

Russia, backed by China, casts 14th U.N. veto on Syria to block cross-border aid

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Russia, backed by China, on Friday cast its 14th U.N. Security Council veto since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011 to block cross-border aid deliveries from Turkey and Iraq to millions of Syrian civilians.

The resolution, drafted by Belgium, Kuwait and Germany, would have allowed cross-border humanitarian deliveries for a further 12 months from two points in Turkey and one in Iraq. But Syrian ally Russia only wanted to approve the two Turkish crossings for six months and had proposed its own draft text.

Russia and China vetoed the text while the remaining 13 members of the Security Council voted in favor. A resolution needs a minimum nine votes in favor and no vetoes by Russia, China, the United States, Britain or France to pass.

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft told the council after the Russia and China vetoes that she was in a state of shock, saying the consequences "will be disastrous." She described Russia and China's opposition as "reckless, irresponsible and cruel."

The council then voted on the rival Russian draft resolution that would have approved the two Turkish crossing points for six months, but it failed with only five votes in favor, six against and four abstentions.

RELATED COVERAGE

Russia fails to get U.N. approval for Syria cross-border aid deliveries from Turkey

"Who won today? Nobody. Who lost? The Syrian people," Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, told the council. He had argued that the humanitarian situation in Syria has improved dramatically and that the council had to recognize that change.

"Do not attempt to shift blame for this on us," he said.



The Boeing CST-100 Starliner spacecraft, atop a ULA Atlas V rocket, lifts off for an uncrewed Orbital Flight Test to the International Space Station from launch complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida

Deputy U.N. aid chief Ursula Mueller had warned the council on Thursday that without the cross border operations "we would see an immediate end of aid supporting millions of civilians."

"That would cause a rapid increase in hunger and disease, resulting in death, suffering and further displacement - including across borders - for a vulnerable population who have already suffered unspeakable tragedy as a result of almost

nine years of conflict," Mueller said.

Since 2014 the United Nations and aid groups have crossed into Syria from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan at four places annually authorized by the Security Council. In a bid to compromise with Russia, the Jordan crossing was dropped by Belgium, Kuwait and Germany from their draft.

The current authorization for the four border crossings in Turkey, Iraq and Jordan ends on Jan. 10, so the Security Council could still attempt to reach an agreement, though some diplomats ac-

knowledged this could now be difficult.

In a Dec. 16 report to the council, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged the council to extend authorization of the cross-border deliveries.

"We very much hope a solution can be found in the days ahead," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Friday.

Russia has vetoed 14 council resolutions on Syria since a crackdown by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on pro-democracy protesters in 2011 led to civil war. Islamic State militants then used the chaos to seize territory in Syria and Iraq.



國際貿易中心

INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

We Build Bridges To International Business

國際化商貿 從這裡出發

辦公室招租 Office for Rent

- 位置極佳，近中國城5分鐘。
- 環境高雅，安全安靜，包水電，免費高速網絡，辦公傢具
- 有大型停車場。
- Great location, 5 minutes drive from Chinatown.
- Safe and quiet work place with water and electricity, free high-speed Internet, office furniture.
- There has a large parking lot.

舉辦活動最佳地點 Event rental

- 場地寬敞 設備齊全
- 有大型停車場。
- The great location to host various of events in Chinatown area.
- Spacious place with a large parking lot.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER-HOUSTON

Southern News Group 11110 Bellaire Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77072
 Corporate Office-Houston, Texas USA Tel: (832) 448-0190 Fax: (281) 498-2728

Pictures of the Year



Whitby Town fans, Dylan Locker aged 10 and his Dad, Danny Locker pose for a picture during the soccer match between Whitby Town F.C. and Basford United at the Turnbull Ground in Whitby, Britain March 2, 2019.



First lady Melania Trump kisses Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau next to U.S. President Donald Trump during the family photo with invited guests at the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 25, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria/File Photo SEARCH



SENSITIVE MATERIAL. THIS IMAGE MAY OFFEND OR DISTURB Luis Alejandro, 26, an opposition demonstrator, is struck by a Venezuelan National Guard (GNB) vehicle on a street near the Generalísimo Francisco de Miranda Airbase "La Carlota" in Caracas, Venezuela April 30, 2019.



New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern leaves after the Friday prayers at Hagley Park outside Al-Noor mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand March 22, 2019.



Indian Air Force (IAF) soldiers march as advanced light helicopters fly during the Indian Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon Air Force Station on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, October 8, 2019.



Buildings damaged during Cyclone Kenneth are seen from the air in a village north of Pemba, Mozambique, May 1, 2019. RE



A girl plays with a rifle after a Memorial Day ceremony for the Fallen soldier at Latrun's armoured corps memorial site, Israel May 8, 2019. REUTERS/Corinna Kern/File Photo



Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo gesture as they walk to Insein prison gate after being freed, after receiving a presidential pardon in Yangon, Myanmar, May 7, 2019.

America's Massive Teacher Shortage Is Stunting Student Learning



Chicago public school teachers and their supporters picket on Oct. 17. Photo: Scott Olson/Getty Images

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

There's a shortfall in education across the U.S., with more than 300,000 unfilled public teaching jobs needed to keep up with enrollment, according to an analysis from the Economic Policy Institute.

Driving the news: 25,000 Chicago Public School teachers have been on strike for more than a week, asking for capped class sizes, higher salaries and more hiring capacity for teachers' assistants and nurses. The number of teachers picketing hit a 7-year high, according to BLS data.

The big picture: State and local governments cut education budgets during the recession, which forced many educators to take part-time jobs, organize walkouts for better conditions or leave the field altogether, the EPI report shows.

Last year, teachers quit at the fastest rate ever recorded due to unsatisfactory wages, leaving school districts to cope with surging student enrollment.

Why it matters: The lack of teachers is stunting student learning, as growing class sizes are becoming unmanageable learning environments, and teacher aides are in short supply. Meanwhile, educators are strapped for time and resources to create more individualized lesson plans and volunteer for extracurricular activities.

What to watch: Several 2020 Democratic candidates have announced support for raising teachers' wages and better classroom resources.

Sens. Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders want to give teachers a base pay increase.

Former Vice President Joe Biden offered up a plan to compensate teachers for extra work completed outside the classroom, such as mentoring or coaching. He also wants to double the number of school psychologists, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals.

Separately, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) introduced legislation that would put \$603 million into teacher salaries to boost the minimum pay to \$47,500, the Tampa Bay Times reports. If approved, Florida's teacher pay will be one of the highest in the U.S., the governor's office said.

Related

Chicago teacher strike to continue as district, union fail to reach deal



Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union failed to reach

an agreement Thursday after a week-long strike, leaving classes canceled again Friday in the nation's 3rd largest school district, per the AP. Photo: Scott Heins/Getty Images)

The big picture: Nearly 25,000 members of the union went on strike Oct. 17 over issues including class sizes and school staffing. Both sides say they've made progress, but have not yet reached a resolution.

Classes were cancelled for more than 300,000 students in the Chicago area, possibly rendering a slew of student athletes ineligible to compete in upcoming state competitions.

How the Science of Learning Can Help It stands to reason that if we have a retention problem in our schools, we should turn to the science of learning for guidance. Paradoxically, however, learning how to learn has never been a priority in our educational system. Teachers are rarely trained in the science of learning and students seldom learn about evidence-based study strategies. Instead, classroom and study practices are often rooted in convention and convenience, and tend to align with our intuitions about how learning works. Making matters worse, myths about learning are widespread and stifling educational progress (for one example, see Learning Styles and Leprechauns). The problem is that our intuitions often lead us astray with respect to what effective learning entails and, as a result, there exists a substantial gap between the public perception of how learning works and the empirical reality of how learning actually works.

The path to improving the retention problem starts with awareness. If we want to do better, we first need to know better. Teachers, parents, and students need to become knowledgeable — at least to some extent — of what the science says about improving learning, and then turn that knowledge into action. There are numerous teaching and study strategies that have garnered a wealth of empirical support over the last several decades, yet most people are unaware of them, a fact that is borne out by research and from

my personal experiences as someone who is involved in this type of outreach in schools.



Take, for example, a strategy known as interleaved practice, which involves mixing up different (but related) to-be-learned topics or skills. If a teacher wanted his or her students to practice multiplication and division problems, an interleaved practice schedule would involve mixing up the two different kinds of problems. Research shows that this strategy is much more effective for long-term retention than keeping the different types of problems separate. Yet, most math teachers do keep the problems separate by, for example, having their students perform a bunch of multiplication problems followed by a bunch of division problems. Our intuition tells us that keeping the problems separate should be better because there's a sense that we should try to master one thing at a time, but interleaving is more effective because it encourages more effortful thinking and helps learners identify the key differences between the various problems they're trying to solve and learn. So, whether you're a teacher, coach, or student, try mixing things up. It'll seem a bit more challenging in the moment, but it'll eventually produce more efficient, effective learning.

Interleaved practice isn't the only effective learning strategy that is underrepresented in our schools. Spaced practice (i.e., spreading out repetitions with time) and retrieval practice (i.e., encouraging students or oneself to retrieve information from memory) also fall into that category. Although relatively unknown to

the public, spacing and retrieval effects are two of the most robust and reliable in all the literature on human learning and memory, and can help virtually all students at any level and in any subject (for more on these strategies, see To Make Learning Stick, Make it Harder). These strategies, along with numerous others revealed by decades of research, show us that achieving durable and flexible learning requires that we engage in activities that often go against our intuitions, violate standard practices in education, and create a sense of difficulty during the learning process.

Final Thoughts

In 1848, Horace Mann, a pioneer of American education, famously declared that "Education... is the great equalizer," a sentiment that was echoed 163 years later by U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, who said, "In America, education is still the great equalizer." I would modify the statement slightly — but significantly — by stating, "Effective education is the great equalizer." Considering the alarming statistics on academic achievement and dropout rates, we're falling short on the "effective" part of that statement.

Of the multitude of factors contributing to our country's education crisis, I would argue that poor retention plays a central role. We often value rapid, short-term progress over long-term learning... and it shows. Solving the retention problem requires a serious commitment to cultivate a culture in which educators, parents, and students are knowledgeable about how the science of learning can be leveraged to improve their educational practices. What will follow is a brighter forecast for our current students and generations to come. (Courtesy medium.com)

Advertisement for Houston Travel Shopping Guide 2019. Includes text: 'Houston Travel Shopping Guide', 'CityPASS', 'KATY-ASIAN-TOWN', '2019 休斯頓旅遊購物指南', 'HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE', '已經', '請至本報社 免費取閱', '2019 休斯頓 發行 旅遊購物指南', 'HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE'. Also includes contact info for Southern Daily News.

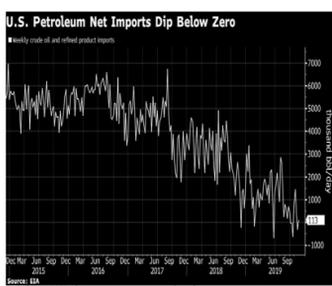
Advertisement for The MINT National Bank. Includes logo, text: 'The MINT National Bank', 'A SBA PLP Lender', 'Recently Closed Loans'. A table of loan options: SBA Loan-Motel, SBA Loan-Gas Stations, Conventional-Gas Station, SBA Loan-Motel, Conventional: Retail Condominiums, Conventional: Gas Stations, Conventional: Gas Stations, Conventional: Builder line of credit. Contact info for Ringo Kwan, President of International MINT LPO.

U.S. Posts First Month In 70 Years As A Net Petroleum Exporter



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(Bloomberg) -- The U.S. solidified its status as an energy producer by posting the first full month as a net exporter of crude and petroleum products since government records began in 1949. The nation exported 89,000 barrels a day more than it imported in September, according to data from the Energy Information Administration Friday. While the U.S. has previously reported net exports on a weekly basis, today's figures mark a key milestone that few would have predicted just a decade ago, before the onset of the shale boom. President Donald Trump has touted American energy independence, saying that the nation is moving away from relying on foreign oil. While the net exports show decreasing reliance on imports, the U.S. still continues to buy heavy crude oil from other nations to meet the needs of its refineries. It also buys refined products when they are available for a lower cost from foreign suppliers.

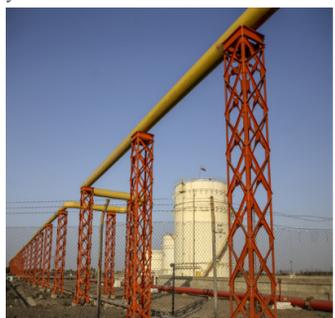


The U.S. return to being a net exporter serves to remind how the oil industry can deliver surprises -- in this case, the shale oil revolution - that upend global oil prices, production, and trade flows," said Bob McNally, a former energy adviser to President George W. Bush and president of the consulting firm Rapidan Energy Group. Soaring output from shale deposits led by the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico has been in main driver of the transition -- but America's status as a net exporter may be fragile. Many

Texas wildcatters are predicting a rapid decline in production growth next year, while some Democratic contenders for the White House have called for a ban on fracking -- the controversial drilling technique that unleashed the boom.

"In the days of Jimmy Carter and even Ronald Reagan, we would have longed for this day," said Jim Lucier, managing director of Washington, D.C.-based Capital Alpha Partners LLC. "Now we scarcely notice it at all."

In its Short-Term Energy Outlook earlier this month, the EIA flagged the turnaround and forecast total net exports of crude and products of 750,000 barrels a day in 2020, compared with average net imports of 520,000 barrels a day this year.



Analysts at Rystad Energy said this week the U.S. is only months away from achieving energy independence, citing surging oil and gas output as well as the growth of renewables.

"Going forward, the United States will be energy independent on a monthly basis, and by 2030 total primary energy production will outpace primary energy demand by about 30%," said Sindre Knutsson, vice president of Rystad Energy's gas markets team.

To contact the reporter on this story: Stephen Cunningham in Washington at scunningha10@bloomberg.net

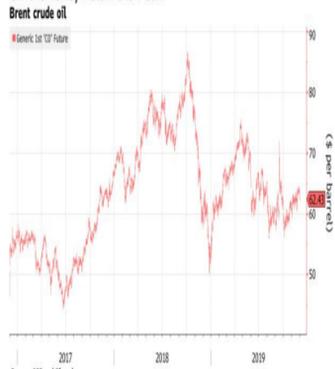
Related

OPEC+ Gambles That U.S. Shale's Golden Age Is Over

For years, OPEC ignored the rise of the U.S. shale industry and came to regret its mistake. Now, the group is making another bold gamble on America's oil rev-

olution: that its golden age is over. When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meets this week, ministers will discuss whether to extend their current output target, rather than reduce it, according to people familiar with the internal debate. The reason? They believe relentless U.S. oil production growth will slow rapidly next year.

Off the Lows, Below the Peak



Source: ICE and Bloomberg

OPEC isn't alone. Across the industry, oil traders and executives believe U.S. production will grow less in 2020 than this year, and at a significantly slower rate than in 2018. On paper, the cartel has the oil market under control.

Brent crude has been trading around \$60 a barrel for most of 2019, about 14% higher than at the start of the year but well below the peak of \$75.60 a barrel set in late April.

"Saudi Arabia is doing a reasonable job to balance the market," said Marco Dunand, head of commodity trading house Mercuria Energy Group Ltd. He has some words of warning too: "OPEC will need to watch U.S. production very closely." But Saudi Arabia and its allies should be wary of discounting competition from U.S. shale and other non-OPEC suppliers.



Total U.S. oil production reached an all-time high of almost 17.5 million barrels a day in September, up 1.3 million barrels a day from a year earlier. That expansion is likely to continue at least into the beginning of 2020 before slowing down. (Courtesy Bloomberg.com)



Every 8 minutes, we respond to a disaster.

Your donation can help impact lives.



HELP NOW

我們的新網站！

www.scdaily.com



網站風格相比於過去的刻板突出了活潑。 改版首頁與分類廣告- 流量監控-

黃頁分類更細緻，更詳細 首頁面板上的廣告變成固定滾動模式，保證每個商家都有固定的曝光率 引入了在線支付,個性化訂閱，讀者自由投稿,以及發帖的功能。 新添加了美南論壇，供大家全休斯頓發布招聘，求職，買賣，生活資訊等信息,打造華人最大的聚集地。

2020