

Strait of Hormuz Remains Open for Russian Ships, Kremlin Aide Says

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Russian foreign policy presidential aide Yuri Ushakov. **Maxim Shipenkov / EPA / TASS**

The Strait of Hormuz remains open to Russian ships despite Iran's effective closure of the key waterway in retaliation for U.S.-Israeli attacks, Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yury Ushakov [said](#) Thursday.

"For us, Hormuz is open," Ushakov told the state broadcaster Rossia 24.

Iran has denied completely shutting down the Strait, through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas normally passes, stating that it is "closed only to enemies."

Russia, China and India are [reported](#) to be among the five "friendly nations" allowed to use the waterway for commercial shipping. China's Foreign Ministry [said](#) this week that three Chinese ships recently sailed through the Strait.

Unlike India and China, however, Russia, the world's second-largest oil exporter, does not

rely on energy supplies from the Middle East.

On Friday, the UN Security Council is set to vote on Bahrain's draft resolution mandating a "defensive" force to protect shipping through the Strait of Hormuz from Iranian attacks.

Tehran, describing the proposal as "provocative action," warned that it would only "complicate the situation" in the area.

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