

Russia's influence reaches deep into the British establishment and successive UK governments have turned a blind eye to it, law makers were warned, according to multiple sources familiar with testimony given to a parliamentary inquiry.

Members of the cross-party Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) were told that Moscow built up a network of friendly British diplomats, lawyers, parliamentarians and other influencers from across the political spectrum. One witness described the development as "potentially the most significant threat to the UK 's institutions and its ways of life," according to the testimony.

The committee's unpublished final report into Russian meddling in UK politics, titled simply "Russia," is at the center of a storm in the UK, where parliament was dissolved on Wednesday ahead of a general election in December.

The Committee's chairman, Dominic Grieve, has accused Prime Minister Boris Johnson of sitting on the report and claimed Downing Street had given "bogus" explanations for not publishing it.

Opposition politicians have accused the government of a cover-up, saying it could raise awkward questions about the validity of the Brexit referendum in 2016 and expose the alleged Russian connections of some in the ruling Conservative party.

The ISC, which provides oversight of Britain's intelligence and security agencies, and whose nine members are bound by the UK' Official Secrets Act, completed its investigation in March. Its report was submitted to Downing Street for approval on October 17.

Downing Street has repeatedly denied that the failure to publish the report before the election was politically motivated. In Parliament this week, Foreign Office minister Christopher Pincher said it was routine for Downing Street to subject ISC reports to further checks before they were published, and that it would be released "in due course."

النص الثاني

White House Says Ukraine war in Jeopardy due to Looming US Debt Default

The White House National Security Council spokesman has sounded the alarms about looming US debt default putting the Ukraine war in jeopardy.

John Kirby told CNN in an interview on Monday that Washington could only support Kiev for a "few weeks" if Congress fails to move past a funding bill.

Kirby warned that the government shutdown could have far-reaching effects on the US-led proxy war against Russia, impacting Kiev as it battles the Russian troops in Donbas.

US President Joe Biden has vowed long-term military support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. Also, Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, warned earlier that Russia and China would almost certainly take advantage of a US debt default.

"It would be almost a certainty" that both countries would "look to take advantage of the opportunity," Haines said to Senate Armed Services Committee members in May.

In addition, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen raised the alarm that a US debt default would trigger an economic catastrophe.

"A default on our debt would produce an economic and financial catastrophe," Yellen said on April 25 at the Sacramento

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce members' summit in Washington.

Yellen warned that failure by Congress to raise the government's debt ceiling and the resulting default on US debt would result in job losses and higher interest rates for years to come.

النص الثالث

Syrian power plant back into operation with help of Iranian experts

Syria has inaugurated a thermal power plant that is back into operation with the help of Iranian experts. In a ceremony on Thursday, two units of the plant, situated in the northwestern city of Aleppo, were launched after being reconstructed by Iranian specialists.

Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous, who was present at the ceremony, said his country's strategic relations with Iran serve the interest of both nations. The power plant, which has a total of five units, produced more than 1,000 megawatts of electricity in 2015 before being destroyed by ISIS terrorists.

The newly-launched units of the plant add some 400 megawatts back to Syria's power grid. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the ceremony, Iran's Consul to Aleppo Navab Nouri expressed Tehran's firm determination to complete the rehabilitation of three remaining units of Aleppo power plant. "Given the high importance of electrical energy, investment in this field is one of the main economic priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Memorandums of understanding were also signed between electricity ministries of both countries to build five plants with a combined capacity of 540MW as well as wind and solar power plants in the province of Latakia.

United Nations agencies Friday appealed to Israel to rescind its demand that 1.1 million civilians leave northern Gaza and relocate to the south within the next 24 hours, saying this was impossible and would have devastating consequences.

"This will only lead to unprecedented levels of misery and further push people in Gaza into abyss," said Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner general for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, UNRWA. In a statement, Lazzarini described the scale and speed of the unfolding humanitarian crisis as "bone chilling" and warned that "Gaza is fast becoming a hell hole and is on the brink of collapse."

Since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, Lazzarini noted that more than 423,000 Palestinians have been displaced, with more than 270,000 of them taking refuge in UNRWA shelters, "where basic food, medicine and support is provided to retain dignity and a glimmer of hope."

The World Health Organization has joined the U.N. appeal for Israel to reverse its evacuation order, noting that "with ongoing airstrikes, civilians have no safe place left to go." WHO stated that "Time is running out to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe if fuel, water, food and lifesaving health and humanitarian supplies cannot be urgently delivered to the Gaza Strip amidst the complete blockade."

The World Health Organization reports hospitals in Gaza have almost depleted the fuel they need to run their generators. The U.N. agency says there is a shortage of blood, and that medicines and medical supplies to treat the sick and wounded are in short supply.

Over the past few years, China-India relations have been visibly more acrimonious, confusing, and inimical in diplomatic and military domains, despite their huge mutual business interests.

In 2021, trade between the two neighbors grew by 44 percent. India's imports from China grew from \$66.7 billion in 2020 to \$97.5 billion, and during the same period, the volume of Indian exports to China jumped to \$28.1 billion, displaying hefty growth of 34.9 percent. But ironically, this gigantic volume of bilateral trade has not been able to muffle the ever-growing mutual suspicion and distrust between Beijing and New Delhi.

Frictions between Beijing and New Delhi have been intensified further ever since China started working on its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India, which also has historic business and security interest in this region, is quite wary of the Chinese plan to keep enhancing its maritime power in the East China Sea and South China Sea to facilitate commercial traffic between the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Coupled with the Chinese intention of creating a "Digital Silk Route," the BRI has generated anxiety in New Delhi, leading to a collaborative approach – with the support of Washington – intended to find ways to respond to and even disrupt the Chinese plan. India has adopted the strategy of establishing two parallel networks of connectivity to counterbalance the BRI, focused on sea routes as well as land routes.

India is fervidly working on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, a 1,400 kilometers-long project that will connect the northeastern states of India with the ASEAN region, with a future plan to extend it further eastward to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. This Trilateral Highway is being built with a

sole purpose of building a “parallel” structure to the BRI in the ASEAN region.

النص السادس

Erdan demands UN chief resign over Hamas attack comments

Israel has demanded that the UN's secretary general retract comments he made about the Gaza war and apologise. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan called on Secretary-General António Guterres to resign Tuesday after he gave a speech calling for a cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Earlier Tuesday, Guterres gave a speech at the United Nations denouncing Hamas and Israel for acts endangering civilians, saying he is “deeply concerned” about the “clear violations of international humanitarian law” in the conflict.

“The protection of civilians is paramount in any armed conflict. Protecting civilians can never mean using them as human shields,” he said, referring to Hamas.

“Protecting civilians does not mean ordering more than 1 million people to evacuate to the south [of Gaza] where there is no shelter, no food, no water, no medicine and no fuel and then continuing to bomb the south itself,” he continued, calling out the Israeli military.

“To ease epic suffering, make the delivery of aid easier and safer, and facilitate the release of hostages, I reiterate my appeal for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire,” Guterres added.

Guterres has been a chief advocate for humanitarian aid in Gaza, a territory that has nearly run out of food, water, medical supplies and fuel. The first humanitarian aid convoys entered

Gaza on Saturday, but Guterres warned that they will soon be forced to stop unless Israel reverses its ban on fuel imports because the U.N.'s reserve is running low.

