

US Congress Moves to Block Engine Sales for Turkey's KAAN Fighter Jet

The Trump administration formally notified Congress of its intention to sell dozens of General Electric F110 jet engines worth more than \$700 million to Turkey for its indigenous KAAN fifth-generation fighter program. However, on July 3, Representative Dina Titus introduced a Joint Resolution of Disapproval seeking to block the sale. Titus cited President Erdoğan's "repeated threats of military action against NATO allies" as grounds for the objection. Congress has 15 days from formal notification to pass such a resolution, which would need approval in both chambers and could be vetoed by Trump who announced to reporters about Turkey ahead of the opening of the NATO summit in Ankara that he is planning "something that will make them very happy". The sale is seen as a significant gesture to Ankara ahead of a pivotal NATO summit. If blocked, Turkey's KAAN program, which has already secured an export contract with Indonesia for 48 aircraft, could face delays of several years, as domestic TF35000 engines are not scheduled for installation until 2032.

Trump's 327 Stock Purchases Before Tariff Pause Raise Insider Trading Questions

A bombshell 927-page financial filing was reported this week showing that President Donald Trump's investment accounts made 327 previously undisclosed stock purchases worth as much as \$12.8 million on April 8, 2025 just one day before he announced a surprise 90-day pause on his "Liberation Day" tariffs. The purchases included shares in Apple, Nvidia, Microsoft, Amazon, and Alphabet. The following day, April 9, 2025, the S&P 500 surged 9.5% in what became one of the index's best single-day sessions in history. The trades were disclosed more than a year late in the 927-page financial filing, far exceeding the 45-day reporting requirement under federal ethics rules. The timing has sparked allegations of insider trading and market manipulation. Senator Adam Schiff, a California Democrat, has called for a congressional investigation. Ethics experts have pointed to the potential conflict of interest posed by a president trading stocks ahead of market-moving policy announcements.

Two Ukrainian Nationals at Center of Major European Criminal Investigations

This week has seen two separate but high-profile criminal cases involving Ukrainian nationals unfold across Europe, highlighting a wave of security incidents linked to Kyiv. In Germany, federal prosecutors formally charged a Ukrainian former special forces soldier, identified as Serhii K., over the September 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines. The suspect, who was arrested in Italy and extradited to Germany, is alleged to have led a seven-man team that destroyed three gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea. The indictment, served on June 30, accuses him of attacking civilian energy infrastructure. Separately, in Monaco, a Ukrainian woman, Anastasiia Berezovska, 39, who was the main suspect in a June 29 parcel bombing that seriously wounded sanctioned Ukrainian multi-millionaire Vadym Yermolaiev, his partner and their son, has been found dead in Ukraine. Interpol had issued a Red Notice for Berezovska on attempted murder charges. Ukraine's SBU reported her body was found with gunshot wounds to the head, and two men, including a current

intelligence officer, have been detained on suspicion of her murder. Both cases have intensified scrutiny on Ukrainian-linked operatives in Europe and shows disrespect to Germany who is Ukraine's largest source of European military aid. Opposition AfD leader Tino Chrupalla argued that the "terrorist attack against a vital artery of German industry must be thoroughly investigated" and that those who ordered the sabotage must be identified.

Trump Slams NATO Allies Over Performance in US-Iran Action

On July 7, at the NATO summit held in Ankara, Turkey, US President Donald Trump expressed his "disappointment" with NATO member states regarding their performance during America's recent military action against Iran. Speaking to the press upon his arrival in Ankara, Trump bluntly stated, "I am very disappointed in NATO." He went so far as to remark that had the summit not been hosted in Turkey, he likely would have skipped it altogether. The two-day summit's primary agenda items include increasing defense spending, expanding defense industrial capacity, maintaining support for Ukraine, and coordinating security burden-sharing between the US and Europe. Trump's public criticism once again highlights deep underlying rifts between the United States and several of its European allies regarding strategic priorities and the equitable distribution of defense responsibilities within the alliance.

Finland Lifts Nuclear Ban, Drawing Sharp Response from Moscow

The Finnish Parliament has approved amendments to the Nuclear Energy Act, formally removing the ban on deploying nuclear weapons on its territory. The amendments took effect on July 1, prompting a swift and harsh reaction from Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev, who stated on social media that Finland has now placed itself on Russia's nuclear target list. Medvedev emphasized that this policy change fundamentally alters Finland's security standing. Russia's bellicose response has heightened security tensions across the Nordic region, with observers voicing concerns that it could trigger a new regional arms race.

Mourning and Celebration on July 4 Showed What the US Stands for

Two profoundly different spectacles unfolded on the world stage, highlighting the deep chasm between the Islamic Republic and the United States. In Tehran, Iran commenced a days-long funeral for its murdered Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, the United States who perpetrated the assassination in violation of all accepted international norms marked its 250th anniversary of independence with grand celebrations, including a speech from President Donald Trump. In Tehran, massive crowds gathered at the Grand Mosalla complex, some chanting "Death to America!" In Washington, the National Mall hosted military flyovers and the "largest fireworks display in history". Both nations used their respective events to project strength; Iran showcasing resilience and unity, and Trump declaring "the American dream is back" as he spoke of a "new golden age".