

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

2020-09-22 · Evening edition · Issued 20:00 CDT

Secret three-hour U.S.-Iran meeting on UNGA sidelines

- U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner held a roughly three-hour meeting (about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET) with Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi on the UNGA sidelines, mediated by Qatar — the first known high-level contact since the ceasefire/MoU collapsed in July. — [AP](#)
- Trump called it 'a very good meeting, very productive' and said another is 'scheduled in the very near future.' Witkoff said he feels 'very good' about it. The format is contested: the NYT, via two Iranian officials, reports Araghchi met Witkoff and Kushner directly; Trump later clarified they met 'with mediators of Iran, merely mediators.' — [New York Times](#) / [AP](#)
- Iranian media say the meeting came at Washington's request and centered on Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz — reported, not U.S.-verified. — [Iranian state TV](#)

Trump threatens to 'annihilate' Iran at the UN; Iranian delegation walks out

- In a ~37-minute UNGA address, Trump said he has 'a big decision to make': make a deal, or 'annihilate the Islamic Republic... quickly.' He called on all nations to join the 'total economic isolation of Iran,' accused Tehran of stalling a Hormuz deal until after the Nov 3 U.S. midterms, and predicted a deal 'right after the election.' — [AP](#)
- Most of Iran's lower-level delegation walked out ~10 minutes into the speech (Pezeshkian and Araghchi did not attend); Cuba's delegation walked out too. Secretary of State Rubio said Tuesday on Fox News that Trump 'is open to a meeting with him or anybody.' — [AP](#)

Terms of Iran's Hormuz offer emerge — with a split in Tehran

- A senior Iranian official told Reuters the Hormuz proposal was conveyed via mediators on Sept 16; Iran's UNGA delegation has 'full authority' to revive diplomacy; Pezeshkian (arrived Tuesday, speaks Wednesday) will NOT meet Trump. — [Reuters](#)
- State media's version of Tehran's conditions: immediate lifting of the naval blockade, release of frozen Iranian funds, and an end to the war across all 'resistance' fronts. IRGC-linked Iranian media denied a new position was adopted — a genuine internal dispute in Tehran; the U.S. side has not verified the terms. — [Iranian state TV](#) / [Reuters](#)

Oil falls for a fifth straight day; Saudi pipeline back at low rate

- Brent fell below \$100 to ~\$99.33 (down ~1%) and WTI settled near \$94.80 — a fifth straight day of declines — whipsawing through the UN speech after the morning's Hormuz-offer plunge. — [Barron's](#)
- Saudi Arabia restarted the East-West Pipeline (shut Sept 11 after a drone attack) at a low rate; crude exports from the Red Sea port of Yanbu could resume later Tuesday at reduced volumes. — [Reuters](#)

Trump backs a diesel export ban; decision coming 'fast'

- Trump said he backs the idea of a ban on diesel exports — 'I've said let's not send out the diesel' — during his UNGA press availability with Zelenskyy; a decision is coming 'fast, one way or the other.' Treasury's Bessent said the administration is studying full vs. partial bans. — [MarketWatch](#)
- U.S. diesel sits at record highs (~\$6.53/gal per AAA), with the Iran war cited as a price driver. Energy Secretary Wright warned a ban would cut gasoline production. — [MarketWatch](#)

What to watch next

- Timing and substance of the next U.S.-Iran meeting; Pezeshkian's UNGA address Wednesday and Tehran's response to the 'annihilate' threat. — [AP](#)
- Whether Yanbu crude exports actually resume Tuesday and at what rate; whether the tanker attacks stop and whether any group claims responsibility. — [Reuters](#)

Related media



Trump remarks on the 'very good' U.S.-Iran meeting at the UN (Reuters video still, Sept 22) — [view original](#)

- [Reuters: Trump says U.S. and Iran held a 'very good meeting' at the UN \(video, Sept 22\)](#)

Sources: [AP](#) · [New York Times / AP](#) · [Iranian state TV](#) · [Reuters](#) · [Iranian state TV / Reuters](#) · [Barron's](#) · [Reuters](#) · [MarketWatch](#)

Compiled from X posts and traditional news outlets. Verify before acting on any single report.