

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A new Interior Department report on the legacy of boarding schools for Native Americans underscores how closely the U.S. government collaborated with churches to Christianize them as part of a project to sever them from their culture, their identities and ultimately their land. The role of churches forms a secondary part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report, released after a yearlong review sparked by the 2021 discoveries of hundreds of potential graves at former residential schools in Canada. Most of it focuses on the government's responsibility for its own officials' actions and policies.

TEHRAN -- A group of Japanese tourists have traveled to Iran after a two-year standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic which ground the entire tourism sector to a halt worldwide. Individual Japanese tourists have visited Iran on business trips or for seeing family or friends since Iranian calendar month of Aban (falling on October 23 to November 21), said Abbas-Ali Emamieh, the secretary of the consortium of incoming tours from Korea and Japan at the Association of Air Transport and Tourist Agencies of Iran (AATTAI).

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Sunday, May 15, 2022, Ordibehesht 25, 1401, Shawwal 14, 1443, Price 200,000 Rials

Cuba, Iran Discuss Jointly Countering U.S. Sanctions



Iran Emerges as Hope to Save Asiatic Cheetahs



Iranian Wrestlers Claim 3 Medals in Bulgarian Tournament



Nasrallah: Compromisers With Zionists Should Be Ashamed of Martyred Journalist



Ukraine Digs in for Long War

KYIV, Ukraine (Dispatches) — Russian troops are withdrawing from around Ukraine's second-largest city after bombarding it for weeks, the Ukrainian military said Saturday, as Kyiv and Moscow's forces engaged in a grinding battle for the country's eastern industrial heartland.

Ukraine's general staff said the Russians were pulling back from the northeastern city of Kharkiv and focusing on guarding supply routes, while launching mortar, artillery and airstrikes in the eastern Donetsk province in order to "deplete Ukrainian forces and destroy fortifications."

Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said Ukraine was "entering a new - long-term - phase of the war."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukrainians were doing their "maximum" to drive out the invaders and that the outcome of the war would depend on support from Europe and other allies.

"No one today can predict how long this war will last," Zelensky said in his nightly video address late Friday.

In a show of support, a U.S. Senate delegation led by Republican leader Mitch McConnell met with the Ukrainian president Saturday in Kyiv. A video posted on Zelensky's Telegram account showed McConnell, who represents the state of Kentucky, and fellow Republican senators Susan Collins of Maine, John Barrasso of Wyoming and John Cornyn of Texas greeting him.

Their trip came after Kentucky's other senator, Rand Paul, blocked until next week the Senate's approval of an additional \$40 billion to help Ukraine and its allies withstand Russia's three-month old invasion.

After Russian forces failed to capture Kyiv following the Feb. 24 invasion, President Vladimir Putin shifted his focus eastward to the Donbas, an industrial region where Ukrainian troops have battled Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

Russia's offensive aims to encircle Ukraine's most experienced and best-equipped troops, who are based in the east, and to seize parts of the Donbas that remain in Ukraine's control.

Russia has captured some Donbas villages and towns, including Rubizhne, a city with a prewar population of around 55,000.

Zelensky said Ukraine's forces have also made progress in the east, retaking six Ukrainian towns or villages in the past day.

Kharkiv, which is not far from the Russian border and only 80 kilometers (50 miles) southwest of the Russian city of Belgorod, has undergone weeks of intense shelling. The largely Russian-

speaking city with a prewar population of 1.4 million was a key Russian military objective earlier in the war, when Moscow hoped to capture and hold major Ukrainian cities.

Ukraine "appears to have won the Battle of Kharkiv" the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said. "Ukrainian forces prevented Russian troops from encircling, let alone seizing Kharkiv, and then expelled them from around the city, as they did to Russian forces attempting to seize Kyiv."

Fighting was fierce on the Siverskyi Donets River near the city of Severodonetsk, where Ukraine has launched counterattacks but failed to halt Russia's advance, said Oleh Zhdanov, an independent Ukrainian military analyst.

"The fate of a large portion of the Ukrainian army is being decided — there are about 40,000 Ukrainian soldiers," he said.

However, Russian forces suffered heavy losses in a Ukrainian attack that destroyed a pontoon bridge they were using to try to cross the same river — the largest in eastern Ukraine — in the town of Bilohorivka, Ukrainian and British officials said.

Britain's Defense Ministry said Russia lost "significant armored maneuver elements" of at least one battalion tactical group in the attack. A Russian battalion tactical group consists of about 1,000 troops.

The Group of Seven leading economies said Saturday that "Russia's war of aggression has generated one of the most severe food and energy crises in recent history, which now threatens those most vulnerable across the globe."

Putin launched the war in Ukraine aiming to thwart NATO's expansion in Eastern Europe.

This week, the president and prime minister of Finland said they favored their country seeking NATO membership. Officials in Sweden are expected to announce a decision Sunday on whether to apply to join the Western military alliance.

Putin told Finnish President Sauli Niinisto that there are no threats to Finland's security and joining NATO would be an "error" that would "negatively affect Russian-Finnish relations."

The Kremlin said the two leaders had a "frank exchange of views" in a phone call on Saturday.

Niinisto said the discussion "was straightforward and unambiguous and was held without exaggeration. Avoiding tensions was considered important."

Russia's response to the moves by Finland and Sweden has so far

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Murder in Jenin: UN Whitewash/West's Complicity



Israeli forces attack mourners as they carry the casket of slain veteran journalist Shireen Abu Akleh during her funeral in East Al-Quds, on Friday, May 13, 2022

NEW YORK/BERLIN (Dispatches) — The UN Security Council has unanimously condemned the assassination of Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, without mentioning the occupying regime of Israel.

In a rare unanimous statement, the Security Council also called for "an immediate, thorough, transparent and impartial investigation into her killing."

According to diplomats who spoke on the condition of anonym-

ity, negotiations on the statement were particularly arduous.

China successfully pushed the U.S. to remove paragraphs generally denouncing abuses committed against the media around the world without referring specifically to the Israeli murder in Jenin, according to diplomatic sources.

The final text merely says "journalists should be protected as civilians" and does not mention violence during Abu Akleh's funeral

on Friday.

The EU said it was "appalled by the violence in the St Joseph hospital compound and the level of unnecessary force exercised by Israeli police throughout the funeral procession".

The UN secretary general, António Guterres, was also "deeply disturbed" by the violence, according to a spokesperson.

Television footage showed pallbearers struggling to stop Abu

Aqleh's coffin from falling to the ground as Zionist police officers charged at them, grabbing Palestinian flags from mourners.

Abu Akleh, a prominent journalist for Al Jazeera, was killed as she covered unrest in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. The Qatar-based network said she was deliberately targeted by the occupying regime of Israel.

The Zionist prime minister, Naftali Bennett, initially said armed Palestinians were "likely" responsible, but Israel has since rowed back and said it was investigating.

Germany Bans Vigil for Abu Akleh

Police in Berlin have banned a vigil in memory of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh who was shot dead by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank.

The event is one of a number of gatherings that have been forbidden by the authorities under an unprecedented and wide-ranging ban on pro-Palestinian protest in the German capital, Al Jazeera reported.

The gathering in memory of Abu Akleh had been organized by Jüdische Stimme, a Jewish group that supports Palestinian rights. But police told the group that the event — planned to take place on Friday evening — fell under the ban on

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McFarlane, Disgraced Face of U.S., Dies at 84

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) — Robert C. McFarlane, a former decorated Marine officer who rose in civilian life to be President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser and then fell from grace in the Iran-contra scandal, died on Thursday in Lansing, Mich. He was 84.

McFarlane, who lived in Washington, was visiting family in Michigan at the time. A family friend, Bill Greener, said the death stemmed from an unspecified previous lung condition.

McFarlane pleaded guilty in 1988 to charges of withholding information from Congress in its investigation of the affair, in which the Reagan administration tried in vain to establish ties with Iran in 1985 by selling arms which Tehran rejected and funnel profits to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, who were trying to overthrow the country's Marxist regime, known as the Sandinistas.

Both parts of the scheme were illegal; Congress had imposed an arms embargo against Iran and prohibited American aid to the contras.

McFarlane, Bud to his friends and associates, was one of many players in the operation, which was run out of the White House with the cooperation of the Central Intelligence Agency. But he distinguished himself in its aftermath by his full and unequivocal acceptance of blame for his actions. Everyone else involved had either defended the operation as just and wise or sought to deny responsibility.

The episode stained the Reagan administration and raised questions as to how much the president was aware of what was going on in his own White House.

And its fallout left McFarlane so ridden with guilt that he attempted suicide in his home in February 1987. While his wife, Jonda, a high school English teacher, was upstairs grading papers, he took an overdose of Valium and got into bed alongside her. When he couldn't be roused in the morning, he was taken to a hospital and revived. He subsequently underwent many weeks of psychiatric therapy at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

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Amid Taliban Ban After Disgraceful U.S. Pullout, Afghan Girls Find Refuge in Iran for Education

MASHHAD, Iran (Middle East Eye) — An increasing number of Afghan families have found refuge in neighboring Iran after the Taliban government reneged on its promise to allow girls to go to school in March.

It has now been more than eight months since girls in Afghanistan were allowed to attend secondary school.

Initially kept out of the classroom for six months because of the turmoil in the country following the August 2021 U.S. withdrawal and the Taliban's return to power, girls were repeatedly told they would be able to recommence their education at the start of the new school year in March.

But on Wednesday March 23, as thousands of teenage girls across Afghanistan headed back to school, the Taliban reversed the decision at the last minute. Taliban guards posted outside schools barred their entry, leaving students in tears as they headed back home with books in hand.

"They would look at the girls and say: 'Go home. Even studying this much should be enough for you all,'" recalled Nilofar, 31, a teacher in the western province of Herat.

Sources who spoke to Middle East Eye in the city of Mashhad, northeast Iran, said that enrolment at schools catering for Afghan refugees had increased over the last six weeks, particularly for young girls.

A principal at one such school said that, although education might not be the primary factor pulling people towards Iran, it was a significant one.

"There are major issues with insecurity and the economy," the principal, who did not want to be identified by name, said. "But if education isn't the number one reason for these families to come here, it's definitely high up."

In recent months, forces claiming allegiance to the Daesh group have staged increasingly brazen attacks on schools, education centers and

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