

Illegal Nuclear Launch Order can be Refused: US General

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — The top officer at U.S. Strategic Command said Saturday an order from President Donald Trump or any of his successors to launch nuclear weapons can be refused if that order is determined to be illegal.

Air Force Gen. John Hyten, commander of Strategic Command, told a panel at the Halifax International Security Forum on Saturday that he and Trump have had conversations about such a scenario and that he would tell Trump he couldn't carry out an illegal strike.

"If it's illegal, guess what's going to happen. I'm going to say, 'Mr President, that's



Gen Hyten

illegal.' And guess what he's going to do? He's going to say, 'What would be legal?'" Hyten said.

"And we'll come up with options with a mix of capabilities to respond to whatever the situation is, and that's the way it works." In the event that Trump decided to launch a nuclear attack, Hyten would provide him with strike options that are legal.

The command would control nuclear forces in a war. The comments come as the threat of nuclear attack from North Korea remains a serious concern and Trump's critics question his temperament. (AP)

Nieghbor News

China Optimistic Diplomacy will Solve North Korea Nuclear Issue

BEIJING - China's Ambassador to the U.K. Liu Xiaoming says he's "cautiously optimistic" that a diplomatic solution can be found to stop North Korea from developing further nuclear weaponry. Liu, who was China's ambassador to North Korea for more than three years, said that his government "had done everything" it could to persuade the country to halt its nuclear program. He spoke in a television interview with ITV.

"I am still cautiously optimistic," Liu said in the interview that was broadcast on Sunday. "I still believe that if all parties engage with each other and we encourage North Korea to return to the negotiating table, we can still find a diplomatic solution to this problem." Chinese President Xi Jinping recently sent Song

Tao, head of the Communist Party's International Liaison Department, to North Korea a week after hosting U.S. President Donald Trump, stoking speculation that Song may carry a message from the Xi-Trump talks. South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported there was a good chance that the Chinese envoy would meet leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday, citing unidentified diplomats in Beijing.

Liu said Sunday that North Korea had "legitimate concerns" about trust and security and blamed South Korea's close relationship with the U.S. as the "root cause" of the problem. While China "strictly abides" by United Nations sanctions against North Korea, resolutions must also be about negotiations, he told ITV. (Agencies)

Refugee Crisis Can't be Solved by UN: China

BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi yesterday urged Bangladesh and Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis through bilateral negotiations instead of an international initiative. "The international community should not complicate the situation," Mr Wang said at the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka. "Actions in the United Nations Security Council must help Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral co-operation to resolve the problem peacefully." Mr Wang arrived in Bangladesh yesterday for a two-day visit and from there

he will go to Myanmar to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting. "China supports resolving the crisis peacefully, bilaterally with mutual consultation between Bangladesh and Myanmar," he said. More than 600,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since late August, driven out by a military clearance operation in Buddhist majority Myanmar's Rakhine State. "It is a complex situation and needs a comprehensive solution. Economic development of Rakhine State is needed. China is ready to help," Mr Wang said. (Agencies)

Trump, Macron Agree on Need to Work with Allies

JEDDAH - US President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday agreed on the need to partner with allies to respond to the destabilization activities of Hezbollah and Iran in the region. The two leaders' telephone conversation came in the aftermath of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri's resignation, which he announced during a recent trip to Saudi Arabia. "Both presidents agreed on the need to work with allies to counter Hizballah's and Iran's

destabilizing activities in the region," a statement from the White House said. Hariri has accused Iran and Hezbollah of dominating Lebanon and attempt to covertly target his life, which prompted his resignation, and drew comparisons to the similar "atmosphere that prevailed before the assassination of martyr Rafik Al-Hariri." "I refer explicitly and unequivocally to Iran, which sows sedition, devastation and destruction in any place it settles in, as proven by



its interferences in the internal affairs of the Arab countries, in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain and Yemen, driven by a deep hatred of the Arab nation and an overwhelming desire to destroy and control it," Hariri said, when he announced his resignation on November 4. (Agencies)

German MEP Calls on EU to Go for More Global Approach Following New Anti-Dumping Rules



BRUSSELS - "We are trying to defend our standards against others and that is like colonialism," Helmut Scholz, a Ger-

man member of the European Parliament (MEP), has said. Scholz made the remarks in a recent interview with Xinhua in

Strasbourg where the European Parliament gave green light to the new anti-dumping rules. The new legislation is playing with words, using the "substantial market distortions", which is stated neither in the anti-dumping nor the anti-subsidy rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as a replacement of the "surrogate country approach". "If you are taking this new anti-dumping legislation as a benchmark and you say that there shouldn't be any

interference at all from the states, but in Europe we give state subsidies to the energy sector or other subsidies," said Scholz. "We are trying to defend our standards against others and that is like colonialism," Scholz said, calling on the European Union (EU) to "go for a more global approach". "We have to find a more general approach and work together with other countries to create new standards in the WTO. (Xinhua)

Elections to be Held as Scheduled: Iraqi PM

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said that the national elections in Iraq will be held as scheduled on May 15, urging Iraqi people to participate in the elections to support his anti-corruption plan in the coming years. A statement by Abadi's office said the premier made his comments while visiting an electoral center in Baghdad in order to receive his own new voter card. Abadi called on Iraqi citizens to participate in the elections, as "there is a campaign to fight corruption, which requires uniting the efforts of all (Iraqis) to eliminate it, just like we eliminated the

Trump Blasts Hillary Clinton for Questioning Legitimacy of Presidential Election Result

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday denounced allegations of Hillary Clinton who questioned the legitimacy of his victory in last year's presidential election.

Calling his Democratic presidential rival the "worst of biggest loser of all time," Trump tweeted that "She just can't stop, which is so good for the Republican Party." "Hillary, get on with your life and give it another try in three years," he added. Trump made the remarks a day after Clinton told media that the "Russian meddling" in the 2016 presidential campaign creates questions over the "legitimacy" of his victory.

Also on Friday in another media interview, Clinton lashed out at Trump and Alabama Republican Senate nominee Roy Moore for not taking responsibilities for sexual assault allegations made against them.

She said in an interview with WABC radio that by contrast Senator Al Franken, who was accused of forcibly kissing and groping a female broadcaster, had accepted "responsibility" and apologized to the victim. But the White House argued that there is a clear difference between Franken's case and that of the president.

"I think in one case specifically, Senator Franken has admitted wrongdoing, and the president hasn't," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told a press briefing Friday. "I think that's a very clear distinction."

In last year's presidential election, Clinton won the popular vote but Trump prevailed in the Electoral College as a result of narrow wins in U.S. states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. (Xinhua)

Britain to Submit 'Brexit Bill' Proposal Before December EU Meeting

LONDON - Britain will submit proposals on how to settle its divorce bill with the European Union before an EU summit next month and is expected to negotiate hard, finance minister Philip Hammond said on Sunday.

The EU told Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday that there was more work to be done to unlock the Brexit talks, repeating its early December deadline for her to flesh out Britain's opening offer on the financial settlement.

"We will make our proposals to the European Union in time for the



Council," Hammond told the BBC, referring to the Dec. 14-15 meeting of EU heads of government.

He was speaking three days before he sets out Britain's budget plan, where he will have to find room within tight fiscal constraints to help May convince voters that

the Conservative government is tackling Britain's domestic problems at the same time as negotiating its exit from the EU. May has signaled she would increase an initial offer that is estimated at some 20 billion euros (\$24 billion) - about a third of what Brussels wants. (Reuters)

Juncker: EU Backs Spain in Fight Against Catalan Secession

MADRID - European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker calls Catalonia's secessionist push a "disaster" and has reaffirmed Europe's support of a unified Spain.

Juncker tells the Spanish newspaper El Pais on Sunday that "Catalonia is an enormous concern. I don't like the situation it has provoked, it is a disaster." He sent a message to Carles Puigdemont, the ex-Catalan leader who fled to Belgium, that Catalan secessionists

"must not underestimate the wide support that (Spanish Prime Minister) Mariano Rajoy has throughout Europe."

Spain is facing its worst institutional crisis in nearly four decades after Catalonia's regional parliament violated the Constitution by voting to declare independence Oct. 27. Rajoy responded by firing its government, dissolving its parliament and calling a regional election for Dec. 21. Juncker says the election "could, should improve" the situation. (AP)

German Coalition Talks Face Immigration Stumbling Block

BERLIN - Immigration policy is emerging as one of the thorniest issues dividing German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and left-leaning Greens as they seek to forge a coalition government in marathon talks.

Here are the three main stumbling blocks on which they will have to reach common positions to avoid snap elections.

- Immigration - Migrants and refugees have been Germany's toughest political issue since a mass influx from 2015 brought some 1.2 million asylum seekers, sparking a backlash that has seen the far-right AfD party enter parliament.

Merkel's CDU and especially their more conservative CSU allies from Bavaria, where tens of thousands of refugees crossed over the border from Austria, are pushing to limit Germany's annual intake to a benchmark figure of 200,000. The Greens, who have long promoted migrant rights and a multicultural society, finally appear ready to accept the figure.

But they will not budge on their demand for a resumption of family reunions for those who have been granted temporary refuge in Germany, something opposed by both the CSU and FDP.

Amid alarm last year over the record influx of refugees, Berlin suspended reunifications until March 2018 for war refugees like Syrians, granting them only a year's temporary protection which is renewable depending on the situation in their home countries. (AFP)

Russian Export Center, Uzbek Bank Sign Co-Op Agreement

TASHKENT - The Russian Export Center and the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of Uzbekistan signed an agreement on cooperation.

The agreement was signed by head of the Russian Export Center Petr Fradkov and chairman of the bank's board Sukhrob Kholmuradov. The document formalizes agreements on setting up a credit limit for operations with the bank in the amount of \$100 million related to the financing for the supply of

Russian-made products to Uzbekistan, the Russian Export Center said.

The Russian Export Center has a positive experience in insurance of export loans and investments from business and political risks. The trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Russia in the supply of high-tech goods and Russian production services is constantly increasing. The conclusion of the agreement will further increase the export cooperation between the countries. (Trend)

Turkmenistan to Issue Patents for Architectural Projects

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan intends to protect architectural projects from plagiarism, Turkmenistan newspaper cited Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov as saying.

The need was stressed to include an item into the construction contracts requiring the contractor to obtain a patent to protect the original architectural designs and ideas from plagiarism.

"Each signed contract must necessarily include the above-mentioned section," the president said. The president ordered to issue patents for all big and important

construction projects in the country. The president also added that all tenders for construction should be carried out by the country's Ministry of Construction and Architecture.

A large-scale construction program was adopted in Turkmenistan in 2017. According to the program, 873 facilities, including 262 industrial ones and 611 social ones, are planned to be built. The Research Institute under the country's Ministry of Construction and Architecture is monitoring the compliance with the necessary building standards. (Trend)