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Russia ready to talk hypersonic weapons with U.S.

April 16, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Tuesday that Moscow is open to holding talks with the United States on the development of advanced weapons, including hypersonic missiles.

He said any discussions on the matter would include talks about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and on weapons in outer space.

'We are willing to engage in talks about new types of weapons, including hypersonic weapons, within the context of taking into account ... all the factors that have a bearing upon strategic stability,' he said during a live stream briefing with the press.

'I refer in particular to the plans of placing weaponry in outer space. I refer to strategic weapons that are not equipped with nuclear warheads. I refer to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.'

Lavrov's comments come amid a cooling of relations between Russia and the United States, in particular regarding arms control. President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in August, accusing Russia of violating the terms of the agreement..."

US accuses Iran of 'dangerous' harassment of US warships

April 16, 2020 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The *Associated Press* reports a group of 11 Iranian naval vessels made 'dangerous and harassing' maneuvers near U.S. ships in the Persian Gulf near Kuwait yesterday, in one case passing within ten meters of a Coast Guard cutter, quoting American officials. In a statement, the U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said Revolutionary Guard vessels repeatedly crossed the bows and sterns of several American ships at close range and high speed.

The American vessels included the USS Paul Hamilton, a Navy destroyer, the USS Lewis B. Puller, a ship that serves as an afloat landing base, and the USCGC Maui. The ships were operating with U.S. Army Apache attack helicopters in international waters, the statement said..."

New Israeli COVID-19 treatment seemingly successful with first two patients

April 15, 2020 jpost.com reported: "The first two patients who tested positive for the novel COVID-19 have shown significant improvement after receiving a newly-developed Israeli treatment for coronavirus, with one of them even being removed from the intensive care unit (ICU) within days of treatment.

Israeli biopharmaceutical RedHill Biopharma Ltd. administered their experimental drug, opaganib, in Israel for the first time last week. The first two patients treated, according to the company, have demonstrated significant improvement through clinical trial within mere days of treatment.

'We are very encouraged by the preliminary findings showing clinical improvement in the first COVID-19 patients treated with opaganib, which further supports its safety and potential benefit to patients,' said Medical Director at RedHill, Mark L. Levitt, MD, Ph.D.

'Our hope is that the unique mechanism of action of opaganib, with both anti-viral and anti-inflammatory activity, will help COVID-19 patients by reducing lung inflammation, and thus preventing the disease from progressing to a stage which requires mechanical ventilation. Importantly, opaganib is targeting a critical host factor that the coronavirus is unlikely to evade via mutation in possible future outbreaks of the pandemic.'..."

Air Force intercepts Russian patrol aircraft near Alaska

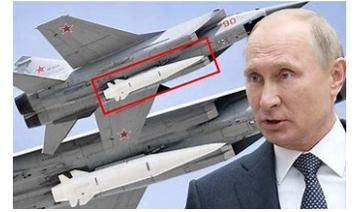
April 13, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "U.S. Air Force fighter jets intercepted two Russian patrol aircraft near Alaska this week, according to North American Aerospace Defense Command.

An unspecified number of F-22 Raptors 'intercepted two Russian IL-38 aircraft entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone' in the Bering Sea north of the Aleutian Islands on Wednesday, according to NORAD's Twitter feed.

'This is the latest of several occasions in the past month in which we have intercepted Russian aircraft operating near the approaches to our nations. We continue to execute our no-fail homeland defense missions with the same capability and capacity we always bring to the fight,' NORAD Commander General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy said on Twitter. During a Thursday appearance on *'Fox & Friends'*, O'Shaughnessy said Russia's plane came within 50 miles of Alaska's coast..."

Report: China's Coronavirus Data Off by Millions of Cases

April 10, 2020 Breitbart.com reported "A report published by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) this week denounced China's official coronavirus statistics as mathematically improbable and estimated the true number of infections from the epidemic in China was about 2.9 million, over a hundred times the total of 81,907 infections claimed by Beijing as of Friday.



‘Population size makes it almost certain that China’s disinformation about what happened outside the original outbreak city of Wuhan is worse than the disinformation about what happened inside,’ the AEI report contended.

The report quoted figures from Chinese state media in January to demonstrate that the number of people who left the outbreak city of Wuhan and its surrounding Hubei province before the city and province were locked down – a wave of travelers consistent with the Lunar New Year season in previous years – would have infected far more people than the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) claims.

Even assuming those figures from Chinese state media were on the high side, possibly because Wuhan officials were eager at the time to demonstrate the enigmatic illness they were passing off as a minor annoyance was not interfering with daily life or the holiday season, the lowest estimates have over a million people leaving the hot zone before travel was restricted – many of them probably carrying the highly infectious coronavirus, which can lurk inside people who do not appear sick, each of whom could be capable of infecting five or six other people...”

Iran defies EU, declaring continued nuclear uranium enrichment

April 10, 2020 jpost.com reported: “The national security and foreign policy committee for the Islamic Republic of Iran’s parliament declared that Tehran will move forward with its uranium enrichment process, triggering sharp criticism from the US State Department on Thursday.

According to a report in the Iranian regime’s state-controlled MEHR news agency, the foreign policy committee for Iran’s parliament ‘warned on Wednesday that in case Europe does not provide Iran with a practical guarantee on implementation of JCPOA, the Islamic Republic will continue its uranium enrichment to its desired level and volume.’

The JCPOA is an abbreviation for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the formal name for the Iran nuclear deal. The US withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 because the agreement, according to the Trump administration, failed to stop Iran from building a nuclear weapon. The other world powers – UK, France, China, Russia and Germany – have stuck with the JCPOA...”

China becomes world’s top patent filer: UN

April 8, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: “China last year became the world leader in international patent filings, unseating the United States which had held the top spot for more than four decades, the UN said Tuesday.

A record 265,800 international patent applications were filed last year, a hike of 5.2-percent from 2018, the World Intellectual Property Organization said in its annual report.

WIPO’s complex system of registering international patents involves multiple categories. In the main category — the Patent Cooperation Treaty, or PCT — China topped the ranking for the first time, with 58,990 applications. It thus overtook the United States, which filed 57,840 applications, and which has topped the PCT ranking since the system took effect in 1978...”



Russia calls out ‘aggressive’ executive order on space resource by Trump

April 8, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “Washington’s aggressive plans to claim the right to exploit space resources hinder global cooperation, Russian State Space Corporation Roscosmos Deputy CEO for International Cooperation Sergei Savelyev said on Tuesday. According to Moscow, the order poses a danger to international space cooperation.

‘Attempts to expropriate outer space and aggressive plans to, in fact, usurp territories of other planets are unlikely to dispose countries to fruitful cooperation’, Savelyev said, as quoted by Roscosmos. ‘There have been examples in history of countries deciding to seize territories in its interests, and everyone remembers the results’.

In the meantime, the Kremlin has also commented on the reports, stating that attempts to privatise space are inadmissible...”

U.S. warns China not to ‘exploit’ virus for sea disputes

April 7, 2020 spacewar.com reported: “The United States on Monday warned China not to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic to exert itself in the South China Sea after Vietnam said Beijing sank a trawler.

Amid the global focus on fighting COVID-19, China has ramped up self-described research stations and landed special military aircraft in the dispute-rife sea, according to the State Department.

‘We call on the PRC to remain focused on supporting international efforts to combat the global pandemic, and to stop exploiting the distraction or vulnerability of other states to expand its unlawful claims in the South China Sea,’ State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement.

Vietnam said last week that it lodged a protest with Beijing after the Chinese Coast Guard ‘hindered, rammed and sunk’ a Vietnamese boat with eight fishermen on board near the Paracel Islands.

Vietnam — which, like China and Taiwan, claims sovereignty over the Paracel Islands — called in a foreign ministry statement for Beijing to compensate the fishermen, ‘strictly discipline’ the officers responsible and prevent similar occurrences in the future...”

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