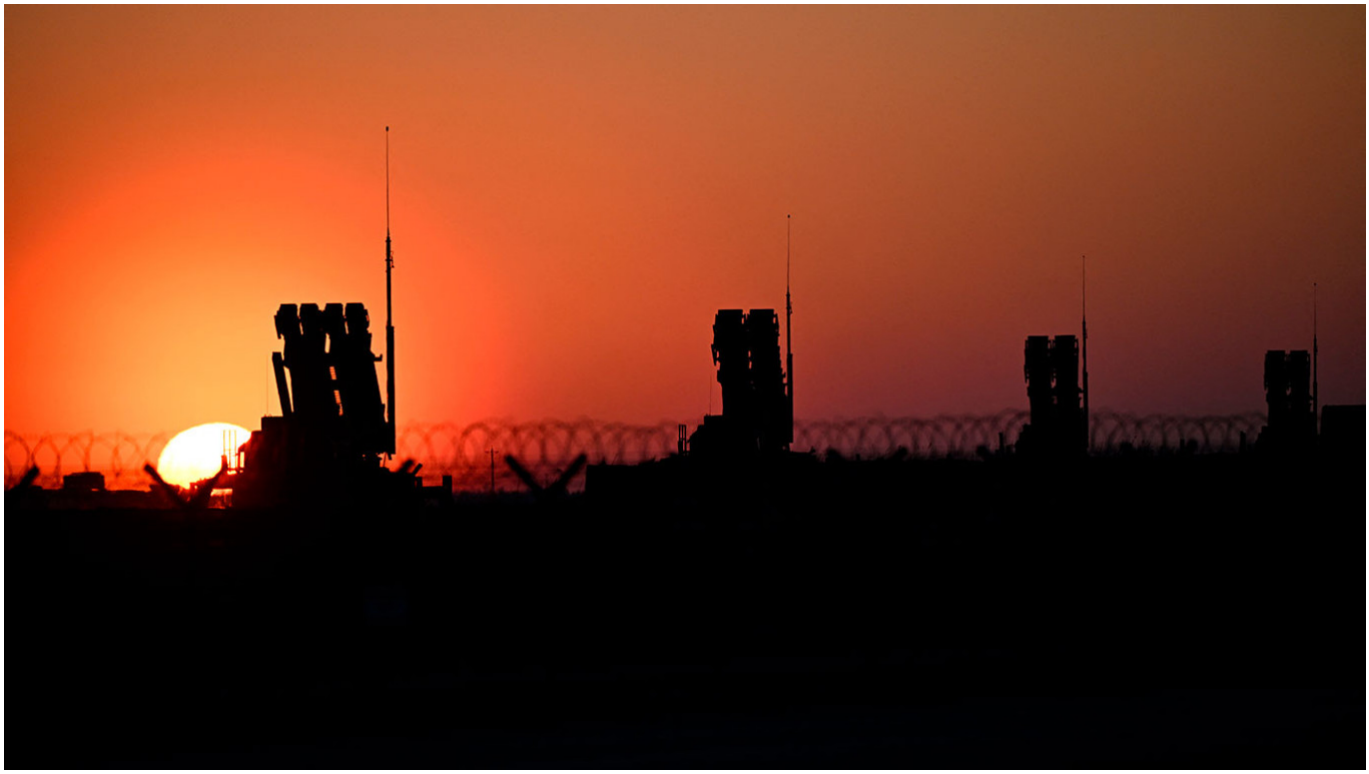
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# Kremlin Welcomes Halt in U.S. Arms Shipments to Ukraine

By AFP

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**Sergei Gapon / AFP**

The Kremlin on Wednesday welcomed Washington's decision to pause some weapons shipments to Ukraine, saying reduced military support for Kyiv would bring Russia closer to its goals in the war.

"The fewer the number of weapons that are delivered to Ukraine, the closer the end of the special military operation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

His comments came a day after the White House announced it would halt deliveries of key weapons previously promised to Ukraine by the Biden administration.

In response to the move, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry summoned John Ginkel, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, and warned that delays in military aid would embolden Russia to continue its war.

“The Ukrainian side stressed that any delay or procrastination in supporting Ukraine’s defense capabilities would only encourage the aggressor to continue the war,” the ministry said in a statement.

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The aid freeze comes at a critical time for Ukraine, which has suffered weeks of heavy Russian bombardment and is ceding ground on the front line.

U.S. media reported that Patriot air defense systems and artillery were among the items currently being withheld. Kyiv says those systems are vital for holding off Russian advances.

A high-ranking Ukrainian military source told AFP that the country’s defense would be severely compromised without continued U.S. support.

“We are now seriously dependent on American arms supplies, although Europe is doing its best, but it will be difficult for us without American ammunition,” the source said.

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