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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Amazon to reimburse U.S. employees who travel for abortions, other treatments

May 2 (Reuters) - Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), the second-largest U.S. private employer, told its staff on Monday it will pay up to \$4,000 in travel expenses annually for non-life threatening medical treatments including abortions, according to a message seen by Reuters.

The decision makes the online retailer the latest company after Citigroup Inc (C.N), Yelp Inc (YELP.N) and others to respond to Republican-backed state laws curbing abortion access, helping employees bypass them. It shows how companies are eager to retain and attract talent in locations that remain important to their operations despite legal changes impacting employees' health.

The U.S. Supreme Court is due to rule by the end of June in a case that gives its conservative majority a chance to roll back abortion rights or even overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide. About two dozen states including Oklahoma and Alabama have laws poised to limit abortion access should the Roe ruling be overturned.

Amazon's new benefit, effective to Jan. 1 retroactively, applies if an operation is not available within 100 miles (161 km) of an employee's home and virtual care is not possible, the company's message said. It is open to U.S. employees or covered dependents enrolled in Premera or Aetna health plans, whether they work in a corporate office or a warehouse.

The reimbursements that Amazon announced on Monday are not specific to abortion. They provide for other non-life threatening treatments such as around cardiology, cellular gene therapies and substance-abuse disorder services as well. Separately, Amazon offers up to \$10,000 in annual travel reimbursements for life-threatening issues.

The news came on the day Amazon stopped offering paid time off for U.S. employees diagnosed with COVID-19, letting them have five days of excused unpaid leave instead. Amazon employees at a warehouse in New York are having their votes counted on Monday as well that will determine whether the facility unionizes. A group of current and former workers known as the Amazon Labor Union has pushed for better pay and job security.



The Amazon logo is displayed on a sign outside the company's LDJ5 sortation center, as employees begin voting to unionize a second warehouse in the Staten Island borough of New York City, U.S. April 25, 2022. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid.

In shift, Germany could back immediate EU ban on Russian oil

KYIV, May 2 (Reuters) - Germany said on Monday it was prepared to back an immediate European Union embargo on Russian oil, a major shift from Moscow's biggest energy customer that could let Europe impose such a ban within days.

Russia's energy exports - by far its biggest source of income - have so far largely been exempt from international sanctions over the war in Ukraine. Kyiv says that loophole means European countries are funding the Kremlin war effort, sending Moscow hundreds of millions of euros every day.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who has been more cautious than other Western leaders in backing Ukraine, has been under growing pressure to take a firmer line, including from within the Social Democrat's own governing coalition.

"Germany is not against an oil ban on Russia. Of course it is a heavy load to bear but we would be ready to do that," Economy Minister Robert Habeck, of the Greens, told reporters before talks with his EU colleagues in Brussels. read more
"With coal and oil, it is possible to forgo Russian imports now," Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business FDP told Die Welt newspaper. "It can't be ruled out that fuel prices could rise."

Germany had already reduced the share of Russian oil in its imports to 12% for 35% before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb.24, but had previously said it needed months to phase out Russian crude to lessen the economic impact at home.

Eastern parts of Germany in particular rely on fuel from a refinery owned by Russia's state oil company Rosneft, served by the Soviet-era "Friendship" pipe-

line that runs thousands of miles to oil fields in Siberia.

Weaning Europe off Russian oil is likely to be easier than reducing dependence on Russian natural gas. Moscow has demanded European customers pay for gas in roubles, which the EU rejects. Last week, Moscow cut off supplies to Poland and Bulgaria. The EU ministers meeting on Monday discussed a joint response.

The first civilians to be evacuated from a giant steel plant in Mariupol were expected to arrive on Monday in the Ukrainian-held city of Zaporizhzhia after an overnight bus journey across the front-line.

Ukraine says hundreds of civilians have been trapped inside the Azovstal plant along with the city's last Ukrainian defenders. Dozens were able to leave on Sunday in an evacuation organised by the United Nations, the first to escape since President Vladimir Putin ordered the plant barricaded last week.

Captain Sviatoslav Palamar, 39, a deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, told Reuters from inside the plant that fighters could hear voices of women, children and elderly people trapped below ground, and lacked the equipment to dig them out. read more

"We were planning to tear up the bunkers, the entrance to which is blocked, but all night into Monday naval artillery and barrel artillery were firing. All day today aviation has been working, dropping bombs," Palamar said by Zoom.

Efforts to organise the evacuation of civilians from other parts of the city, now held by the Russians, ran into delays. Ukraine says 100,000 people are still living in the ruined city in desperate conditions after months of Russian siege.



美南電視15.3

每周一至五每晚7點專題節目

每晚7點播出
專題節目

每天一至五下午6:30播出《美南新聞聯播》

- 每周一晚7點：主持人：黃梅子，《生活》節目（《生活故事會》、《丁師傅私房菜》和《修車師姐》三個單元輪流播出）
- 每周二晚7點：主持人：陳鐵梅，《美南時事通》
- 每周三晚7點，主持人：王潔，《美南時事通》、《美南名人堂》
- 每周四晚7點，主持人：Sky，《子天訪談錄》或馬健《J&J論壇》
- 每周五晚7點，主持人：蓋軍，《美南時事通》

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主持人: 黃梅子



主持人: 陳鐵梅



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主持人: 馬健



主持人: Sky



主持人: 蓋軍

WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

05/02/2022



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The Democratic Party Is Facing Challenges In The Coming Election



The latest polls show that President Biden's approval rating is 42%. Only 38% of voters support his economic policy, but 68% deny his performance on inflation. Although the president has released U.S. oil reserves, oil prices and the consumer price index is the worst in recent history.

Although the mid-term election will be held in

November this year, the Biden administration is facing three major problems including the Ukrainian war, rising prices and Covid-19 which continues and has not been solved.

We saw that the governor of Texas Greg Abbott sent a truckload of refugees and immigrants to Washington, D.C. to express his unhappiness with Biden

's immigration policy. Many refugees who just wanted to come to America for a better life have become political toys.

A delegation led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has met with President Zelensky in Ukraine and vowed to

support him until the end of the Russian invasion. The U.S. Secretary of State and Defense also visited the war zone. We don't see any sign of peace in Ukraine, but more than 5.5 million refugees have left their homes.

Let's ask all these politicians where they want us to go now. Many innocent

people are suffering because of their selfish desires. We do not want to see this war become a nuclear war that will destroy all of us.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



A man raises a hat that says "Make Dixie great again" during Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park in Georgia, April 30. The protest took place at the foot of a towering monument to the heroes of the South's pro-slavery past, as 200...



A group of counter-protesters walk towards a group celebrating Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain, Georgia, April 30, 2022. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers



The remains of a Russian fighter aircraft are seen at a residential area in Chernihiv, Ukraine, March 5. State Emergency Service of Ukraine/via REUTERS



Sons of Confederate Veterans color guard bow their heads during Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain, Georgia, April 30. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers



Meymoona Freeman of Stone Mountain Action Coalition speaks as counter-protesters gather during Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park east of Atlanta, April 30. The celebration and protest took place peacefully, with the two sides separated by fences and only interacting through shouts. A massive security presence had been installed, with dozens of state and local police, including SWAT teams with armored trucks, and a circling police helicopter. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers



A woman bows her head in prayer during Confederate Memorial Day at Stone Mountain Park, April 30. REUTERS/Dustin Chambers

Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine Changes The Global Order Forever

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



of Ukraine.



People wave a huge Ukrainian national flag during an action in support of their country in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022. (Andriy Andriyenko—AP)

"It's the biggest crisis since World War II, in the [heart] of Europe, and will have huge consequences," former Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj told TIME on Thursday. "It will require great effort to settle this issue and update the world order."

"It seems that the old Cold War tensions never really went away," former Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva tells TIME. "It's almost as if we're back to a situation of war and potential flash points around the world."

On Wednesday, the Biden Administration called out Beijing for its role underwriting this shift. "Russia and [China] also want a world order," U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters. "But this is an order that is and would be profoundly illiberal, an order that stands in contrast to the system that countries around the world... have built in the last seven decades."



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was shocked enough to call it the "saddest moment in my tenure." Though as the bombardment of Ukrainian cities escalated alongside the testiness of exchanges inside the chamber, feelings shifted to outrage at the impotence of members' calls for peace and dialogue.

"At the exact time as we were gathered in the council seeking peace, Putin delivered a message of war in total disdain for the responsibility of this council," said U.S. permanent representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield. "This is a grave emergency." It would be reductive to attribute these failings simply to Putin's belligerence. It's been an open secret that global governing institutions have been broken for a long time, spotlighted by a series of recent crises that have received limp attention: the annexation of Crimea, the COVID-19 pandemic, the return of the Taliban to power in Afghanistan, popular uprising in Kazakhstan, coup d'état in Myanmar, and now, most drastic of all, invasion

swelling economic and diplomatic clout. Tellingly, Chinese officials lead four of the 15 U.N. specialized agencies. In January, China was the only U.N. Security Council member to vote with Russia in a failed attempt to stop a U.S.-requested meeting regarding Moscow's troop build-up at its border with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Russia has stunningly co-opted the language of the U.N. Charter 2(4) regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity to justify its actions. "So it's sort of claiming the mantlepiece of international order, while fundamentally and quite dramatically undermining it," says Leslie Vinjamuri, dean of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House.



That makes it arguably a larger challenge for the West than even the Cold War, when the West was up against a country that was in military terms a superpower, but economically weak. With China, "all of a sudden we're looking at a country that has the economic capability to take us all on," says Iain Duncan Smith, an MP and former leader of the U.K. Conservative Party. "That means the rule-based order can be debauched, which is what's happening now."

Beijing supports international institutions and agreements aligned with its goals, such as the World Bank and the Paris climate pacts. But where Beijing's interests diverge from established norms, especially human rights, it aims to corrupt those values and bring in alternative models. In fields where standards are yet to be established, like internet governance, Beijing works with Moscow and other illiberal nations to push standards that align with their interests. It can do so because those institutions in themselves are weak



The United Nations security council gathers for an emergency meeting at the request of Ukraine over the threat of a full-scale invasion by Russia, in New York City on Feb. 23, 2022. (Photo/David Dee Delgado—Getty

Images)

China's ambivalence on Putin's aggression against Ukraine spotlights the new normal. While calling for "dialogue and negotiation" on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi effectively gave his blessing to the invasion, telling his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on a call that "the Chinese side understands Russia's legitimate security concerns."

"Beijing thinks this one's probably going to bypass China, as it is a war between two European countries," says Mitter. "And that the role of NATO and the United States is really what's at the heart of the dispute."



Firefighters work on a building fire after bombings on the eastern Ukraine town of Chuhuiv on Feb. 24, 2022. (Aris Messinis—AFP/Getty Images)

It's wrong to think of inaction as completely new, though. In truth, the exceptional moments in U.N. history have been when consensus has been reached among the P5—the officially recognized nuclear-weapons states—to stand up for the international order when one of them was involved. "It just doesn't happen," says Vinjamuri. "So this [kind of Ukraine situation] isn't really out of keeping; it's built into the structure of the U.N."

Conclusion

Moscow's Military Push Has Upended Post-Cold War Security, United NATO Allies And Renewed Foreign-Policy Debates

Much will depend on whether meaningful costs are inflicted on Putin. The U.S., E.U., U.K., Australia, Canada, and Japan have unveiled sanctions on Russian banks and wealthy cronies of Putin, while Germany halted certification of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia. However, China along with other Kremlin friends can likely compensate. Bilateral trade between China and Russia rose 33.6% year-on-year to some \$140 billion in 2021. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss, among other things, the \$2.5 billion Pakistan Stream gas pipeline, which Moscow wants to build between Karachi and Kasur, expressing bewilderment at arriving during "so much excitement."



A Ukrainian service member on patrol along the Russian border on Wednesday. (Photo/

ANTONIO BRONIC/REUTERS)

"The [Ukraine] situation has escalated due to pure mistrust," he says. "Russia is uncomfortable with having NATO installed on its doorstep. Ukraine feels threatened. And the West is suspicious of Russian motives." A meaningful discussion about the expansion of NATO and the sovereignty of Ukraine by a neutral party might have led to a more desirable outcome, he adds. "I don't pretend it's easy, but I can't see that happening when it's just being dealt with by the conflicting parties."

Russia's military incursion deeper into Ukraine is one of those rare events that won't merely affect the world. It will change the world. By moving further into a sovereign state to bring it under his thumb, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shattered the security architecture that has prevailed in Europe since the end of the Cold War, and no one knows what will take its place. The ability of the U.S. to do what three consecutive presidents have pledged to do—clear away other international entanglements to focus on competition with China—has been undercut again. Military expenditures will likely increase in the West. Economic globalization will be set back.



Meanwhile, fissures that have been lying just beneath the surface in American politics, separating internationalists and neo-isolationists, are becoming more visible, particularly in the Republican Party. Those are just some of the ripple effects. Like the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the onset of what could become the largest ground warfare in Europe since World War II marks such a departure from the norm that some of its consequences are impossible to know for sure, and some figure to play out in unexpected ways for years to come.

The most immediate help China can give Russia is simple relief from the sanctions imposed on Moscow, which are now set to expand and deepen. More broadly, China and Russia share a motivation to work together to build a kind of parallel international financial system apart from the dollar-denominated, American-dominated one that currently exists. Dreaming of such an outcome and achieving it are two quite different things, but the dream now might have new resonance. Still, China has other interests in its relationship with the U.S. and doesn't seem interested in seriously breaking ties, which could limit Sino-Russian cooperation. Those competing interests might explain Beijing's awkward reaction so far, in which it has refrained from endorsing Moscow's move but has talked vaguely about respecting "relevant countries' legitimate security concerns" in Ukraine. (Courtesy time.com) (Courtesy time.com)

"The Fight Is Here. We Need Ammunition, Not A Ride."

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



Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

~ Under Siege 2022 ~