

10/8/24 Tuesday

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

Israel's Collective Punishment Turns the World Against It

In 2008, Israel Defense Forces colonel Gabriel Siboni described what would be named the Dahiyeh doctrine. "In Lebanon, attacks should both aim at [Hezbollah's] military capabilities and should target economic interests and the centers of civilian power that support the organization... [Israel] will have to respond disproportionately," he wrote.

The collective punishment carried out by the state of Israel on the people of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon has turned the world against it and could be its undoing. The repercussions of Israel's indiscriminate and murderous campaign can be seen both locally and across the globe.

"There will be no electricity, no food, no water, no fuel, everything is closed [in Gaza]. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said days after the October 7 attack.

Inside Gaza, Hamas was facing a popularity crisis, with only 20% of the population supporting them before October 7 according to James Zogby of the Arab-American Institute. By launching Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, Hamas hoped to change its image and increase its popularity.

"Hamas sought to use October 7th as an attempt to reconfigure its image as an authoritarian militant group into a fighting force protecting Palestinians against Israeli aggression. Hamas believed that by framing October 7th as a revolutionary act of resistance against Israel, Palestinians would see them as protectors of their struggle and see Hamas in a favorable light," wrote Abdelhalim Abdelrahman in [an article for antiwar.com](#) on the anniversary of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

A recent poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research [found that](#) 56% of Palestinians in Gaza say that armed resistance is "the best means of achieving Palestinian goals in ending the occupation and building an independent state," increasing from 50% in September 2023.

The same trend is happening in Lebanon with Hezbollah, the editor of The Cradle [told Sputnik's Fault Lines](#) on Tuesday. "What has been happening in Lebanon I think is actually creating more support for Hezbollah because even among the people who dislike the existence of the Lebanese resistance, they dislike Israel more," he argued. "You're not all of a sudden gonna start taking the side of the people who are bombing your city, your capital, your country. So indiscriminately cutting off the land route to Syria, threatening to start bombing from the sea, as well as from the air... this is the [Dahiyeh doctrine](#)."

"They were hoping that at some point Palestinians would be like enough is enough, we are going to turn against Hamas, and that never happened. And, it's never gonna happen here in Lebanon as well," Carrillo continued. "Even if they spark some sort of color revolution, it's gonna fizzle out because Israel, at the end of the day, is the enemy at this point, honestly, not just of Lebanon, or of Palestine, or Syria, or Iran. Israel is becoming an enemy of humanity."

In the region, Israel's actions have erased decades of work that its government and the US put into normalizing relations with its neighbors.

"[October 7] sidelined what appeared to be an upcoming, soon to be realized, entente between Saudi Arabia and Israel. That would have sidelined... the notion of Palestinian self-determination. But, with October 7, the opposite is in play with the Saudi leadership now contending that no normalization with Israel is possible unless the question of Palestinian self-determination and statehood is on the table," Dr. Gerald Horne, a historian that holds the John J. and Rebecca Moores Chair of History and African American Studies at the University of Houston [told Sputnik's The Critical Hour](#).

"You can also say that October 7, 2023, weakened the Abraham Accords. Those are the accords initiated by US President, Mr. Trump, which called for normalizing of relations between Morocco and Bahrain and Sudan," continued Horne. "We now know that with Sudan's leadership inking those ill-fated accords, it was greeted with hostility on the streets of Khartoum, leading to what is now [a] de-facto civil war."

Across the globe, Israel is finding that countries that were previously satisfied with the status quo are no longer supportive of the Zionist state.

In May, Colombia severed diplomatic relations with Israel, despite its military's reliance on Israeli arms imports. In August, Colombian President Gustavo Petro halted coal exports to Israel, saying on X that "Colombian coal is used to make bombs to kill Palestinian children."

Colombia previously supplied 60% of Israel's coal imports.

Even France, one of Israel's most steadfast supporters over the decades, shocked the world when on Sunday, French President Emmanuel Macron called for an arms embargo on Israel, a comment that Netanyahu called a "disgrace."

"We see that this Macron initiative is a response to the strengthening of the left in France, a direct result, I would argue, of October 7, because France has one of the most significant and vibrant Islamic populations in Europe, which was altogether outraged, understandably, by the persecution of the Gazans and the Palestinians in the wake of October 7, which led to a surge of the left in the French Parliament," Horne argued.

But Israel's actions are not just turning the world against themselves, it is also turning the world against its biggest benefactor: The United States.

"In light of this obvious double standard that basically leads to the North Atlantic countries seeking to excuse Israel's piracy while coming down like a ton of bricks on other nations who are thought to violate this so-called international order. It's quite discredited for the United States, US imperialism, and its North Atlantic allies," explained Horne.

"[The US is] talking out of both sides of its mouth as usual, supposedly elbowing Mr. Netanyahu to move towards a ceasefire, while supplying multi-tonnage bombs that are dropped in densely-populated areas of Beirut," he added later.

Inside the United States, people are starting to turn against Israel as well, particularly among the youth. "We also see that in North America itself, October 7, 2023, led to a reinvigorated protest movement on campuses," Horne said.

According to an April Pew Research poll, [younger Americans are becoming increasingly sympathetic with the Palestinian cause](#), with 33% of respondents aged 18-29 saying that their sympathies lie with the people of Gaza, compared to just 14% who say the same about Israelis.

Meanwhile, the share of Americans who have no or little confidence in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "do the right thing regarding world affairs," [has jumped to 52%](#) compared to 42% who said the same before October 7.

This is despite the mainstream media in the West and much of the world working for decades to dehumanize the Palestinians.

An investigation by DeclassifiedUK [noted the differences](#) in how Palestinians and Israeli deaths are covered in mainstream Western outlets.

"In the UK-US mainstream media, Israelis die actively. They are either killed or murdered by Hamas, or 'after a surprise Palestinian attack.' 'The Palestinians' stands in for 'Hamas' for sloppy or ideological editors, for example in the [Guardian](#) on 8 October.

Palestinian civilians, by contrast, die passively – and yet it is they who have done most of the dying since 7 October...

On 8 November, the Times of London [noted](#): 'Israelis marked a month since Hamas killed 1,400 people and kidnapped 240, starting a war in which 10,300 Palestinians are said to have died', which is of course qualified."

Carillo agrees. "Western media, the major outlets - CNN, Fox News and MSNBC, NBC - you just name them one after the other, have been so complicit in the dehumanization of Palestinians," he said.

"Now I wonder, are they going to do the same for the Lebanese? Are the Lebanese next to be dehumanized? To be made to live in camps?"

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

Republicans Threaten to Cut Funding to Colleges Allowing Pro-Palestine Protests - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) – US House Majority Leader Steve Scalise has threatened to revoke accreditation and cut federal funding to those US colleges that indulge in pro-Palestinian protests on their campuses, The Guardian reported on Wednesday.

"Today, if you have a change in administration, President Trump's made it clear, day one, if you're a college that is violating the civil rights of your students, we're taking away your accreditation," Scalise was quoted as saying during a meeting with the powerful pro-Israel lobby group the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) earlier this month. "We're looking at federal money, the federal grants that go through the Science Committee, student loans."

The meeting focused on the rise of antisemitism in the US since the start of the Gaza conflict last year. Besides Scalise, the meeting was attended by Republican congressman Pat Fallon from the state of Texas, the report said.

Despite the declared topic of the meeting, the discussion was mainly about ways to quash criticism of Israel's operation in Gaza in the United States, the report added.

Scalise singled out several prestigious American universities such as Harvard, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania that have witnessed mass student protests calling for an end to Israel's military operation in Gaza, according to the report.

On October 7, 2023, Israel was subjected to an unprecedented rocket attack from the Gaza Strip. In addition, Hamas fighters infiltrated the border areas, opened fire on the military and

civilians, and took hostages. Israeli authorities say that about 1,200 people were killed during the raid. The Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Iron Swords in the Gaza Strip and announced a complete blockade of the enclave. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, since October 7, 2023, the death toll has exceeded 42,000, and more than 97,720 people have been injured.

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

Harris Appeared to Refer to Orban, Xi, Kim as 'Dictators' and 'Murderers'

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) – US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris during an interview appeared to refer to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as "dictators" and "murderers."

During the Late Show with Stephen Colbert on Tuesday, the host said that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump "loves talking about his close relationship with Viktor Orban, Xi Jinping and Kim Jong Un."

"Dictators and authoritarians, and people who can be well described as murderers," Harris quickly interjected.

Colbert later added Russian President Vladimir Putin to the list of the leaders Trump says he gets along well with.

Harris argued that Trump "openly admires dictators" and "gets played by these guys." She also accused him of striving to be a dictator.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier in the day called it "common practice" for the US political establishment to make insulting remarks about President Putin. Putin has never resorted to personal insults and is not going to do it, the Kremlin said.

The US presidential election is scheduled for November 5.

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

Americans Cite Economy as Most Important Election Issue – Poll

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) – Americans cite the economy as the most important of 22 issues in influencing their presidential vote, according to a Gallup poll released Wednesday.

Just over half of the poll's respondents, 52%, said the economy had an "extremely important" influence on their vote – the highest percentage since the 55% reported during the global financial crisis in October 2008. Additionally, 38% of respondents described the economy as having a "very important" influence on their vote.

Fifty-four percent of respondents saw Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump as more equipped than his Democratic rival Kamala Harris to handle the economy. Republican or Republican-leaning respondents were also much more likely to rate the economy as "extremely important" (66%) than their Democratic counterparts, (36%).

The majority of respondents also saw Trump as more equipped to handle immigration (54%) and foreign affairs (52%), while most saw Harris as more equipped to handle climate change (61%), abortion (56%), and healthcare (54%). Respondents were evenly divided regarding gun policy.

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

US, Russia Can Fix Relations by Creating Nuclear Arms Control of Mutual Respect - Sachs

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States and Russia should help restore stability in the bilateral relationship by establishing nuclear arms control measures based on mutual respect, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Sputnik.

"The US and Russia should also re-establish nuclear arms control as well, based on mutual respect, mutual security, and mutual nuclear disarmament," Sachs said.

White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby recently said that the United States would like to jumpstart the New START arms control treaty with Russia, but it would wait for Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to do so.

Last month, US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ben Cardin said that he is hopeful the United States can continue arms control dialogue with all nuclear powers after the end of the conflict in Ukraine.

However, Moscow has made clear that it would not be ready to resume negotiations with the United States until Washington has changed the course of its foreign policy.

The United States has not taken Russia's valid security interests seriously over the past 30 years, Sachs noted.

Sachs recommends that the United States can help turn down the tensions with Russia by declaring openly that it will stop any further attempt to expand NATO to Ukraine and Georgia.

The United States should also state that it will support collective security for Ukraine, Russia, and other countries on the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Charter, Sachs added.

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

Mideast Solution Obvious But Political Will Blocked By Powerful Israel Lobby - Sachs

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The solution to the crisis in the Middle East is obvious but remains obstructed by the powerful pro-Israel lobby in the United States, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Sputnik.

"This solution is rather obvious, but the political will has so far been blocked by the powerful Israel lobby," Sachs said.

Sachs suggested that peace in the Middle East would be possible if the United States stopped

vetoing Palestine's membership in the United Nations and worked with other permanent members of the UN Security Council, including Russia, to implement a two-state solution.

A two-state solution should establish a state of Palestine alongside Israel on the basis of the internationally recognized border that existed between the two countries on June 4, 1967, prior to the Six Day War, Sachs said.

The Palestinian state should have East Jerusalem as its recognized capital and have control over Islamic holy sites, Sachs added.

The United Nations could impose peacekeepers and other actions to ensure the security of both Israel and Palestine, Sachs said.

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

US, Russia Can Fix Relations by Creating Nuclear Arms Control of Mutual Respect - Sachs

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States and Russia should help restore stability in the bilateral relationship by establishing nuclear arms control measures based on mutual respect, Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Sputnik.

"The US and Russia should also re-establish nuclear arms control as well, based on mutual respect, mutual security, and mutual nuclear disarmament," Sachs said.

White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby recently said that the United States would like to jumpstart the New START arms control treaty with Russia, but it would wait for Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to do so.

Last month, US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ben Cardin said that he is hopeful the United States can continue arms control dialogue with all nuclear powers after the end of the conflict in Ukraine.

However, Moscow has made clear that it would not be ready to resume negotiations with the United States until Washington has changed the course of its foreign policy.

The United States has not taken Russia's valid security interests seriously over the past 30 years, Sachs noted.

Sachs recommends that the United States can help turn down the tensions with Russia by declaring openly that it will stop any further attempt to expand NATO to Ukraine and Georgia.

The United States should also state that it will support collective security for Ukraine, Russia, and other countries on the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Charter, Sachs added.

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

US in Dangerous Hiatus Amid Biden's Lame Duck Period, Exploited by Allies - Sachs

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - The United States is in a dangerous hiatus during outgoing President Joe Biden's lame duck period, which several US allies are trying to exploit,

Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economist and president of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, told Sputnik.

"President Biden is not really in full control anymore, both because of his waning mental status and his lame duck status," Sachs said. "We are in a dangerous hiatus. [Israel's Benjamin] Netanyahu is exploiting that hiatus, and [Volodymyr] Zelensky is trying to as well."

The United States backs Israel's reckless behavior, talks openly about war with China, and continues a delusional policy in Ukraine that is bleeding that country while threatening to provoke more escalation, Sachs explained.

Zelenskyy has been pushing the Biden administration to allow Kiev to use US-supplied long-range missiles for deep strikes inside Russian territory, which Russia has warned could drag the United States directly into the conflict. To date, Biden has refrained from granting Ukraine its request.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, Netanyahu continues to expand his military operation in the region, shifting its focus from Gaza to Lebanon, which provoked Tehran to conduct its second aerial assault against Israel on Tuesday and left open the possibility for more military action by Iran.

Sachs added that there is little chance Biden will steer the United States toward a "good direction" throughout the remainder of his term, but there's also no guarantee that things will improve after either Republican candidate Donald Trump or Democratic candidate Kamala Harris comes into power on January 20.

"I hope for rationality by the next government, because we need a completely new foreign policy, based on negotiation, mutual respect with other great powers, and peace," Sachs said. "The US doesn't seem to have much sound thinking at the top right now."

Many other countries are trying to exploit US military power, including the United Kingdom, Poland, and the Baltic states, which are all urging reckless policies by the United States that could land it quickly in World War 3, Sachs noted.

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

UPDATE - US Charges Afghan National With Plotting Election Day Terror Attack - Justice Dept.

(Update with details in para 3)

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - A US federal court has charged Afghan national Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi for allegedly plotting a terrorist attack on Election Day in the United States on behalf of the Islamic State terrorist group (IS, banned in Russia), the US Department of Justice said in a press release.

"The Justice Department today announced charges against a citizen of Afghanistan residing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for conspiring to conduct an Election Day terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham... a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO)," the release said on Tuesday.

Court documents reveal that Tawhedi entered the United States on September 9, 2021, on a special immigrant visa, days after the US completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan. He is currently on parole status pending adjudication of his immigration hearing.

FBI investigators searched Tawhedi's phone and obtained communications between him and an IS-linked individual who appears to recruit, train, and indoctrinate people who expressed interest in terrorist activity, the release said, adding that Tawhedi also had other IS-related content saved on his iCloud and Google account.

On October 7, the 27-year-old Tawhedi was arrested by the FBI during an undercover operation and allegedly admitted to investigators that he was planning an attack on Election Day that would target large gatherings of people, according to the Justice Department.

The release said undercover FBI agents had posed as individuals who were meeting with Tawhedi and a juvenile at a rural location in Oklahoma to sell two AK-47 assault rifles, ten magazines, and 500 rounds of ammunition. FBI agents arrested Tawhedi and the juvenile who was with him as soon as they received the rifles and ammunition, the release said.

Tawhedi faces up to 35 years in prison for conspiring and attempting to provide material support to IS, and for receiving a firearm to be used to commit a felony or a federal crime of terrorism, the release noted.

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

US Charges Afghan National With Plotting Election Day Terror Attack - Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - A US federal court has charged Afghan national Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi for allegedly plotting a terrorist attack on Election Day in the United States on behalf of the Islamic State terrorist group (IS, banned in Russia), the US Department of Justice said in a press release.

"The Justice Department today announced charges against a citizen of Afghanistan residing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for conspiring to conduct an Election Day terrorist attack in the United States on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham... a designated foreign terrorist organization (FTO)," the release said on Tuesday.

FBI investigators searched Tawhedi's phone and obtained communications between him and an IS-linked individual who appears to recruit, train, and indoctrinate people who expressed interest in terrorist activity, the release said, adding that Tawhedi also had other IS-related content saved on his iCloud and Google account.

On October 7, the 27-year-old Tawhedi was arrested by the FBI during an undercover operation and allegedly admitted to investigators that he was planning an attack on Election Day that would target large gatherings of people, according to the Justice Department.

The release said undercover FBI agents had posed as individuals who were meeting with Tawhedi and a juvenile at a rural location in Oklahoma to sell two AK-47 assault rifles, ten magazines, and 500 rounds of ammunition. FBI agents arrested Tawhedi and the juvenile who was with him as soon as they received the rifles and ammunition, the release said.

Tawhedi faces up to 35 years in prison for conspiring and attempting to provide material support to IS, and for receiving a firearm to be used to commit a felony or a federal crime of terrorism, the release noted.

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

Trump Says Harris Exposed as 'Dummy' During Every Media Appearance

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris appears unintelligent every time she does an interview, former US President Donald Trump said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Harris participated in an interview with the daytime talk show The View, where she said that she would not have done anything different than US President Joe Biden in the past several years if she were president.

"Lying Kamala, who is being exposed as a 'dummy' every time she does a show, just stated to the degenerates on The View that she would have done nothing different than Crooked Joe Biden, the worst president in the history of the United States," Trump said via social media platform X.

Trump listed criticisms of the Biden administration, including its handling of inflation, border security and energy policy, as well as issues related to Ukraine, Israel and Afghanistan.

The United States has lost respect around the world, Trump also said.

The "lamestream media" does not want to cover the story and the hosts of The View wish they never asked the question, Trump added.

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

UPDATE- SpaceX May Try First Catch of Starship Super Heavy Rocket at Launch Site on Sunday

(Updates with FAA response in para 8)

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) - SpaceX hopes to make its first-ever attempt to catch Starship's Super Heavy rocket with the launch tower's retractable arms as soon as Sunday in Texas, the company said in a statement.

"Starship's fifth flight test could launch as soon as October 13, pending regulatory approval," SpaceX said. "The primary objectives will be attempting the first ever return to the launch site and catch of the Super Heavy booster and another Starship reentry and landing burn, aiming for an on-target splashdown of Starship in the Indian Ocean."

SpaceX is designing the Starship spacecraft and its Super Heavy booster rocket to be reusable for multi-planetary missions to the Moon and Mars.

The company noted that the catch attempt will only be possible if conditions are right.

"Thousands of distinct vehicle and pad criteria must be met prior to a return and catch attempt of the Super Heavy booster, which will require healthy systems on the booster and tower and a manual command from the mission's Flight Director," SpaceX said.

If SpaceX aborts the catch attempt at the launch tower, the Super Heavy booster will simulate a landing attempt in the Gulf of Mexico.

SpaceX said it still needs approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to attempt the fifth flight test of the fully stacked Starship Super Heavy rocket.

SpaceX founder Elon Musk previously noted that the FAA delayed the fifth test flight until November, but a spokesperson with the US aviation agency told Sputnik on Tuesday that the company submitted new information in mid-August for its proposed fifth test flight. The FAA is continuing to review this information and will make a licensing determination once SpaceX has met all licensing requirements, the spokesperson added.

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

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, October 9 (Sputnik) -

US-CHINA RELATIONS

- * The United States concerns about China's strong support for the Russian defense industrial base are growing, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Kritenbrink said on Tuesday.
- * The State Department has nothing to announce regarding Secretary of State Antony Blinken's meeting with Chinese officials during the upcoming ASEAN summit in Laos, Kritenbrink said.
- * US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo discussed by telephone with her Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao the United States' concerns about China's alleged "non-market policies and practices," the Commerce Department said.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

- * Israel has eliminated the successor of the Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as well as his successor, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday.
- * Israeli military aircraft hit a building in the Hadath area in the southern suburb of Beirut, a Sputnik correspondent reported on Tuesday.
- * Israel military aircraft hit a residential building in the central district of Damascus, a Sputnik correspondent reported.
- * Seven people were killed and another 11 were wounded in Israel's strike on Damascus, the Syrian Ministry of Defense said.

BIDEN POSTPONES TRIP TO GERMANY, ANGOLA

- * US President Joe Biden is postponing his trip to Germany and Angola in order to oversee preparations and response efforts for Hurricane Milton, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday.
- * Biden said that he intends to visit Germany and Angola in the future, after postponing a trip to the countries to help prepare and respond to Hurricane Milton.
- * The United States plans to announce new financial and military aid packages for Ukraine despite Biden's decision to postpone his trip to Germany to attend the regular meeting on assistance to Kiev at the Ramstein Air Base, White House deputy spokesperson Emilie Simons said.

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

* Russia is advancing in Ukraine and the situation on the battlefield remains difficult for Kiev, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Tuesday.

* The second summit on Ukraine will not take place in November but by that time everything should be ready for its preparation, adviser to head of Ukrainian President's office Daria Zarivna said.

* Russia will know about the West's authorization for Ukraine to use long-range missiles and will immediately proceed with retaliatory measures if such permission is given, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

* No sessions on Ukraine are planned at the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said.

CIS SUMMIT

* The leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries signed on a cooperation program in the field of deradicalization for the period 2025-2027, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

* The CIS leaders have discussed cooperation within the framework of the commonwealth and international issues and also advocate deepening cooperation, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

* The CIS leaders constantly coordinate positions on key global and regional issues, Putin said.

* Russia's trade with CIS countries has increased by 7.7% in the January-July period despite global markets volatility, Putin said.

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

Majority of US Voters Think Corruption, Energy Policy Important in 2024 Election - Poll

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The vast majority of likely voters in the United States consider corruption and energy policy important in the 2024 election, a new Rasmussen Reports poll revealed on Tuesday.

Ninety-one percent (91%) of respondents think that the issue of government ethics and corruption is important in this election, the report on the poll said.

More than two-thirds of respondents, 68%, said that the issue is very important, the poll report said.

Moreover, 82% of respondents believe that energy policy is an important issue in the 2024 election, including nearly half, 45%, who believe it is very important, the poll report added.

The poll surveyed 1,044 likely US voters on September 26, 29-30. The poll has a margin of error of plus-or-minus three percentage points with a 95% confidence level.

The United States will hold a variety of local, state and federal elections on November 5.

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

UPDATE - Oil Prices Tumble Almost 5%, Calmed by Israel's Delayed Response to Iran Attack

(Updates crude prices to settlement in paragraphs 5-6)

NEW YORK, October 8 (Sputnik) - Crude prices tumbled 5% on Tuesday in a remarkable break to last week's rally as oil markets appeared calmed by Israel's delayed response to the attack on its territory by Iran.

The US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and UK Brent crude benchmarks rallied around 11% over the past week as Israel said it was mulling targeting Iran's oil industry as well as other sectors, though US President Joe Biden said he was trying to talk Israel out of that plan.

The absence of an Israeli response drove investors in crude to take profit from last week's rally and price the market down to await further developments, according to traders.

"The market is long and [is] now being forced to wait for the event which can be expensive," Scott Shelton, crude broker at ICAP in North Carolina, said. In financial terminology, long positions are bets for prices to rise versus short positions which call for lower prices.

In Tuesday's session, WTI settled at \$73.57 per barrel by noon in New York trading, down \$3.57, or 4.6%. For all of last week, the US crude benchmark gained 10.8% - the most since the week that ended on September 30, 2022, when it rose 16.5%.

Brent finished the New York session at \$77.18, down \$3.75, or 4.6%. The global crude benchmark rose 10.3% last week — the most since the week to September 30, when it finished up 11.3%.

Barring Israel's response to Iran, crude's fundamentals might not support the rally of the past week, Shelton said, noting that global supplies of oil appeared plentiful with the end of US refinery maintenance.

While the market might have a bullish look-forward event, there was very little news overnight and in size to justify holding crude prices at the current level, Shelton added.

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

US Budget Deficit Up \$139Bln in Fiscal Year 2024, Reaches \$1.8Tln

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The US government's budget deficit swelled by \$139 billion to reach \$1.8 trillion in fiscal year 2024, the Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday.

"The estimated deficit for 2024 was \$139 billion more than the shortfall recorded during fiscal year 2023," the Congressional Budget Office said in its review of the October-to-September year.

Revenue for the current fiscal year grew by \$479 billion, or 11% more than the prior year.

Outlays were estimated to have expanded by \$617 billion, or 10% more than previously.

In fiscal 2023, total government spending was \$6.13 trillion while revenue was \$4.44 trillion, resulting in a deficit of \$1.7 trillion, an increase of \$320 billion from the prior year.

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

State Dept. Says Hezbollah Calling for Ceasefire Because It Is 'on Back Foot'

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) – The Lebanon-based Shia movement Hezbollah is calling for a ceasefire because it is "on the back foot" after being degraded in a series of attacks by Israel, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"For a year, you had the world calling for this ceasefire, you had Hezbollah refusing to agree to one, and now that Hezbollah is on the back foot and is getting battered, suddenly they changed their tune and want a ceasefire. I think it's not surprising given the situation they find themselves in," Miller said during a press briefing.

Miller pointed out that the United States continues to "ultimately want" a diplomatic solution to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

The situation on the Israeli-Lebanese border worsened after the start of Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip in October 2023. Israel began carrying out massive strikes on southern and eastern Lebanon in late September. The Lebanese movement Hezbollah retaliated by firing dozens of rockets toward northern Israel.

The United States, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and others have called for an immediate 21-day ceasefire on the border between the two countries. On September 30, Israel launched "limited" and "targeted" ground raids in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah infrastructure that continue to this day.

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

US Continues to Consult With Israel on Response to Iran - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The United States continues to consult with Israel on its possible response to Iran's ballistic missile attack last week, and the US and Israeli defense chiefs may schedule a call later this week to discuss the situation in the Middle East, Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said on Tuesday.

Singh said in earlier remarks that Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant canceled his planned visit to the Pentagon this week.

"A call could always be scheduled for later today or later this week, and that being said, we still continue to consult with the Israelis on what their response might be," Singh said during a press briefing.

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

Pentagon Says No Tensions Exist Between US, Israel Defense Chiefs

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - Tensions do not exist between US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, Pentagon deputy spokesperson Sabrina Singh said on Tuesday.

"I don't think there are tensions," Singh said regarding Gallant cancelling his visit to the Pentagon this week.

Earlier on Tuesday, NBC News reported that Austin was angry and frustrated with Israel for not giving the United States an early notice that it planned to carry out a strike to kill Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon.

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

Blinken Follows Biden's Decision, Postpones Trip to Germany, Angola - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is planning to return from Laos to the United States without continuing his trip to Germany and Angola following a similar decision by President Joe Biden ahead of the potentially devastating impact of Hurricane Milton, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"Secretary Blinken was planning to join the President [Biden] in Germany and Angola, but given this postponement, now expects to return home to Washington from Laos," Miller said during a press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said that Biden postponed the trip to focus on efforts related to Hurricane Milton, which is expected to hit Florida on Wednesday.

Biden then said that he intends to visit Germany and Angola in the future, after postponing a trip to the countries to help prepare and respond to Hurricane Milton.

Biden said that he will talk with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz about the matter later on Tuesday.

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

US Defense Secretary Speaks With New NATO Chief Rutte - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had a phone conversation with new NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte today, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters on Tuesday.

"Austin also spoke by phone today to new NATO secretary general, Mark Rutte. The secretary congratulated him on his recent appointment as the alliance's new secretary general, and the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing NATO's priorities," Singh said.

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

US Made Clear to Israel Beirut Airport, Roads Leading to It Must Remain Open - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The United States has made clear to Israel that Beirut International Airport and the highway leading to it must remain open for the safe evacuation of US and other foreign nationals, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"We have made clear to the Government of Israel we want to see the airport open, and we want to see the roads to the airport open. Both remain open," Miller said during a press briefing.

Currently both the airport and the highway remain open. Individuals can take both US organized flights and other commercial options leaving out of Beirut, Miller said. Washington wants it to stay that way, he added.

On Monday, media reported that the Israeli Air Force carried out strikes in the vicinity of Beirut International Airport.

Since October 1, Israel has been conducting a ground operation against Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon, while continuing airstrikes. Despite losses, Hezbollah has been fighting Israeli troops on the ground and launching rockets across the border.

Israel says its main objective is to create conditions for the return of 60,000 residents who fled shelling in the north.

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

Pentagon Says Was Just Informed Israeli Defense Chief Postponed Trip To Washington

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The US Defense Department has just been notified that Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has postponed his visit to Washington DC, Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh told reporters on Tuesday.

"We were just informed that Minister Gallant will be postponing his trip to Washington, DC," Singh said.

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

pentagon says there's no tension between austin, gallant

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

Harris Says Biden Courageous, Patriotic for Ending 2024 US Presidential Campaign

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden's decision to end his 2024 reelection campaign will be viewed as a courageous and patriotic act, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Tuesday.

"History is going to show it was probably one of the rarest moments of any president to do, with

courage, with the deepest level of courage and love of country," Harris said during an interview with broadcaster Howard Stern, in response to a prompt about Biden ending his campaign.

In July, Biden suspended his campaign and endorsed Harris as his replacement. Harris later received the Democratic Party's 2024 presidential nomination.

Harris said that she spoke with Biden multiple times on the day of his decision to end the campaign. Harris also said that her first question to Biden was about whether he was sure about his decision.

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

pentagon says was just informed that israeli defense minister gallant has postponed trip to washington

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

Harris Criticizes Trump's NATO Stance, Says Embracing Alliance Shows US Strength

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Tuesday that the United States demonstrates its strength by embracing NATO, criticizing Donald Trump's stance on the US's relationship with the alliance.

"Ultimately, I do believe that this is an election that is about strength versus weakness," Harris said during an interview with broadcaster Howard Stern. "NATO, which is the greatest military alliance the world has ever known – you want to talk about strength, that is strength: to embrace that alliance as America, as Americans. And [Trump] would walk away because he admires dictators more than he does our allies."

Trump has previously advocated for increased burden sharing by European members of the alliance.

US President Joe Biden said in July that European allies are concerned about the potential for Trump to weaken NATO and US support for Ukraine.

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

US Designation of Taliban Unchanged in Light of Russia's Plans to Delist It – State Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) – The United States is not planning to change the designation of the Taliban (under UN sanctions for terrorism) in light of Russia's plan to remove the group from its terrorist list, US State Department Matthew Miller said on Tuesday.

"We have not changed our designation of the Taliban as a specially designated global terrorist organization, and we continue to make clear that any significant steps toward normalization of relations is contingent upon a profound shift in the Taliban's human rights conduct, and there has been remarkable unity among the international community on that question," Miller said

during a press briefing.

On Monday, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said that the Taliban movement (under UN sanctions for terrorism) will soon be excluded from the list of terrorist organizations in Russia.

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

US Trade Deficit at 5-Month Low in August as Exports Surge - Commerce Dept.

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The US trade deficit has narrowed to a five-month low as the nation's exports surged while imports fell, Commerce Department data showed on Tuesday.

The deficit stood at \$70.4 billion at the close of August, versus July's \$78.8 billion - the lowest since March, when it was \$69.4 billion.

The value of exports stood at \$271.8 billion in August, some \$5.3 billion more than in July.

Imports were at \$342.2 billion, \$3.2 billion less than in July.

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

House Democrats Urge Speaker Johnson to Hold Early Vote for More Disaster Relief Funding

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - A group of House Democrats is pressing House Speaker Mike Johnson to call lawmakers back to the Capitol in middle of their recess so they can hold a vote to approve additional disaster relief funding, according to a letter obtained by Axios on Tuesday.

Hurricane Helene made landfall in the southeastern United States on September 26, causing significant damage in several states. The death toll from the storm is at least 227 people, according to reports. Now the state of Florida must pause recovery efforts and prepare for category 4 hurricane Milton to make landfall on Wednesday.

"We strongly urge you to bring the US House of Representatives back into session to approve the necessary funding that will empower FEMA and the SBA to fulfill their disaster relief missions," the letter said. "Our communities cannot wait, and we must act swiftly to provide them with the assurance that their government will stand by them."

This effort is led by House Democrats Marcy Kaptur, Kathy Manning, Jared Moskowitz, Dina Titus, and Melanie Stansbury.

President Joe Biden has called on Congress to approve an emergency supplemental as soon as possible, but lawmakers won't reconvene for votes until November 12. Biden warned that disaster relief funding is currently available for immediate needs but it's on track to run out by the end of the year.

The House speaker told reporters last week that they are not expected to approve additional disaster relief funding until after the US election.

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

state dept. on russia's plans to remove taliban from terror list: US designation unchanged, steps toward normalization contingent on rights conduct

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

Oil Prices Tumble 5% Calmed by Israel's Delayed Response to Iran Attack

NEW YORK, October 8 (Sputnik) - Crude prices tumbled 5% on Tuesday in a remarkable break to last week's rally as oil markets appeared calmed by Israel's delayed response to the attack on its territory by Iran.

The US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and UK Brent crude benchmarks rallied around 11% over the past week as Israel said it was mulling targeting Iran's oil sector as well as other sectors, though US President Joe Biden said he was trying to talk Israel out of that plan.

The absence of an Israeli response drove investors in crude to take profit from last week's rally and price the market down to await further developments, according to traders.

"The market is long and [is] now being forced to wait for the event which can be expensive," Scott Shelton, crude broker at ICAP in North Carolina, said. In financial terminology, long positions are bets for prices to rise versus short positions which call for lower prices.

In Tuesday's session, WTI was at \$72.94 per barrel by noon in New York (17:00 GMT), down \$4.20, or 5.4%. For all of last week, the US crude benchmark gained 10.8% - the most since the week that ended on September 30, 2022, when it rose 16.5%.

Brent was at \$76.60 in New York's noon trading, down \$4.33, or 5.4%, on the day. The global crude benchmark rose 10.3% last week - the most since the week to September 30, when it finished up 11.3%.

Barring Israel's response to Iran, oil's look might not support the rally of the past week, Shelton said, noting that global supplies of oil appeared plentiful with the end of US refinery maintenance.

While the market might have a bullish look-forward event, there was very little news on overnight and in size to justify holding crude prices at the current level, Shelton added.

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

Pentagon Chief Angry Israel Did Not Inform US About Plans to Kill Nasrallah - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was angry and frustrated with Israel for not giving the United States an early notice that it planned to kill Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon, NBC News reported on Tuesday, citing US officials.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant informed Austin of the operation as it unfolded during a

telephone call they held on September 27.

The United States is still waiting for Israel to brief US military leaders about its plans to strike Iran in response to last week's ballistic missile attack.

The United States suspects Israel might carry out its attack against Iran during Gallant's visit to the Defense Department on Wednesday.

The White House said earlier on Tuesday that the relationship between the United States and Israel is as strong as ever despite media reports of a growing distrust between the two allies over the Mideast crisis.

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

Biden, Congress Briefed About Cyberattacks Against Telecom Companies - White House

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden and Congress were briefed about the alleged cyberattack against major telecommunication companies, White House spokesperson Emilie Simons said on Tuesday.

"The President has been made aware of this reported intrusion of the US telecom companies. Congress has also been briefed," Simons told reporters.

She declined to provide the details and referred to the FBI when asked to comment on China's possible involvement in the attacks.

The Washington Post said on Monday, citing US officials, that several of the largest US telecom operators, including AT&T, Verizon and Lumen, have been targeted by cyberattacks allegedly carried out by Chinese hackers. The cyberattack could have impacted a much larger number of companies, according to the report.

A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington rejected the accusations, claiming US intelligence agencies and cybersecurity companies were secretly collaborating to fabricate evidence of Chinese government-backed cyberattacks, while also noting that China itself is a victim of such attacks.

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

US Commerce Secretary Raimondo Raises China's 'Non-Market Policies' in Call With Wang

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo discussed by telephone with her Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao the United States' concerns about China's alleged "non-market policies and practices," the Department of Commerce said on Tuesday.

"Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo held a call with Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Wang Wentao," the Commerce Department said in a press release. "The Secretary noted ongoing concerns from the US business community about decreasing regulatory transparency in the PRC, non-market policies and practices, and

structural overcapacity in a range of industrial sectors."

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

US to Unveil New Aid for Ukraine Despite Biden Postponing Trip to Ramstein - White House

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The United States plans to announce new financial and military aid packages for Ukraine despite President Joe Biden's decision to postpone his trip to Germany to attend the regular meeting on assistance to Kiev at the Ramstein Air Base, White House deputy spokesperson Emilie Simons said on Tuesday.

"We are still working through exactly how the Ramstein engagement may play out," Simons said during a press briefing. "Our commitment to Ukraine was a big piece of this, and that is unwavering, including the security and financial announcements that come along with someone that is not going anywhere."

Earlier on Tuesday, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden postponed the trip to focus on the administration's efforts related to Hurricane Milton, which is expected to hit Florida on Wednesday.

Later in the day, Biden said that he intends to visit Germany and Angola in the future, after postponing a trip to those two countries so as to help prepare and respond to Hurricane Milton.

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

US Secretary of Commerce holds call with Chinese counterpart, raises concerns from business community over china's 'non-market policies' - readout

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

White House on Reports of Trust Crisis Between US, Israel: Ties as Strong as Ever

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) – The relationship between the United States and Israel is as strong as ever, Senior Deputy White House Press Secretary Emilie Simons said on Tuesday following media reports of a trust crisis between the two allies.

"The relationship between the United States and the state of Israel is as strong as ever," Simons said during a press briefing.

Earlier on Tuesday, Axios reported that the Biden administration is losing trust in the Israeli government's words about its military and diplomatic plans amid a new round of escalation in the region after Israel's ground operation in Lebanon and Iran's missile attack.

While trust between the two allies is steadily declining, the United States continues to support Israel's right to retaliate against Iran, but wants it to be measured, the report said.

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

Oil Prices Tumble 5%, Calmed by Israel's Delayed Response to Iran Attack

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

CBS Appears to Edit Harris' Statement on Israel Relations in 60 Minutes Interview

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - CBS appears to have edited an answer provided by US Vice President and 2024 Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris during an interview with 60 Minutes, according to two videos of the segment released by the program.

On Sunday, 60 Minutes released an interview with Harris, during which they discussed the Biden administration's relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The work that we have done has resulted in a number of movements in that region by Israel that were very much prompted by - or a result of - many things, including our advocacy for what needs to happen in the region," Harris said in an initial version of the interview.

However, in a version of the interview published on Monday, Harris gave a different answer to the prompt.

"We are not going to stop pursuing what is necessary for the United States to be clear about where we stand on the need for this war to end," Harris said in the updated version.

It is unclear for what reason the program edited the interview or which response was originally provided, although a transcript of the interview features the latter statement.

Former US President and 2024 Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump criticized the interview via Truth Social on Tuesday, claiming that many reviewers thought it was "the worst" interview they have ever seen.

It is an embarrassment to the United States that a major party's candidate would be "so completely inept," Trump said.

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

New York City Mayor Increasingly Isolated As More Allies Step Down After Charges

NEW YORK, October 8 (Sputnik) - New York City Mayor Eric Adams is finding himself increasingly isolated by his closest allies, with two of his deputy mayors announcing their resignations within 48 hours, in the aftermath of corruption charges filed against the city's topmost official.

The resignations of deputy mayors Sheena Wright and Phil Banks, announced between Tuesday and Sunday, were the latest in a wave of departures to hit the Adams administration since federal agents began raiding the homes of the mayor's closest allies, including the city's former police chief, a month ago, seizing their cellphones for evidence gathering.

More stunning was the five-count indictment later brought against Adams. The mayor was

accused, among others, of taking bribes worth some \$100,000 in luxury travel and other benefits from Turkey and millions of dollars more in unlawful campaign money.

Adams denied any wrongdoing and claimed trial, saying he would stay in office as he battled the charges against him. He has also defended the officials in his administration who were under investigation, attesting to their character even as he accepted their resignations.

"We are grateful for First Deputy Mayor Wright's years of service to the city and all she has done to deliver for children, families, and working-class New Yorkers," Adams said in a statement circulated by US media on Tuesday. "She is an exceptional leader who assembled a strong team and constantly demonstrated a bold vision for this city."

Wright is expected to be replaced by Maria Torres-Springer, who is currently the city's deputy mayor for housing, economic development, and workforce, reports said.

Also to step down soon would be New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks, who is the brother of deputy mayor Phil, who resigned on Sunday, reports said.

Meanwhile, three other lower-ranking officials — director of protocol in the city's International Affairs Office, Rana Abbasova, director of Asian Affairs Winnie Greco, and senior chief liaison to the Muslim community Mohamed Bahi — have left.

Bahi was separately arrested on Tuesday and charged with federal witness tampering and destruction of evidence in the investigation against Adams. Prosecutors said Bahi instructed witnesses to lie to federal authorities investigating allegations about contributions made to Adams' 2021 mayoral campaign.

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

Harris Takes Lead Over Trump In Latest NYT/Siena Poll

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Vice President Kamala Harris has taken the lead in the presidential race, a New York Times/Siena College poll revealed on Tuesday.

Almost half of the respondents - 49 percent - said they would vote for Harris if the 2024 presidential election were held today, while 46 percent said that they would for Trump.

The newspaper noted the results mark the first time that Harris has led Trump in the Times/Siena poll since July.

Asked who they believe is a strong leader, however, the majority of the respondents - 48 percent - said that it was Trump, while 45 percent said it was Harris.

The poll showed that the majority of the likely electorate - 48 percent - believe that Harris is honest and trustworthy, as compared to 37 percent who said the same about Trump.

The poll also revealed that the vast majority of the respondents - 42 percent - think that Trump's policies have helped them personally, with 30 percent of people saying that they hurt them personally.

The poll was conducted from September 29 to October 6 among 3,385 likely voters.

The US presidential election will take place on November 5. The Democratic Party will be represented by Vice President Kamala Harris, and the Republican Party by former President Donald Trump.

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

UN Chief Says Developments in Northern Gaza Dire, Israel Intensifying Operations

UNITED NATIONS, October 8 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that the situation in northern Gaza has become increasingly dire as Israel is clearly stepping up its military operations.

"The latest developments in the north are especially dire. We are witnessing a clear intensification of military operations by Israel," Guterres said. "The conclusion is clear: there is something fundamentally wrong in the way this war is being conducted."

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

UN Chief Says Wrote to Netanyahu Expressing Concern About Bills to Block UNRWA Activity

UNITED NATIONS, October 8 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that he has written a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express concern about draft Israeli bills that would block the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in occupied Palestine.

"I have written directly to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to express profound concern about draft legislation that could prevent UNRWA from continuing its essential work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," Guterres said. "Such a measure would suffocate efforts to ease human suffering and tensions in Gaza, and indeed, the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory. It would be a catastrophe in what is already an unmitigated disaster."

Guterres added that the implications of the bills, if passed, were clear.

"Operationally, the legislation would likely deal a terrible blow to the international humanitarian response in Gaza," he said, adding that the bills, if approved, would contravene the principles of the UN Charter.

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

guterres says has written to Netanyahu to express profound concern about draft bills that could block unrwa's work in occupied Palestinian territory

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

Harris Says Would Not Have Acted Differently Than Biden as US President

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US Vice President and 2024 Democratic presidential

candidate Kamala Harris said on Tuesday that she would not have acted differently than President Joe Biden if she were serving in his position.

"There is not a thing that comes to mind," Harris said in an interview with The View, when asked whether she would have done anything differently than Biden over the last several years.

Harris said that she has been a part of most decisions made by the Biden administration that have had an impact.

US Senator and 2024 Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance shared a clip of Harris' statement and criticized her for being "more of the same" by her own admission.

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

Biden Says Plans to Visit Germany, Angola in Future After Postponing Trip for Hurricane

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday that he intends to visit Germany and Angola in the future, after postponing a trip to the countries to help prepare and respond to Hurricane Milton.

"As you know, I put out a statement this morning on canceling my trip to Germany and Africa. We're going to try to re-work those out later, but I just don't think I can be out of the country at this time," Biden said during remarks at the White House.

Earlier on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that Biden postponed the trip to focus on efforts related to Hurricane Milton, which is expected to hit Florida on Wednesday.

Biden said that he will talk with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz about the matter later on Tuesday.

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

Suspect in Second Trump Assassination Attempt Waives Speedy Trial Rights - Court Filing

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The suspect in the second assassination attempt on Donald Trump has waived speedy trial rights under US law, court documents showed Tuesday.

"The Defendant, Ryan Wesley Routh, through undersigned counsel, informs the Court and the United States that he knowingly and intentionally, waives his speedy trial rights," said a filing in Florida's southern district court.

A speedy trial guarantee under US law assures the accused is brought to trial or released within a reasonable amount of time — in this case, 90 days, as the Florida court papers indicated. The primary aim of the law is to ensure the government is not legally permitted to lock people up indefinitely without trying them.

Routh is charged with attempting to kill former President Trump at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on September 15. Other charges include possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence, assaulting a Secret Service Agent, felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, and possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial

number.

Routh brought a rifle to the periphery of the golf club and waited in a secluded area for Trump, who was golfing. But a Secret Service agent assigned to protect the former president spotted Routh and opened fire on him, forcing the would-be assassin to flee, leaving the gun and other equipment he brought behind.

Authorities arrested Routh less than an hour later after intercepting the truck he was driving. Investigators subsequently found he had a lengthy criminal record and recent fixation on global politics, particularly the conflict in Ukraine.

The attempt mounted by Routh was the second Trump had faced in two months.

In July, Thomas Crooks, a 20-year-old, was shot dead by Secret Service agents after he opened fire at a rally in Pennsylvania held by Trump. One of the bullets fired by Crooks grazed Trump's right ear, leaving the former president wounded. The gunman also killed an audience member at the rally and wounded two others.

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

Trump Campaign Says Claims in New Woodward Book 'Made Up'

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - Journalist Bob Woodward fabricated stories about former US President Donald Trump for his new book, Trump campaign Communications Director Steven Cheung said on Tuesday.

"None of these made up stories by Bob Woodward are true and are the work of a truly demented and deranged man who suffers from a debilitating case of Trump Derangement Syndrome," Cheung said in a statement.

Woodward's book includes claims that Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin up to seven times after leaving the White House, CNN reported earlier on Tuesday, citing a copy of the book, which is set for publication on October 15.

Woodward is angry that Trump is suing him for the unauthorized release of recordings, Cheung said. Trump did not give Woodward any access for his new book, Cheung added.

Jason Miller, who served under Trump while he was president and now works for Trump's campaign, said he was not aware of any conversations between Trump and Putin after Trump left the White House.

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

US Journalist Woodward Claims Putin, Trump Had Up to 7 Phone Calls Since 2021 - Reports

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US investigative journalist Bob Woodward claims in his new book "War" set to be released next week that former US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin had up to seven telephone calls after 2021, CNN reported based on an advanced copy of the book it had obtained.

The book, expected to be released on October 15, provides a view into US President Joe Biden's interactions with world leaders who have shaped his presidency, the report said. It is based on what CNN says are "hundreds of hours of interviews with firsthand participants."

"According to Trump's aide, there have been multiple phone calls between Trump and Putin, maybe as many as seven in the period since Trump left the White House in 2021," Woodward wrote.

On one occasion, Trump asked his aide to leave the room in his Mar-a-Lago residence so that he could have a private phone call with Putin, the report said.

However, Jason Miller, who served under Trump while he was president and now works for Trump's campaign, said he was not aware of any conversations between Trump and Putin after Trump left the White House.

"I have not heard that they're talking, so I'd push back on that," Miller added.

The book also said that Trump sent Putin a "secret shipment" with COVID-19 tests for his personal use during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump said earlier in October that his first two calls as president-elect would be to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy to assist in ending the conflict in Ukraine.

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

Biden in White House Meeting Labeled Putin 'Epitome of Evil' - Book

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden during a closed-door meeting at the White House called Russian President Vladimir Putin an "epitome of evil" in yet another personal insult against the Russian leader, CNN reported on Tuesday, citing excerpts from a new book by famous journalist Bob Woodward.

The book, War, is expected to be released on October 15. Woodward provides a behind-the-scenes look at Biden dealing with conflicts, crises and key world leaders.

"That f***** Putin," Biden reportedly told his advisers in the Oval Office soon after Russia launched a special military operation in Ukraine. "Putin is evil. We are dealing with the epitome of evil."

Biden has also made obscene comments about other political leaders, the book revealed.

In particular, he called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "b****." "He's a bad f***** guy!" Biden declared to one of his associates last spring when the violence in Gaza intensified, Woodward writes.

US President also shared with advisors his concerns that Russia would use nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

Woodward also wrote that the US allegedly obtained intelligence information in October 2021 that Russia had plans to cross into Ukraine with 175,000 troops. "It was an astonishing intelligence coup from the crown jewels of US intelligence, including a human source inside the Kremlin," the book said.

Biden and his team agreed that the information was serious, but they could not believe in such a development, the report added. "This would be so crazy. Jesus Christ!" Biden said. "Now I've

got to deal with Russia swallowing Ukraine?" Biden said, as quoted in the book.

Putin previously described Biden's insulting remarks about him as "rude." At the same time, Putin has said that Biden is more preferable to Russia than Donald Trump because he is more predictable.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov, commenting on Biden's remarks about Putin, has said multiple times that the Russian president will never resort to personal insults.

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

Biden Postpones Trip to Germany, Angola Due to Incoming Hurricane - White House

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden is postponing his trip to Germany and Angola in order to oversee preparations and response efforts for Hurricane Milton, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday.

"Given the projected trajectory and strength of Hurricane Milton, President Biden is postponing his upcoming trip to Germany and Angola in order to oversee preparations for and the response to Hurricane Milton, in addition to the ongoing response to the impacts of Hurricane Helene across the Southeast," Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

Biden was scheduled to visit Germany and Angola on October 10-15.

Hurricane Milton, which has weakened slightly to a category 4 storm, is expected to hit Florida on Wednesday evening. Parts of the southeastern United States are still recovering from the impacts of Hurricane Helene, which made landfall late last month.

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

Biden Admin. Growing Increasingly Distrustful of Israel Amid New Escalation – Reports

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration is losing trust in the Israeli government's words about its military and diplomatic plans amid a new round of escalation in the region after Israel's ground operation in Lebanon and Iran's missile attack, Axios reported on Tuesday, citing US officials.

While trust between the two allies is steadily declining, the United States continues to support Israel's right to retaliate against Iran, but wants it to be measured, the report said.

"Our trust of the Israelis is very low right now and for a good reason," the report quoted one US official as saying.

During a phone conversation on Friday, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan asked Israel's Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer to provide Washington with "clarity and transparency" regarding Israeli plans to retaliate against Iran since any action could have implications for US interests in the region, the report said.

According to one US official, Sullivan made it clear to Dermer that the US would not automatically come to Israel's defense unless it knew exactly how it planned to respond to Iran.

The level of trust between the US and Israel has dropped significantly following the

assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and the pager bombing operation in Lebanon, which Netanyahu's Cabinet failed to inform Washington about in advance, according to the report.

Monday marked one year since Hamas's attack on Israel and the start of Israel's ongoing military operation in Gaza, which has claimed more than 41,000 Palestinian lives.

In their statements marking the first anniversary, US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed the US commitment to defending Israel and defeating Hamas. Regarding the border conflict between Lebanon and Israel, both leaders said they would prefer to see a diplomatic resolution rather than a new front in the war.

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

biden postpones trip to germany and angola in order to oversee response to hurricane milton - white house

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

REVIEW - 'October Surprises' Loom on Many Fronts Ahead of US Election

WASHINGTON, October 8 (Sputnik) - The Middle East and Ukraine conflicts, disasters, strikes, scandals, and political stunts have already sparked "October Surprises" and could serve up more with the potential to alter the course of a historically tight US presidential election.

The term "October Surprise" is political jargon to denote any major "game-changing" news developments, planned and unplanned, shortly before an election that have the power to influence the outcome. Although surprises have a mixed history in terms of the ultimate impact, campaigns typically are increasingly concerned about harmful shocks emanating from the news cycle as election day nears.

The term was coined during the 1980 election in reference to a conspiracy theory claiming the Reagan campaign struck a deal with Iran to delay the release of hostages. According to The Washington Post at the time, the Reagan administration feared President Jimmy Carter would get an unexpected boost from an "October Surprise" in the form of Americans coming home from Tehran.

In the 2020 election, some developments many defined as "October Surprises" include then-president Donald Trump testing positive for covid, a New York Times story about Trump's tax returns, and the New York Post report on the Hunter Biden laptop scandal. In 2016, surprises included the Access Hollywood leak of Trump's lewd comments and then-FBI chief James Comey's letter about reopening the Hillary Clinton email probe.

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and her Republican rival are both vulnerable to getting derailed by October Surprises given they are in one of the tightest races of the century, where every single vote in seven decisive swing states count.

FOREIGN 'INTERFERENCE'

Global crises and foreign actors have the potential to disrupt the US election both directly and

indirectly, by derailing and/or boosting either campaign. Israel's war in Gaza and Lebanon along with the war in Ukraine could be double-edged swords for both candidates.

Europe-based financial analyst and political commentator Alex Krainer has seen growing concerns that "something's about to happen" that could cause even greater global chaos as the US presidential election nears.

"The Middle East is a powder keg which might explode at any time, and the game of nuclear brinkmanship between Russia and the Western powers is only escalating and getting more tense," Krainer told Sputnik.

Iran's October 1 attack on Israel marked the month's earliest foreign policy surprise, one that might undercut Harris as the Trump camp spins it as Washington's failure to prevent the war in Gaza from spreading.

Former CIA analyst Philip Giraldi argued that Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu could spark an October Surprise by forcing more US engagement in the war. Then, the Israeli leader could manipulate the situation to put the blame on one party in such a fashion as to swing the election, he added.

"As Netanyahu favors Trump, who will give him everything he desires, it would probably be spun to put the blame on the Dems for being too soft or something similar," Giraldi said.

On Ukraine, Trump has been applauded for wanting to end the conflict but criticized for being too friendly to Russia. Harris supporters argue that she has consistently stood resolutely behind Ukraine, a posture critics say has been too costly to US taxpayers.

Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel and former Eurasia Group Vice President Earl Rasmussen expects Israel and Ukraine will probably will be heading lobbying efforts to support their favored US candidates. Rasmussen suspects Ukraine will favor the Democratic candidate in light of Trump's vows to end the conflict against Russia.

Rather than target true meddlers, Rasmussen added, US authorities continue to unveil alleged interference from the United States' top rivals.

"We have already heard the unsupported and previously disproven statements regarding Russian interference. We have also recently highlighted potential Chinese influence. There is no credible evidence pointing to either so-called adversary nations, although they have a justifiable reason due to US meddling in their countries, and along their borders," Rasmussen told Sputnik.

SCANDALS, STRIKES, & DISASTERS

The Biden administration response to Hurricane Helene, the second deadliest storm in 50 years, and the port strike could provide surprises to the upside or downside for Harris' campaign. In the meantime, court battles have already begun haunting Trump in the month of October.

Previous disaster surprises during election season include Hurricane Sandy battering the east coast in late October of 2012, threatening to undermine President Barack Obama's re-election bid.

Trump and Republicans have tried to spin the response to the hurricane as Biden administration failures. Trump made unsupported claims that the Biden administration was "sleeping" and not effectively responding to the natural disaster which contradicted accounts from Georgia officials.

The Biden administration may have dodged a major negative October Surprise with the suspension of a dockworker strike that threatened to cost the economy \$5 billion per day and

disrupt the holiday season.

The dockworkers union reached a tentative agreement that ended the industrial action involving 45,000 workers at 36 ports along the east and Gulf coasts. The new agreement was applauded by Biden as Trump argued that the strike was the result of "massive inflation" created by the Harris-Biden administration.

Trump's legal battles have hung over the campaign like a sword of Damocles from the very beginning, but on October 2 the capitol riot federal case hit the Republican nominee unexpectedly. Special Council Jack Smith in a detailed court filing argued that Trump's conduct while allegedly attempting to overturn the 2020 vote was not protected by presidential immunity.

Trump said Smith's filing was tantamount to election interference and "weaponization of government."

The campaigns are likely to have increasingly watchful eyes on the daily news cycle praying nothing damaging pops up while hoping stories break that hurt their rival.

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

Suspect in Second Trump Assassination Attempt Waives Speedy Trial Rights - Court Filing

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