Base Suffered Minor Damage From Iran Strike – Reports

(Repeats to fix day of week in para 5)

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) – Israel's Nevatim military air base suffered minor damage during the recent Iranian missile strikes, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, citing US officials.

Iran targeted several Israeli military bases, including the Nevatim base in the Negev Desert, but the strike caused minor damage, the officials said.

Videos published online showed missiles falling down in the base's vicinity, according to the report. Two missiles struck near the Dead Sea, close to the nuclear facilities near the city of Dimona, the report added.

Israel's military declined to comment on Wednesday on the damage to the Nevatim base and other military facilities, according to the report. They reassured that the nation's air force remains fully operational.

On Tuesday, Iran fired a massive barrage of missiles at Israel, calling it an act of self defense. The Israeli military said about 180 ballistic missiles were fired, most of which were intercepted. Israeli authorities said there were no civilian casualties. Media reported that a Palestinian from the Gaza Strip was killed in the West Bank by shrapnel from a rocket.

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US Vice Presidential Debate Focuses on Domestic Issues, Avoid Ukraine Conflict

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - The debate between 2024 vice presidential nominees JD Vance and Tim Walz focused on a variety of domestic issues and did not feature a question dedicated to the conflict in Ukraine.

The debate on Tuesday evening started with a question on tensions between Israel and Iran in the Middle East, but largely centered around domestic issues, including abortion, gun control and housing.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has criticized Vance as "too radical" on Ukraine. Former US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said that he will end the conflict in Ukraine if elected in 2024.

Trump has said that US Vice President Kamala Harris will never be able to end the conflict, and that nothing would change under a Harris-Walz administration except for further death and destruction.

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Vance Says Censorship by Harris Bigger Threat to Democracy Than Trump's Statements

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris' alleged role in censorship is a bigger threat to democracy than the comments made by former President Donald Trump, 2024 Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance said in a debate with Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz.

"Kamala Harris is engaged in censorship at an industrial scale. She did it during COVID, she's done it over a number of other issues, and that to me is a much bigger threat to democracy than what Donald Trump said when he said that protesters should peacefully protest on January 6," Vance said on Tuesday night.

Censorship is the biggest threat to democracy in the United States in the last 40 years, Vance said.

People do not have to agree on every issue if they can unite behind the principle of peacefully debating differences, Vance added.

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Walz Tells US Vice Presidential Debate He 'Misspoke' About His Time in China

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - Democratic vice presidential nominee Tom Walz said that he "misspoke" about his time in China when asked to explain the discrepancy between the timeline he cited versus the actual time he was in that country.

Walz had said that he was in Hong Kong during China's Tiananmen Square protests in the spring of 1989 but Minnesota Public Radio and other media outlets have said that he did not travel to Asia until August of that year.

"I got there that summer and misspoke on this," Walz said during the vice-presidential debate with his Republican opponent JD Vance on Tuesday night. "I'm a knucklehead at times ... I will talk a lot, I will get caught up in the rhetoric."

However, Walz maintained that he was in Hong Kong and China when democratic protests were on, adding that he "learned a lot of what was needed to be in governance."

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Vance Says 'Up to Israel' to Decide Whether to Launch Attack on Iran

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - It is up to Israel to decide whether to launch an attack on Iran, 2024 Republican vice presidential nominee JD Vance said during a debate with Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz.

On Tuesday, Iran launched nearly 200 missiles at Israel, amid escalating hostilities between Israel and Lebanese movement Hezbollah.

"It is up to Israel what they think they need to do to keep their country safe, and we should support our allies wherever they are when they're fighting the bad guys," Vance said on Tuesday night.

Walz likewise said that Israel's ability to defend itself is fundamental and that Iran will face consequences for its actions.

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US Navy Orders \$192Mln Next Generation Mid-Band Jammer Expansion Project - Raytheon

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - Raytheon has received a \$192 million US Navy contract to develop the Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band Expansion (NGJ-MBX), the company announced in a press release.

"Raytheon... has been awarded a \$192 million contract from the US Navy to develop the Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band Expansion (NGJ-MBX), an upgrade to the current Next Generation Jammer Mid-Band (NGJ-MB) system," the release stated on Tuesday.

The new project will extend the frequency range of the NGJ-MB system to counter additional threats as the MBX provides additional capabilities to improve operational effectiveness, the release said.

"Offensive Electronic Attack provides a tremendous combat capability supporting strike packages and kinetic weapons across a broad range of missions," Raytheon Naval Power President Barbara Borgonovi said in the release.

The NGJ-MB project is a cooperative development and production program with the Royal Australian Air Force to create an airborne electronic attack system consisting of two pods containing active electronically scanned arrays that radiate in the mid-band frequency range, Raytheon said.

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Northrop Grumman, Terma in Denmark to Boost Cooperation on F-35, UAS - Statement

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - Northrop Grumman and Terma in Denmark have signed an agreement to continue their partnership work on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, uncrewed aerial systems (UAS), electronic warfare, radar systems and missiles, the giant US aerospace contractor announced in a press release.

"Northrop Grumman Corporation and Terma, Denmark's largest aerospace, defense and security company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for continued cooperation on key capabilities," the release stated on Tuesday.

The areas of cooperation covered included the F-35, UAS programs, electronic warfare, radar systems and missile defense, Northrop Grumman acknowledged.

"Northrop Grumman has previously worked alongside Danish industry, serving as a principal partner with Terma on the F-35 program with its development, production, modernization and sustainment across the globe," the release said.

The agreement also included plans to help educate Danish small-to-medium enterprises seeking to join the global supply chains of US defense prime, Northrop Grumman said.

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Trumps Says Will Make First Two Calls to Russia, Ukraine to Solve Ongoing Conflict

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump said that his first two calls as president-elect would be to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with an aim at ending the conflict.

"You have Ukraine and Russia, and that's... out of control. I met with President Zelenskyy, and I got along very well with President Putin," Trump said from Milwaukee on Tuesday. "I think I would like to be able to solve, well... if I get elected, I'm going to work on that immediately. It's going to be my first two phone calls."

Trump said Russia's special military operation in Ukraine as well as the ongoing crisis in the Middle East were caused by a "lack of respect" for the United States.

"This would have never happened. Israel would have never happened. October 7 never would have happened. Russia never would have invaded Ukraine, and for four years they didn't. They would have never invaded," Trump said.

Last Friday, Trump said ahead of a meeting with Ukraine's Zelenskyy that the conflict has to end at some point. The former president said he believes a fair peace deal can be negotiated at the right time and noted that he had his own ideas for a peace plan, but it is too early to predict what a peace plan could look like.

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Biden Signs Enhanced Presidential Security Act Into Law - White House

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) — US President Joe Biden signed into law the "Enhanced Presidential Security Act of 2024," requiring the US Secret Service (USSS) to set consistent standards for protecting Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major candidates, the White House said in a statement.

"The President signed into law: H.R. 9106, "Enhanced Presidential Security Act of 2024," which requires the U.S. Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates," the statement said on late Tuesday.

This follows Congress passing legislation in late September to strengthen Secret Service protection for US presidential candidates, ensuring that both Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris receive the same level of protection as President Joe Biden.

The legislation comes after two assassination attempts on former President Donald Trump since July.

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UNSC Failure Forced Iran to Take Lawful Action in Defense of National Security -UN Mission

UNITED NATIONS, October 2 (Sputnik) - Iran carried out its latest missile attacks against the Israeli regime because it has no other choice following the failure of the UN Security Council, Permanent Representative of the Iranian Mission to the UN said on Tuesday.

"... the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a series of missile attacks against the military and security targets of the Israeli regime," a letter to the UN Security Council President, shared with journalists, said. "It is regrettable that the United Nations Security Council has failed in its fundamental duty to maintain international peace and security. This failure has left the Islamic Republic of Iran with no option but to exercise its legitimate rights under international law to take lawful action in defense of its national security and vital interests."

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NDP Secures Emergency Debate at Canadian Parliament Over Israel-Lebanon Crisis - Singh

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) requested and secured an emergency debate at the House of Commons to discuss the ongoing Lebanon-Israel crisis, party leader Jagmeet Singh said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Defense Minister Bill Blair said he did not consider Israel's incursion in Lebanon to be a full-scale invasion, but potentially preparatory for one. On Monday Foreign Minister Melanie Joly noted war cannot happen in Lebanon "full stop."

"The NDP has demanded and secured an Emergency Debate in Parliament regarding the crisis in Lebanon and Israel," Singh said via the social media platform X. "We're seeing massive civilian casualties. Thousands fleeing for safety. Homes destroyed. Israel's ground incursion and Iran's missile attack risk escalating this conflict further."

Canadian parliamentarians must be allowed to address the crisis affecting the region, Singh said in a letter addressed House of Commons Speaker Greg Fergus. Lawmakers represent many constituents who are terrified or whose families are trapped in the conflict, the letter said.

The letter further noted that the situation was of major importance for the nearly 400,000 individuals making up the Lebanese community in Canada and the close to 45,000 currently residing in Lebanon.

On Monday, Israel announced the start of a ground invasion of southern Lebanon with reportedly no plans to occupy any areas of the country permanently. It came after Israel launched massive bombardments of southern and eastern Lebanon and killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on Beirut. The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border aggravated after the start of Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip in October 2023.

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US Reaching Dangerous Point Where Debt Can Lead to Downfall of Country - Speaker Johnson

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - The United States is reaching a dangerous point where its massive debt may be unsustainable and lead to the downfall of the country, House Speaker Mike Johnson said during remarks at the New York Stock Exchange.

"Economic historian Niall Ferguson has famously noted that an empire reaches a point of dangerous volatility when its debt servicing payments exceed its defense budget," Johnson said on Tuesday. "It happened with the French Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and as of this year, it's happening right here in America."

The United States is in an unsustainable and immoral position as a nation after it crossed the dangerous threshold of 35 trillion in national debt under the Biden administration, Johnson said.

Several former US defense secretaries and national security advisers have called the growing federal debt the greatest national security threat against the United States, Johnson noted.

Johnson believes that a Trump presidency and a united Republican Congress will grow the economic base.

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US Vice President Harris Says Condemns Iran Missile Attack on Israel

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris strongly condemned Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel and said that the attack underscores Tehran's destabilizing role in the Middle East.

"I condemn this attack unequivocally. I'm clear-eyed. Iran is a destabilizing, dangerous force in the Middle East, and today's attack on Israel only further demonstrates that fact," Harris said on Tuesday evening.

Harris also said she fully supports President Joe Biden's directive to the US military to intercept Iranian missiles targeting Israel, emphasizing the success of joint defenses and the importance of ensuring Israel's security. The vice president cautioned that Iran remains a threat to US and Israeli interests in the region.

"We will never hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to defend US forces and interests against Iran, and Iran-backed terrorists, and we will continue to work with our allies and partners to disrupt Iran's aggressive behavior, and hold them accountable," Harris said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched several hundred ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilfroushan. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that his government was not seeking a war with Israel but would confront any threat in a resolute manner.

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SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, October 2 (Sputnik) –

IRANIAN ATTACK ON ISRAEL

- * The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Tuesday that it fired ballistic missiles at key military and security targets in Israel.

- * Three military bases near Tel Aviv were attacked by Iran, Iranian news agency Mehr reported, citing the IRGC.

- * Iran's missile attack caused minimal damage to Israel, although it was not demonstrative, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said.

- * The United States considers the second Iranian attack on Israel to be "significant" and about twice the size of the one that took place in April, Pentagon spokesperson Pat Ryder said.

- * The administration of US President Joe Biden has completely failed in the Middle East, with statements from the White House showing total helplessness in resolving crises, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

- * The decision to launch retaliatory strikes and surprise attacks now rests with Israel, IDF Chief of the General Staff Herzi Halevi said.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST

- * The United States does not intend to conduct an emergency evacuation of non-combatants from Lebanon amid tensions in the Middle East, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

- * The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will launch heavy strikes against targets throughout the Middle East this night, Israel's Channel 12 broadcaster reported.

- * One person was killed in the West Bank city of Jericho as a result of the missile crash, the Palestinian Civil Defense said.

- * US military bases in the Koniko and Al-Omar oil fields in Syria's Deir Ez-Zor province have been hit by missile strikes, a Syrian field source told Sputnik.

- * The death toll from Israeli strikes on Lebanon since last October has risen to 1,873, with 9,134 civilians injured, the Lebanese Ministry of Health's Emergency Response Center said,

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

- * Russian troops using an Iskander-M strike killed up to 60 people of the leadership of the 37th marine brigade of the naval forces of Ukraine in the Kherson region, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

- * The situation on the battlefield is difficult for Ukraine, new NATO head Mark Rutte said.

- * Ukraine would not exist as a country without support from the United States, Rutte said.

- * Rutte said that he understands the request from Ukraine to strike deep into Russia, but the decision is up to each ally.

- * Russia's Yug (South) group of forces has eliminated up to 900 Ukrainian servicepeople over the past 24 hours, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

SITUATION IN RUSSIA'S KURSK REGION

- * Video evidence of the Ukrainian armed forces shooting of residents of one of the settlements of Russia's Kursk Region was found on an action camera attached to the helmet of one of the eliminated Ukrainian militants, a representative of the Russian law enforcement agencies told Sputnik.

* The Russian armed forces have eliminated more than 19,250 Ukrainian servicepeople and 135 tanks during military operations in the border areas of the Kursk Region, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

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US Adversaries Increasing Dangerous Attacks Due to Biden Failed Foreign Policy - Lawmakers

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US adversaries are carrying out increasingly dangerous attacks because of the Biden administration's weak and failed foreign policy, House Speaker Mike Johnson and other House Republican leaders said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

"Our adversaries are carrying out increasingly dangerous attacks because of Biden and Harris' weak and failed foreign policy," the statement said.

The United States needs to return to a maximum pressure campaign against Iran, and Biden needs to make clear that there will be decisive economic and potential military ramifications for these actions, the statement added.

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Wall Street Trots Weakly Into Q4 Amid US Economic Worry, Middle East Tensions

NEW YORK, October 1 (Sputnik) - Wall Street made a weak start to the final quarter of 2024, restrained by worries over the US economy and an expanding war in the Middle East.

The three main US stock indexes on Wall Street — the blue-chip laden S&P 500, the technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite and the broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average — settled October's first trading session down between 0.4% and 1.5%.

The indexes fell between 1% and 4% earlier in the session, after Iran fired some 200 missiles at Israel.

A spokesman for Israel Defense Forces said many of the missiles fired by Iran "were intercepted," although "there were some strikes." The spokesman added that "no additional threats" from Iran had been immediately identified but warned that the attack "was serious and will have consequences."

Also weighing on market sentiment Tuesday was data showing the US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index run by S&P Global Market having its worst performance in 15 months. S&P blamed the decline on a worsening jobs market and uncertainty spawned by the upcoming November 5 presidential election, where incumbent Vice President and Democrat nominee Kamala Harris was tied neck-to-neck with Republican nominee and former president Donald Trump.

"The fear of contagion is always destabilizing," Keith Buchanan, senior portfolio manager at Globalt Investments, said in comments carried by CNBC. "Aside from, of course, the paramount impact on lives, the markets take a direct hit when there are forces that are almost promising some level of destabilization."

The S&P, an index which tracks the stocks of 500 high-performing US companies, closed down 1% at 5,707, after a session low at 5,681.

The Dow, the broadest indicator for US equity markets and one that often reflects value, slid 0.4% to 42,157 after an intraday bottom at 41,945.

The Nasdaq, which comprises pricey stocks such as Amazon, Apple, Netflix, and Google, tumbled 1.5% to 17,910 after diving to 17,780 earlier.

Notwithstanding the gloom precipitated by the situation in the Middle East and US manufacturing, the prospect of further interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve was a bright spot for businesses, said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "Despite the deterioration in the current business situation, business expectations about the year ahead have in fact improved," he added.

The Fed cut US interest rates on September 18 for the first time in four years, dropping 50 basis points to bring the peak rate Americans pay for their borrowings to 5%. Prior to that, rates topped off at a two-decade high of 5.5% due to inflation on a tear from the trillions of dollars of relief spending and breakdown of supply chains caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The central bank is expected to do two more rate reductions before the end of the year, in follow-through to September's cut, the central bank's chairman Jerome Powell said Monday.

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Blinken Says Russia, China, North Korea Threaten US Tech Superiority and Global Alliances

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Russia and other countries, including China, Iran, and North Korea, seek to erode the foundations of the United States by weakening its technological superiority and alliances.

"They all seek to erode the foundations of the United States' strength: its military and technological superiority, its dominant currency, and its unmatched network of alliances and partnerships," Blinken wrote in an article for Foreign Affairs magazine.

Blinken expressed confidence that Moscow, Tehran, Pyongyang, and Beijing seek to alter the foundational principles of the international order.

"While their forms of governance, ideologies, interests, and capabilities differ, these revisionist powers all want to entrench autocratic rule at home and assert spheres of influence abroad," he said.

Blinken emphasized the Biden administration's foreign policy accomplishments, expressing confidence that the US is stronger than it was four years ago, but warned that continued effort is needed to counter revisionist states, which may deepen their cooperation to challenge the US.

Washington also needs to maintain its commitments toward allies and must continue to earn the Americans' confidence in the nation's leadership, he added.

Blinken called the Western coalition supporting the government in Ukraine the strongest he has ever seen in his career. He pointed out that European and Asian allies have provided Kiev almost \$150 billion.

The US now has stronger positions in both regions than before, Blinken added.

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us adversaries carrying out increasingly dangerous attacks because of biden and harris' weak and failed foreign policy - house republican leaders

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Israel's UN Envoy Says Iran Will Soon Feel Consequences of Their Actions

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - Israel's response to Iran's latest missile attacks will be painful, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon said on Tuesday.

"Iran will soon feel the consequences of their actions. The response will be painful," Danon said at the UN Security Council stakeout.

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Israel's un envoy says iran will soon feel consequences of their actions, Israeli response will be painful

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Biden Says Has Not Spoken With Netanyahu But Plans to Do So

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he has not yet spoken with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu since Iran's missile attack on Israel, but intends to do so.

"I haven't spoken with him, we have spoken to all his people, and I'll be talking to him, and my message will depend on what we finally conclude is needed," Biden said when asked whether he had spoken with Netanyahu today.

Commenting on the preliminary assessment of the strike consequences, Biden noted that it appears to have been unsuccessful.

"We're still assessing the impact, but based on what we know now the attack appears to have been defeated and ineffective," Biden said at the top of his meeting on the Helene storm damage and government response.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched several hundred ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

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Switzerland Scheduled UNSC Meeting on Middle East Situation For Wednesday - Statement

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - Switzerland scheduled an open meeting in the UN Security Council on the Middle East crisis followed by closed consultations for Wednesday morning, the Swiss Mission to the UN told journalists.

"We have scheduled an open meeting followed by closed consultations for tomorrow Wed 2nd October at 10 AM," the statement said.

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biden says has not spoken with netanyahu but will - white house pool report

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un security council after iranian missile strikes schedules open meeting, closed consultations on middle east for wednesday - swiss mission

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RPT - Canadian Parliament Defeats 2nd Non-Confidence Motion Against Trudeau Government

(Repeats to fix dateline)

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The Conservative Party's second non-confidence motion against the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been defeated at the Canadian House of Commons.

"Mr. [Luc] Berthold seconded by Mr. [Dan] Albas moved that ... the House has lost confidence in the government," House of Commons Speaker Greg Fergus said. "Yays 121, Nays 207. I declare the motion defeated."

The motion marks the second attempt to bring down Trudeau since the end of the "confidence-and-supply agreement" that bound the New Democratic Party to the Liberals and ensured the survival of their minority government since March 2022.

The next Canadian federal elections are scheduled to take place on or before October 20, 2025.

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Canadian Parliament Defeats 2nd Non-Confidence Motion Against Trudeau Government

WASHINGTON, September 25 (Sputnik) - The Conservative Party's second non-confidence motion against the government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been defeated at the Canadian House of Commons.

"Mr. [Luc] Berthold seconded by Mr. [Dan] Albas moved that ... the House has lost confidence in the government," House of Commons Speaker Greg Fergus said. "Yays 121, Nays 207. I declare the motion defeated."

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White House Ahead of VP Debate Says Biden Has Full Confidence in Walz

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden will be very busy, but he has full confidence in Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz, the White House said on Tuesday, when asked if Biden would watch the vice presidential debate tonight.

"There's a lot going on ... He's going to be very busy ... But he has complete confidence in Tim Walz," Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said during a press briefing.

Later today, Republican 2024 vice presidential nominee JD Vance and Democratic nominee Tim Walz are set to participate in a debate that will be the running mates' only chance to make their case to voters.

The vice presidential debate, hosted by CBS News, will take place in New York City at 9:00 p.m. ET (1:00 GMT Wednesday). There will be 90 minutes of debate time with a pair of four-minute breaks, according to the network.

The United States will hold federal, state and local elections on November 5, which will determine control of the White House and US Congress.

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Israel Has Expanded Conflict, But Brought 'Terrorists' to Justice - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Israel has contributed to broadening the conflict in the Middle East, but it has taken action to hold "terrorists" responsible, US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"They have done things to expand the conflict, but if you look at the actions that they have taken, they were bringing terrorists to justice, terrorists who have launched attacks on Israeli civilians," Miller said during a briefing. "If you look at what Iran did today - we've been warning for some time about the threat posed by Iran arming and funding terrorist groups across the Middle East - and the attack today just demonstrated the danger of those actions."

Earlier in the day, Iran launched a barrage of ballistic missiles toward Israel. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it targeted key military and security facilities in Israel. The IRGC said that the missile attack on Israel came in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

Israel and the United States have warned that there would be serious consequences for Iran if it carried out a retaliatory attack against Israel. Iran also gave a similar warning to Israel should it decide to counter its retaliatory attack.

Iran refrained for several months from conducting a retaliatory attack against Israel over the assassination of Haniyeh in July. Tehran held out in order to give Gaza ceasefire talks a chance, which seem to have reached another stalemate.

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UPDATE - Oil Prices End Up 2% After Iran Missile Attack on Israel

(Updates with more details in paras 2, 3; modifies headline and lede)

NEW YORK, October 1 (Sputnik) - Oil markets started the fourth quarter of 2024 literally with a bang as crude prices rallied 5% on Tuesday before settling halfway of those peaks after an Iranian missile attack that Israel called "serious" and deserving of "consequences."

UK North Sea Brent crude hit a one-month high of \$75.45 per barrel before settling New York trading at \$73.56 - up \$1.86, or 2.6%.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also hit a one-week peak at \$71.94 before finishing Tuesday's session at \$69.83 - for a gain of \$1.66, or 2.4%, on the day.

Israel's military said Iran has launched missiles into its territory, with army radio reporting that over 100 ballistic rockets have been fired.

With the Middle East already torn by wars in Gaza and Lebanon, prospects of an even wider conflict in the region has "shaken the bears and hedge funds out of their [complacency]," Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at The Price Futures Group, said. Bears are shorthand for those bearish on a market.

"It's possible that Israel will respond and make good on its threats to take out Iran refining and oil production facilities," Flynn added.

Notwithstanding the latest rally, Brent crude is down almost 4% on the year after finishing September 9% lower, August down 2.5% and July off by 6.5%.

WTI is down 2% on the year, plunging 7% last month after the 5.6% slide in August and 4.5% drop in July.

Oil markets have turned volatile despite being in an overall lower trend as bulls betting on higher crude prices on the premise of an expanded Middle East conflict face off with bears

motivated by economic woes in top oil importing country China.

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Iran's Latest Missile Attack on Israel Twice Size of April One - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – The United States considers the second Iranian attack on Israel to be “significant” and about twice the size of the one that took place in April, Pentagon spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

“This was a significant attack, probably about twice the size in terms of scope of what we saw earlier,” Ryder said during a press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched several hundred ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

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State Dept. Says Iran Gave No Early Warning to US Ahead of Missile Attack on Israel

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Iran did not give the United States an early warning of its planned missile attack against Israel, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"That is absolutely false. We had no kind of warning from the government that they were going to launch such an attack," Miller said during a press briefing.

US media reported earlier, citing a senior Iranian official, that Iran had given the United States a notice ahead of time before it launched its attack against Israel on Tuesday.

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US Calls on Iran to Halt Any Further Attacks on Israel - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – The United States calls on Iran to halt any further attacks on Israel, including from its alleged proxies, following a ballistic missile launch against Israel earlier in the day, Pentagon spokesperson Pat Ryder said on Tuesday.

“We condemn these reckless attacks by Iran, and we call on Iran to halt any further attacks, including from its proxy forces,” Ryder said during a press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched several hundred ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

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US State Department Says Cannot Reveal Whether Iran's Nuclear Program Legitimate Target

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday that he cannot reveal whether the United States considers Iran's nuclear program a legitimate target, following a missile attack by Iran on Israel.

"I don't want to get into – and this is not to say that I'm ruling anything out or that I'm ruling anything in – but I would answer any question this way, which is: we want to have these conversations directly with our Israeli counterparts over the coming days," Miller said during a press briefing, when asked whether the US considers Iran's nuclear program a legitimate target.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran fired nearly 200 missiles at Israel, amid hostilities between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that the Biden administration will determine the severity of its response to Iran based on consultations with Israel.

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pentagon says Iran's missile attack on Israel was 'significant,' about twice the size of earlier Iranian operation

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State Dept. Says Not Aware of Any Damage to US Facilities in Israel After Iranian Attack

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday that they are not aware of any damage to US facilities in Israel following an Iranian ballistic missile attack.

"At this time we are not aware of any damage to US facilities," Miller said during a press briefing.

Earlier in the day, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Iran launched some 200 ballistic missiles at Israel that the United States helped shoot down. Sullivan said that it appears the Iranian aerial attack was defeated and ineffective.

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US Will Consult With Israelis on Next Steps in Response to Iran - Sullivan

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States will continue to consult with Israeli counterparts to discern next steps in response to the Iranian missile attack, White House

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

"We will consult with the Israelis on next steps in terms of the response and how to deal with what Iran has just done, and we will continue to monitor for further threats and attacks from Iran and its proxies," Sullivan said.

Sullivan added that the United States is particularly focused on protecting US service members in the region.

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US Coordinated With IDF to Defend Israel From Some 200 Missiles Fired by Iran - Sullivan

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Iran has launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles against Israeli targets and the United States has been coordinating closely with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to defend Israel, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

"Today, Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles towards targets in Israel, the United States military, coordinated closely with the Israeli Defense Forces to help defend Israel against this attack," Sullivan during a press briefing.

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US Created Mideast 'Mess,' Much Blowback Expected Against Washington - Ex-IMF Official

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States is responsible for the unrest destabilizing the Middle East and may receive much blowback over it, Hossein Askari, former IMF Executive Board member and special adviser to the Saudi finance minister, told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, The Jerusalem Post reported that Iran launched about 400 missiles toward Israel. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it targeted key military and security facilities in Israel.

"This is a mess that the United States has created for the whole world to see and there will be much blowback on the United States," Askari said.

Iran has been put in a corner by Israel's provocations and the United States' unquestioned support for the Jewish state, Askari added. "It is simply stupid and dangerous for a country [the United States] to give another [Israel] a carte blanche to raise havoc with the promise that it will always come to its rescue--with arms, money, intelligence, political support--and if needed with its own military," Askari said. "This is America's war as much as it is Israel's."

The IRGC said that the missile attack on Israel came in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

Israel and the United States have warned that there would be serious consequences for Iran if it carried out a retaliatory attack against Israel. Iran also gave a similar warning to Israel should

it decide to counter its retaliatory attack.

Iran refrained for several months to conduct a retaliatory attack against Israel over the assassination of Haniyeh in July. Tehran held out in order to give Gaza ceasefire talks a chance which seem to have reached another stalemate.

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Iran Says Did Not Notify US Prior to Strike on Israel, But Issued Warning Afterward

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - Iran did not notify the United States about its intention to strike Israel but issued a "serious warning" following the attack, the Iranian mission to the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles toward targets in Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

"No notice was given to the United States prior to our response; however, a serious warning was issued afterwards," the Iranian mission said in a statement.

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US Will Decide Severity of Consequences Against Iran Based on Talks With Israel - Sullivan

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States will determine the severity of the consequences to impose on Iran based on discussions with Israel, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

"That answer will come based on the conversations and consultations we have with our Israeli counterparts," Sullivan said during a White House press briefing, when asked whether consequences will be more severe than sanctions.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran fired nearly 200 missiles at Israel, amid hostilities between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

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US Does Not Intend to Conduct Emergency Evacuation From Lebanon - Sullivan

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States does not intend to conduct an emergency evacuation of non-combatants from Lebanon amid tensions in the Middle East, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

"We have not begun triggering a non-combatant emergency evacuation and do not have an intention to do so at this time," Sullivan said during a White House press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran fired nearly 200 missiles at Israel, amid hostilities between Israel and

Lebanese movement Hezbollah.

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US Still Working With IDF to Assess Impact of Iranian Missile Attack - White House

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States is still working with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to assess the impacts of the Iranian missile attack on Israel, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Iran launched nearly 200 ballistic missiles toward targets in Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

"We're still working with the IDF to assess impact," Sullivan said during a press briefing.

Sullivan added that US naval destroyers joined Israel to help shoot down some of the missiles, and that the Iranian attack appears to have been defeated.

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sullivan, when asked if consequences on iran qill be worse than sanctions: answer will be based on consultations with israel

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us does not intend to have full evacuation of citizens from lebanon - sullivan

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us will consult with israelis on next steps in terms of response to iranian missile attack - sullivan

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Canada Unequivocally Condemns Iran's Retaliatory Missile Strikes on Israel - Joly

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The Canadian government unequivocally condemns Iran's retaliatory missiles for the killings of the leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas that will further destabilize the region, Foreign Minister Melanie joly said on Tuesday.

"We've all seen the attacks by Iran on Israel, and we condemn them unequivocally. These attacks from Iran will only serve to further destabilize the region and it must stop," Joly told

reporters.

The world is now facing the prospect of a region-wide war in the Middle East, the top diplomat said. It is a very dangerous time for the region, Joly said.

Efforts must be deployed to ensure there is no further escalation, Joly also said when asked whether Canada was calling on Israel to exercise restraint and refrain from striking back at Iran.

"Of course, Israel needs to be able to protect itself ... At the same time, we need to make sure that the parties sit down, and the war stops," Joly added.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched some 400 ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and his associates, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Abbas Nilforoushan. There is no information yet on possible casualties.

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US Coast Guard Says Encountered 4 Russian, Chinese Vessels in Bering Sea

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The US Coast Guard said on Tuesday that it encountered four vessels from the Russian Border Guard and Chinese Coast Guard operating jointly in the Bering Sea over the weekend.

"While patrolling the maritime boundary between the United States and Russia on routine patrol in the Bering Sea, a HC-130J Super Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak observed two Russian Border Guard ships and two Chinese Coast Guard ships approximately 440 miles southwest of St. Lawrence Island," the US Coast Guard said in a statement.

The vessels remained approximately five miles inside the Russian Exclusive Economic Zone, the statement said. The location is the northernmost point where the US Coast Guard has observed Chinese Coast Guard vessels, the statement said.

The joint Russian-Chinese activity represents an increased interest in the Arctic by the United States' strategic competitors, the statement said. The demand for Coast Guard vessels in the region is increasing, requiring investment in capabilities to match the presence of strategic competitors, the statement added.

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Pentagon to Sputnik: US Forces in Region Currently Defending Israel Against Iranian Attack

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States is currently helping Israel to defend itself against an Iranian missile attack and stands ready to provide its ally with additional defensive support, a US defense official told Sputnik on Tuesday.

"In accordance with our ironclad commitment to Israel's security, US forces in the region are currently defending against Iranian-launched missiles targeting Israel. Our forces remain

postured to provide additional defensive support and to protect US forces operating in the region," the official said in a statement.

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us forces remain postured to provide additional defensive support and to protect us forces operating in region - defense official to sputnik

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White House Says Biden's Call With Rabbis Rescheduled for Later Amid Iranian Attack

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – The White House has rescheduled US President Joe Biden's call with rabbis for another day amid the Iranian missile attack on Israel, the press pool reported on Tuesday.

The conference call that takes place annually ahead of the Jewish High Holidays was set to take place on Tuesday afternoon but was rescheduled for later.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran launched several hundred ballistic missiles toward Israel in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper reported that Iran fired more than 400 rockets at Israel on Tuesday, prompting the activation of air raid sirens across the country.

There is no information yet on whether there were any casualties or deaths as a result of the missile strike.

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Harris to Visit Georgia to Survey Hurricane Helene's Impact - White House

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Vice President Kamala Harris is set to travel to Georgia on Wednesday to assess the effects of Hurricane Helene and receive a briefing on the ongoing recovery efforts in the affected communities, the White House said in a statement on Tuesday.

"On Wednesday, October 2, Vice President Kamala Harris will travel to Georgia to survey the impacts of Hurricane Helene and receive an on-the-ground briefing about the continued recovery efforts that are occurring in communities across the state," the statement read.

According to the statement, Harris will give updates on federal actions supporting emergency response and recovery efforts in Georgia and other southeastern states.

This comes after an earlier statement made by the White House, saying that President Joe Biden is set to travel to North and South Carolina on Wednesday to assess Hurricane Helene's damage, receive briefings, and meet with first responders and officials.

The hurricane reached the United States late on Thursday, and weakened to a tropical storm

on Friday. Helene has caused widespread destruction across several states.

In response, US President Joe Biden issued emergency declarations for Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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UN Security Council to Discuss Middle East, Ukraine in October - Swiss Envoy

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - Switzerland plans to discuss the situations in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan during its presidency of the UN Security Council in October, Swiss Ambassador to the United Nations Pascale Christine Baeriswyl said on Tuesday.

"We follow, of course, conflicts in the Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine, as well as other possible crises with very great attention," Baeriswyl told reporters.

The ambassador pointed out that some meetings have already scheduled while others will be added to the program during October.

"We will remain tentative to developments in Ukraine and convene meetings as they are requested," Baeriswyl said.

The UN Security Council will host a quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East on October 29, Baeriswyl added.

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Gold Nears \$2,700 Record High as Iran Fires Missiles at Israel

NEW YORK, October 1 (Sputnik) - Gold came within striking distance of a new record high of \$2,700 an ounce Tuesday after Israel's military said Iran has fired missiles in its direction, worsening risks in a Middle East already torn apart by wars in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

At the time of writing, US gold futures for December delivery were at 2,691.10 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange, after peaking at \$2,694.20 - less than \$5 from the \$2,700 peak Goldman Sachs had forecast for next year.

With October trading coming into its first day, Tuesday's gain in gold futures was 1.2% - after September's advance of 5.7%.

Spot gold, which tracks real-time trades in gold bullion, was at \$2,669.65, after an intraday high at \$2,673.12. For the session, spot gold rose 1.3% after last month's gain of 5.3%.

Israel's military said Iran has launched missiles into its territory, with army radio reporting that nearly 200 ballistic rockets have been fired.

A statement from Iran indicated that the Islamic Republic was awaiting the reaction of Israel to determine if it should escalate the attack.

"Iran's legal, rational, and legitimate response to the terrorist acts of the Zionist regime - which involved targeting Iranian nationals and interests and infringing upon the national sovereignty of Iran - has been duly carried out," the statement said. "Should the Zionist regime dare to respond or commit further acts of malevolence, a subsequent and crushing response will ensue."

Regional states and the Zionists' supporters are advised to part ways with the regime."

Gold often rallies during economic and political troubles as investors view it as a hedge against fiat currencies, which typically tumble in such times.

"If there's serious casualties in Israel, then we may have an all out Middle East war, that's what I think traders are worried about right now," said Jim Wyckoff, senior market analyst at gold bullion trader Kitco Metals.

A spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces said many of the missiles fired by Iran "were intercepted," although "there were some strikes."

The spokesman said "no additional threats" from Iran towards Israel had been immediately identified but warned that Tuesday's air raid "was serious and will have consequences."

Gold's run-up this year has made it one of the best-performing commodities of 2024, with both US futures and spot prices up more than 28%. In comparison, oil, represented by benchmark Brent crude, is down almost 4% on the year.

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Guterres After Iran Attack on Israel Says Condemns Broadening of Middle East Conflict

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday condemned the latest escalation in the Middle East and called for a ceasefire after Iran fired a barrage of missiles toward Israel in retaliation for the killings of the leaders of Hezbollah and Hamas.

"I condemn the broadening of the Middle East conflict, with escalation after escalation. This must stop. We absolutely need a ceasefire," Guterres said in a statement.

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Trump After Iranian Missile Attack on Israel Says This War Was Totally Preventable

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in response to the Iranian missile attack on Israel on Tuesday said that this war was totally preventable.

"THIS WAR WAS TOTALLY PREVENTABLE. IT SHOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED. IF I WERE PRESIDENT, IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED!," Trump said in a statement on Truth Social.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that the missile attack on Israel came in response to the killings of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

President Joe Biden is monitoring the ongoing Iranian aerial attack targeting Israel and ordered the US military to help shoot down the missiles, according to the White House.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has warned that there will be severe consequences for Iran if it chooses to attack Israel. Iran has issued a similar warning to Israel if it decided to respond to

Tuesday's retaliatory attack.

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Biden Monitoring Iranian Attack on Israel, Orders US to Shoot Down Missiles - White House

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is monitoring the ongoing Iranian missile attack targeting Israel and ordered the US military to help shoot them down, a White House National Security Council spokesperson said on Tuesday.

"POTUS [Biden] and VP [Kamala Harris] are monitoring the Iranian attack against Israel from the White House Situation Room and receiving regular updates from their national security team. POTUS directed the US military to aid Israel's defense against Iranian attacks and shoot down missiles targeting Israel," the spokesperson said.

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IDF Incursions of Lebanon Not Full-Scale Invasion, Could be Preparatory - Canada's Blair

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – Canada does not see incursions by the Israel Defense Forces into southern Lebanon as a full-scale invasion but they could be in preparation for one, Minister of National Defense Bill Blair said on Tuesday.

"At the current time we understand and it's now without precedent that there are some incursions, and some raids have been taking place immediately across the border," Blair told reporters. "From our perspective it does not amount to a full-scale invasion, but it could be preparatory to that."

Canada is watching the situation with increasing concern and is still calling for a ceasefire, Blair said. Ottawa continues to coordinate with its allies to try and achieve a diplomatic outcome to the regional conflict.

"I don't want to use escalatory language. We are still working toward a ceasefire and a diplomatic resolution of this conflict," Blair replied when asked what would be required for Canada to consider the situation an invasion.

On Monday, Israel announced the start of a limited military ground operation in southern Lebanon with reportedly no plans to occupy any areas of the country permanently. It came after Israel launched massive bombardments of southern and eastern Lebanon and killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on Beirut.

The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border aggravated after the start of Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip in October 2023. The Israeli military and Hezbollah fighters exchange fire almost daily in areas along the border.

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Trump After Iranian Missile Attack on Israel Says This War Was Totally Preventable, Should Have Never Happened

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Iran Carried Out Legal, Rational Response to Israel for Its Terrorist Acts - Mission to UN

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - Iran has conducted a legal, legitimate and rational response to Israel for the latter's terrorist acts, the Iranian Mission to the United Nations said on Tuesday.

"Iran's legal, rational, and legitimate response to the terrorist acts of the Zionist regime - which involved targeting Iranian nationals and interests and infringing upon the national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran - has been duly carried out," the mission said in a statement via the social media platform X.

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Biden to Visit North, South Carolina on Wednesday to Assess Hurricane Damage - White House

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) — US President Joe Biden is scheduled to travel to North and South Carolina on Wednesday to survey damage caused by Hurricane Helene, receive briefings, and meet with first responders and officials, the White House said in a statement on Tuesday.

"On Wednesday, October 2nd, the President will travel to North Carolina and South Carolina. He will take an aerial tour of areas impacted by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina, receive operational briefings, and greet with first responders and local officials. He will also engage with first responders and state and local officials in South Carolina en route to North Carolina," the statement read.

The hurricane reached the United States late on Thursday and weakened to a tropical storm on Friday. Helene has caused widespread destruction across several states.

In response, US President Joe Biden issued emergency declarations for Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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Trump on Iran Threat to Attack Israel: World Out of Control, US Leadership Absent

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - Former US President Donald Trump commenting on alleged plans by Iran to attack Israel said that US leadership is absent as the world is spiraling out of control and risking the start of World War III.

Earlier on Tuesday, a senior White House official told reporters the United States has

indications that Iran is preparing to imminently launch a ballistic missile attack against Israel and that Washington is actively supporting defensive preparations to defend Israel.

"The world is on fire and spiraling out of control. We have no leadership, no one running the country. We have a non-existent president in Joe Biden, and a completely absent vice president, Kamala Harris," Trump said in a press release on Tuesday. "No one is in charge and it's not even clear who is more confused: Biden or Kamala. Neither has any idea what is even going on."

Trump further said that war or the threat of war is raging everywhere and US leadership is bringing the United States to the brink of World War III.

The White House said in a statement that Biden convened a meeting with his national security team to discuss Iranian plans to imminently launch a significant ballistic missile attack against Israel. They reviewed the status of US preparations to help Israel defend against these potential attacks and protect US personnel in the region, the statement added.

The Israel Defense Forces spokesman Daniel Hagari said in earlier remarks that Israel is taking the threat of a missile attack from Iran seriously. Hagari also said Israel received notification from the United States warning about a potential imminent missile attack planned by Iran.

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iran's un mission calls missile strikes on Israel iran's legal, rational and legitimate response to terrorist acts of zionist regime

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US Defense Chief Spoke With Israeli Counterpart About Imminent Iranian Threat - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to discuss the threat of an imminent Iranian attack on Israel, Pentagon Press Secretary Pat Ryder said on Tuesday, amid reports of Iran launching about 400 missiles at Israel.

"The Secretary shared that over recent days the United States has increased force readiness and continues to maintain significant military capability in the region," Ryder said in a statement.

The United States is well postured to defend US personnel, allies and partners in the face of threats from Iran and Iran-backed groups, the statement said. Austin and Gallant discussed the "severe consequences" for Iran in the event Iran launches a direct military attack against Israel, the statement added.

Reports from the region indicate that Iran launched a missile attack on Israel on Tuesday.

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Oil Prices Up 4% As Israel Military Reports That Iran Has Fired Missiles In Its Direction

NEW YORK, October 1 (Sputnik) - Oil markets started the fourth quarter powerfully, with crude prices up 4% Tuesday, on fears the Middle East will be plunged into a deeper war after Israel's military said Iran has fired missiles in its direction.

UK North Sea Brent hit a one-week high of \$74.90 per barrel before consolidating at \$74.74 by 12.45 pm in New York (5:45 pm in London) — up \$3.05, or 4.3%.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also hit a one-week peak at \$71.41 before steadying at \$71.22 — for a gain of \$3.06, or 4.5%, on the day.

Israel's military said Iran has launched missiles into its territory, with army radio reporting that over 100 ballistic rockets have been fired.

Prospects of a deeper Middle East war have "shaken the bears and hedge funds out of their [complacency]," Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at The Price Futures Group, said. Bears are shorthand for those bearish on the market.

"It's possible that Israel will respond and make good on its threats to take out Iran's refining and oil production facilities," Flynn added.

Notwithstanding the latest rally, Brent crude oil is down almost 3% in the year after finishing September 9% lower, extending the 2.5% slump from August and 6.5% drop from July.

WTI is down 0.4% on the year, finishing last month down 7% after the 5.6% slide in August and 4.5% in July.

Oil markets have turned volatile despite being in an overall lower trend as bulls betting on higher crude prices on the premise of an expanded Middle East conflict face off with bears motivated by economic woes in top oil-importing country China.

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pentagon says us defense secretary austin spoke with israel's gallant to discuss imminent threat of iranian attack against Israel

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US Govt. Sanctions Israeli Settler Youth Group For Attacks on Palestinians - Treasury

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The Biden administration has imposed sanctions on Hilltop Youth, an Israeli Jewish extremist group that has carried out repeated attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, the Department of the Treasury announced in a press release on Tuesday.

"Today, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is designating Hilltop Youth, a violent extremist group that has repeatedly attacked Palestinians and destroyed Palestinian homes and property in the West Bank," the release stated.

In carrying out those attacks, Hilltop Youth was actively destabilizing the West Bank and harming the peace and security of Palestinians and Israelis alike, the Treasury Department said.

"Hilltop Youth has devastated Palestinian communities and carried out killings, mass arson, and other so-called 'price tag' attacks to exact revenge and intimidate Palestinian civilians, and has repeatedly clashed with the Israeli military as it counters their activities," the release said.

Also, the Department of State is designating Israeli citizen Eitan Yardeni for his connection to violence or threats of violence targeting civilians in the West Bank and Avichai Suissa who leads Hashomer Yosh, a West Bank-based group, the release added.

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UN 'Extremely Worried' by US Reports Iran May Want to Attack Israel - Spokesperson

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United Nations is very concerned by the latest US reports that Iran may want to retaliate against Israel and does not want to see any attacks take place, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"We're obviously extremely worried by these reports," Dujarric said. "We talk about the respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty of countries that applies to all in the region. We would not want to see any sort of attack that is being rumored in the press."

Earlier on Tuesday, the White House said that the United States believes Iran is preparing to launch an imminent ballistic missile attack against Israel amid the latter's attacks on Lebanon, Syria and Yemen as well as continued attacks in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

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US Manufacturing Down Most in 15 Months as Jobs Soften, Election Uncertainty Looms - S&P

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US manufacturing orders fell the most in 15 months as the fourth quarter of 2024 dawned amid a worsening job market and uncertainty spawned by the upcoming presidential election, S&P Global Market Intelligence said.

S&P Global US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), which accounts for the manufacturing purchasing managers index, remained below the 50 reading at the end of September, dipping to 47.3 from 47.9 in August. It was the index's third consecutive monthly worsening and the most pronounced since June 2023.

"The September PMI survey brings a whole slew of disappointing economic indicators regarding the health of the US economy," Chris Williamson, chief business economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said. "Factories reported the largest monthly drop in production for 15 months in response to a slump in new orders, in turn driving further reductions in employment and input buying as producers scaled back operating capacity."

Employment decreased at the strongest pace since the start of 2010, discounting the initial job market meltdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic measures, the September report said. Manufacturing output, however, decreased less quickly than new orders as firms worked through outstanding business and added to holdings of finished goods.

Central to the deterioration in business conditions was a sharply worsening demand

environment amid a slowdown in the wider economy and uncertainty around the November 5 presidential election, with polls showing incumbent Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris tied with Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump.

The report noted that new manufacturing orders decreased for the third month running, with the rate of contraction being the sharpest in 15 months. New export orders were also down to a larger extent than in August, as geopolitical issues and demand weakness - notably in Europe - led to a fourth consecutive decline.

With new orders continuing to fall, manufacturers scaled back their production for a second month running. The pace of decline was modest, yet the fastest since the middle of last year.

The resulting drop in backlogs of work was the largest since January, while post-production inventories were accumulated for the third month running.

"While the current weak demand environment has helped keep cost pressures low in the manufacturing sector, the potential for geopolitical events to drive energy prices higher alongside possible spikes in shipping prices poses upside risks to the inflation picture," Williamson said.

His comments came amid renewed fears of an imminent Iranian attack on Israel as the war situation in the Middle East worsened.

Despite the overall gloom, Williamson said there was optimism that demand would pick back up after the conclusion of the November presidential election.

"Companies are sensing that at least part of the drop in demand is likely to be temporary, as spending, investment and inventory building have been paused in many cases amid the uncertainty caused by the presidential election," he said.

The prospect of lower interest rates has also raised confidence in the longer term outlook, with firms anticipating that demand will be rekindled by lower borrowing costs if the political environment improves. "Hence, despite the deterioration in the current business situation, business expectations about the year ahead have in fact improved."

The Federal Reserve cut US interest rates on September 18 for the first time in four years, dropping 50 basis points to bring the peak rate Americans pay for their borrowings to 5%. Prior to that, rates topped off at a two-decade high of 5.5% due to inflation on a tear from the trillions of dollars of relief spending and breakdown of supply chains caused by the coronavirus pandemic measures.

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UN Extremely Worried by Reports That US Expects Iranian Missile Attack on Israel -
Spokesman

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Majority of US Voters Plan to Cast Ballots Ahead of Election Day - Poll

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - A majority of likely voters in the United States intend to cast their ballots ahead of Election Day in 2024, according to a Rasmussen Reports poll released Tuesday.

Most voters, 58%, plan to vote early and 39% will wait until Election Day, the poll report said.

Thirty-seven percent (37%) plan to vote early in-person and 21% plan to vote by mail, the poll report said.

The figure is up from October 2022, when 44% planned to vote early and 53% planned to wait for Election Day, the poll report added.

Election Day will take place on November 5 this year.

The poll surveyed 1,114 likely US voters on September 18-19 and 22. The poll has a margin of error of plus-or-minus three percentage points with a 95% confidence level.

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Twelve County Election Offices Remain Closed in North Carolina Due to Hurricane Helene

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) announced on Tuesday that 12 county election offices in North Carolina remain closed due to Hurricane Helene ahead of the voter registration deadline on October 11.

Those county election offices include Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cleveland, Henderson, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey, which are closed, while Jackson remains open but without internet, the statement added.

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Former European Officials Call on NATO to Lift Ban on Nuclear Arms in Newer Member States

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - A group of former high-ranking European officials and others released a manifesto to NATO on Tuesday, urging the alliance to lift its ban on deploying nuclear weapons to countries that joined after 1997.

The manifesto calls for a "New NATO" that focuses more on its European elements; "Europeanization" is required to keep the United States in the alliance, the manifesto, published by the Atlantic Council, said.

Europe is confronted with the most serious situation of the last 75 years due to the actions of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the manifesto said.

"To counter Putin's irresponsible imperialist nuclear blackmailing with his considerable nuclear arsenal, we suggest, as a first step, that [NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte] proposes the cancellation of the commitment from the NATO-Russia Founding Act not to deploy nuclear weapons in countries that joined the Alliance after 1997," the manifesto said.

NATO should also analyze and discuss the operational and strategic risks and benefits of stationing US tactical nuclear weapons in Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, the manifesto said.

Moreover, Germany should develop a multinational, rapidly deployable NATO Strike

Component Force armed with US weapons, as well as a multilateral NATO nuclear planning force group, the manifesto also said.

European allies should also increase their defense spending to achieve more equitable burden sharing across NATO, the manifesto added.

The manifesto's signatories include former Estonian President Toomas Ilves, former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, former Romanian Prime Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, former Bulgarian Foreign Minister Nadezhda Michailova and former Spanish Defense Minister Eduardo Serra Rexach.

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Oil Prices Jump 4% Amid Fears of Imminent Iran Strike on Israel

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12 county election offices closed in north carolina due to hurricane helene ahead of voter registration deadline on october 11 - officials

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US Charges Russian National for Alleged Ransomware Attacks - Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The United States charged Russian national Aleksandr Ryzhenkov for allegedly using the BitPaymer ransomware variant to attack multiple victims, the US Justice Department said on Tuesday.

"According to the indictment, beginning in at least June 2017, Ryzhenkov allegedly gained unauthorized access to the information stored on victims' computer networks. Ryzhenkov and his conspirators then allegedly deployed the strain of ransomware known as BitPaymer and used it to encrypt the files of the victim companies, rendering them inaccessible. An electronic note left on the victims' systems contained a ransom demand and instructions on how to contact the attackers to begin ransom negotiations," the Justice Department said in a statement.

Ryzhenkov allegedly used a variety of means to gain access to computer systems, including malware, phishing, and vulnerabilities in hardware and software, the statement said.

The US also sanctioned Ryzhenkov, who is believed to be in Russia, alongside the criminal indictment, the statement said.

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UN Secretary-General Calls for Immediate Ceasefire in Lebanon - Statement

UNITED NATIONS, October 1 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appeals for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and has reiterated the entire United Nations system in the country is mobilized to help individuals in need, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

"The Secretary-General is extremely concerned with the escalation of the conflict in Lebanon," Dujarric said in a statement. "He appeals for an immediate ceasefire. An all-out war must be avoided in Lebanon at all costs, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected."

Dujarric pointed out that Guterres spoke earlier on Tuesday with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati and told him that "the entire United Nations system in Lebanon is mobilized to assist all those in need in the country."

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US Embassy in Israel Issues Shelter in Place Notice Amid Reports of Looming Iran Attack

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) – The US Embassy in Israel published an alert on Tuesday urging all American government employees amid their families to shelter in place until further notice amid reports of a potential Iranian retaliation strike against Israel.

"As a result of the current security situation, the U.S. Embassy has directed all U.S. government employees and their family members to shelter in place until further notice," the alert reads.

Earlier on Tuesday, a senior White House official said that the United States believes Iran is preparing to launch an imminent ballistic missile attack against Israel amid an escalation in the region.

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Blinken Names New Head of Office of Sanctions Coordination

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - US Special Representative for Afghanistan Tom West has been transitioned to head of the Department of State's Office of Sanctions Coordination, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday.

"Tom West has transitioned from his role as Special Representative for Afghanistan to Acting Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination at the US Department of State," Blinken said in a statement.

Blinken also announced in the statement several key changes in the US team working with Afghanistan.

"The US commitment to Afghanistan remains an enduring priority and will be led within the State Department by Chief of Mission of the US Mission to Afghanistan - Karen Decker, Special Envoy [for Afghan Women, Girls and Human Rights Rina] Amiri, and [Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asia] Ambassador John Mark Pommersheim," Blinken said.

Decker will lead US diplomacy regarding Afghanistan working from Doha, Qatar, Amiri will continue to work on human rights, while Pommersheim will coordinate inter-agency efforts on Afghanistan from Washington, Blinken added.

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US Justice Dept. Agrees to Pay \$22Mln in Lawsuit Alleging FBI Bias Against Female Recruits

WASHINGTON, October 1 (Sputnik) - The US Justice Department has agreed to pay \$22.6 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the FBI of discriminating against female recruits, according to court documents obtained by Sputnik on Tuesday.

The lawsuit was filed in 2019 by 34 women who claim that they were wrongly dismissed from the FBI's agent training academy because of their gender.

"This is a class action lawsuit, which requires the court's approval of the settlement first," a Justice Department spokesperson told Sputnik. "The agreement itself was filed yesterday as an exhibit to our motion for preliminary approval of the class settlement."

The FBI declined to comment on this case because the litigation is still ongoing, but told Sputnik that the agency has taken significant steps over the past five years to further ensure gender equity in the training and development of all its trainees.

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un secretary-general extremely concerned with escalation of conflict in lebanon, appeals for immediate ceasefire - spokesman

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us embassy in israel directs all government employees and their families to shelter in place until further notice - alert

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