

Erdogan Blasts U.S. for 'Creating Chaos'

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) -- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday sharply criticized the use of economic sanctions "as weapons" in his address to the United Nations, in an implicit swipe at the United States.

"None of us can remain silent to the arbitrary cancellation of commercial agreements, the spreading prevalence of protectionism and the use of economic sanctions as weapons," Erdogan told the UN General Assembly. He did not accuse the United States directly but pointed to "countries that are persistently trying to create chaos."

Kayhan International



Macron Calls for 'Dialogue' With Iran

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) -- French President Emmanuel Macron called Tuesday for "dialogue and multilateralism" on Iran, in a thinly veiled response to President Donald Trump's push for tough, U.S.-led sanctions.

"What will bring a real solution to the situation in Iran and what has already stabilized it? The law of the strongest? Pressure from only one side? No!" Macron told the UN General Assembly shortly after Trump.

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Viewpoint

Trump Makes a Laughing Stock of Himself at the UN

Ahvaz Terrorist Attack to Go on Display



IOC Hails Growing Role of Women in Iran's Sports



If Funding Gap Not Plugged Palestinian Schools, Health Centers at Risk



Netanyahu Vows to Continue Aggression: Minister: Syria Determined to Liberate Idlib

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The Syrian state will recover Idlib through war or peaceful means, a minister was quoted as saying Tuesday, pointing to the government's determination to defeat terrorists there despite a Russian-Turkish deal.

Faisal Mekdad, deputy foreign minister, described the Idlib agreement as part of a wider diplomatic track that created "de-escalation" zones in several areas which he noted had later returned to state rule, Syria's al-Watan newspaper reported.

"As we were victorious in every part of Syria we will be victorious in Idlib and the message is very clear to everyone who is concerned by this matter: We are coming to Idlib through war or peaceful means," Mekdad said.

Under the agreement, announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi last month, militants deemed "radical" are to withdraw from the demilitarized zone by the middle of October.

Turkey, which backs some of the militants in Idlib, is to jointly patrol the demilitarized zone with Russia. Heavy weapons are to be removed from the demilitarized zone by Oct. 10.

However, Turkish-backed militants on Saturday rejected laying down their arms or surrendering the territory under their control in Idlib.

"We will not abandon our weapons, our land or our revolution" against Syrian government forces, the so-called National Liberation Front (NLF), an alliance of militant factions supported by Ankara, said in a statement.

The Huras al-Din militant group which includes foreign elements also rejected the Idlib buffer zone deal.

Tahrir al-Sham, the most powerful Takfiri terrorist group in Idlib, has not declared its stance on the Idlib agreement yet.

Idlib hosts several foreign-sponsored militant groups and separating what Turkey describes as moderates from extremists is almost impossible.

The Idlib region and an ad-

joining area north of Aleppo represent the last major terrorist stronghold in Syria, following their defeat across most of the country in military campaigns backed by Russia and Iran.

Mekdad said that all Syrian territory would return to state control, echoing President Bashar al-Assad's vow to recover "every inch" of the country.

While declaring that "radicals" must withdraw, Turkey has said the Syrian "opposition" will stay in their existing areas under the agreement.

On Tuesday, Turkey beefed up its military positions in Idlib Tuesday as the clock ticked down on a mid-October deadline to remove militants from the area.

The deal reached in the Russian resort puts the onus on Turkey, which is now expected to get militants to hand over their heavy weapons and vacate a U-shaped demilitarized zone around Idlib.

Turkey already has 12 military "observation points" dotted across the province and on Tuesday an AFP correspondent saw a convoy of reinforcements after they crossed the border into Idlib.

Around 35 military vehicles travelled south down the main highway near the town of Saraqib after midnight.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a militant alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, controls more than half of the terrorist zone, while NLF fighters hold sway over most of the rest.

Observers have already warned that Turkey's task was almost impossible and the presence of Daesh, over which it has very limited sway, will further muddy the waters.

Netanyahu: Israel to Continue Operations

The occupying regime of Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday Tel Aviv would continue its military operations in Syria, after Russia announced it would supply an advanced anti-aircraft system to its Syrian ally.

Russia said Monday it would

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Trump Taunts Draw Headshakes, Derision at UN



U.S. President Donald Trump reacts to laughter from diplomats during his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 25, 2018 at UN headquarters.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- U.S. President Donald Trump delivered a sharp rebuke of multinational authority at the United Nations on Tuesday, drawing headshakes and even laughter from fellow world leaders as he boasted of America's economic and military might.

Trump arrived late, forcing a last-minute scheduling switch, then received blank stares as he took his blustery brand of "America First" policies to the annual General As-

sembly. Speaking in triumphal terms, Trump approached the address as an annual report to the world on his country's alleged progress since his inauguration. He crowed that in "less than two years, my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country."

Rather than applaud or indicate they were impressed, the audience began to chuckle and some broke into outright laughter. Trump ap-

peared briefly flustered before joking that it was not the reaction he expected but "that's all right."

The moment only reinforced Trump's isolation among allies and foes alike, as his nationalistic policies have created rifts with erstwhile partners and cast doubt in some circles about the reliability of American commitments around the world.

Trump seized his opportunity to assert American independence from the international body. He

was unapologetic about his decisions to remove the U.S. from the international Iran nuclear accord and object to UN programs he believes are contrary to American interests.

"We reject the ideology of globalism and we embrace the doctrine of patriotism," Trump said.

He referenced a long list of UN initiatives, from the International Criminal Court to the Human Rights Council, that his administration is working to undermine.

"As far as America is concerned, the ICC has no jurisdiction, no legitimacy and no authority," he said. The U.S. is boycotting the Human Rights Council, arguing it overlooks abuses by some and serves as a venue for anti-American and anti-Israeli action.

Trump's denunciation of globalism drew murmurs from the room that stands as the very embodiment of the notion.

Other tense moments included his criticism of Germany's pursuit of a direct energy pipeline from Russia, which drew a dismissive headshake from a member of the U.S. ally's delegation. His mention of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar all in one breath, was received by stone-faced Saudi

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Oil Surges Toward \$100 on Iran Factor

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Crude oil prices shot to a fresh four-year high on Tuesday, rallying as U.S. President Donald Trump spoke heatedly about Iran ahead of U.S. sanctions on the country's crude exports and bolstered by the apparent reluctance of OPEC and Russia to raise output to offset the potential hit to global supply.

Trump said in a speech before the United Nations that the United States will put more sanctions on Iran following oil sanctions that go into effect in Nov. 4.

"Iran will lose sizeable export volumes, and given OPEC+ reluctance to raise output, the market is ill-equipped to fill the supply gap," Harry Tchilinguirian, global head of

commodity markets strategy at French bank BNP Paribas, told the Reuters Global Oil Forum.

Brent crude futures were up \$1.00 a barrel at \$82.20, having touched a session peak of \$82.55, the highest price since Nov. 10, 2014.

The global benchmark is on course for its fifth consecutive quarterly increase, the longest stretch of gains since early 2007, when a six-quarter run led to a record high of \$147.50 a barrel.

U.S. crude futures were up 25 cents at \$72.33 a barrel, close to their highest since mid-July.

The grade turned negative briefly during Trump's UN speech, where he accused

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EU, Russia, China Agree Payment System for Iran

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The UK, Germany, France, Russia and China have agreed to establish a special payments system to circumvent U.S. sanctions on Iran stemming from President Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal.

The payments channel would be an alternative to SWIFT, the backbone of the global financial system that allows Iran to get paid for oil, pay for its imports and finance its activities abroad.

The five countries involved in the agreement remain committed to doing business with Iran, which the International Atomic Energy Agency says is still complying with the terms of the

nuclear deal. President Trump, meanwhile, has threatened that anyone doing business with Iran will not be able to do business with the U.S.

The EU, along with Russia and China, said Monday they were determined to "protect the freedom of their economic operators to pursue legitimate business with Iran" in a statement issued after high-level talks at the United Nations.

"Mindful of the urgency and the need for tangible results, the participants welcomed practical proposals to maintain and develop payment channels, notably the initiative to establish a special purpose vehicle to facilitate payments related to

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