



MORNING REPORT

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Top News

Trump Backs Away From War With Iran After Harmless Attack

President Donald Trump backed away from the precipice of war with Iran after the Islamic Republic attacked U.S. bases in Iraq with a barrage of missiles the Pentagon believes was intended to cause no casualties.

In televised remarks to the nation on Wednesday, Trump defended the U.S. strike on a top Iranian general that touched off the missile barrage and said he would impose new sanctions on Tehran.

"As long as I'm president of the United States, Iran will never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon," Trump said as he began his speech. But he also offered the country's regime a diplomatic opening. Any new nuclear deal, he said, must allow "Iran to thrive and prosper, and take advantage of its enormous untapped potential. Iran can be a great country."

Iran fired more than a dozen guided missiles at two U.S. bases in Iraq in retaliation for the killing of Qassem Soleimani. But a Pentagon analysis of the attack suggested the missiles were aimed at unpopulated parts of the bases, according to people familiar with the matter.

A U.S. official said the American military had indications well ahead of launching that missiles were to be fired, giving them time to move about 1,000 personnel at the Al Asad base into hardened shelters and to take other measures. Satellite imagery of the bases provided by Planet Labs showed damaged aircraft hangers and other structures at the Al Asad airbase in western Iraq following the strike.

"Iran appears to be standing down," Trump said. "Which is a good thing for all parties concerned and a very good thing for the world." Iran's restraint and Trump's measured remarks in response suggest a path toward easing tensions with Tehran, which surged after Soleimani's killing in a U.S. drone strike near the Baghdad airport last week.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said on Twitter earlier Wednesday that the missile attack "concluded" Iran's retaliation for Soleimani's killing. Even if Tehran refrains from further direct attacks, it might still seek reprisals through more covert means, such as attacks by proxy militias or in cyberspace.

An Iranian official said earlier this week that its government was considering 13 means of retaliation that would inflict a "historic nightmare" on the U.S. The S&P 500 pushed to a fresh intraday record after Trump's remarks. Treasuries turned lower after spiking overnight following the Iranian attack. Oil fell below \$61 a barrel in New York.

Trump said Soleimani was "the world's top terrorist" and was "personally responsible for some of the absolutely worst atrocities," including the training of "terrorist armies" and "fueling bloody civil wars across the region." He said Iranian weapons Soleimani supplied to Iraqi militants had injured or killed thousands of U.S. troops.

NZX Index				
Index	Last	Change		
S&P/NZX All Index	12,512.96	81.05	▼	0.64%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	11,556.98	72.88	▼	0.63%
S&P/NZX MidCap Index	32,732.31	185.16	▼	0.56%
S&P/NZX SmallCap Index	66,319.49	744.88	▼	1.11%

ASX Index				
Index	Last	Change		
ASX All Ordinaries	6,930.10	13.50	▼	0.19%
S&P/ASX 200	6,817.60	8.80	▼	0.13%
ASX Small Ordinaries	2,940.10	14.60	▼	0.49%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	7,322.50	46.90	▼	0.64%
S&P/ASX 20	3,749.00	4.30	▲	0.11%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last	Change		
S&P 500	3,265.03	27.85	▲	0.86%
Dow Jones Industrial Average	28,842.97	259.29	▲	0.91%
NASDAQ Composite	9,163.12	94.54	▲	1.04%
DAX PERFORMANCE-INDEX	13,320.18	93.35	▲	0.71%
ASX All Ordinaries	6,930.10	13.50	▼	0.19%
NIKKEI 225	23,204.76	370.96	▼	1.57%
HANG SENG INDEX	28,087.92	234.14	▼	0.83%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last	Change		
AUD	0.9681	0.0013	▲	0.13%
USD	0.67	0.0011	▲	0.17%
CNY	4.6210	0.0090	▲	0.19%
EUR	0.60	0.0031	▲	0.52%
CAD	0.8666	0.0032	▲	0.37%
GBP	0.51	0.0016	▲	0.32%
JPY	72,6400	0.6075	▲	0.84%

NZ Interest Rates				
	Last	Change		
NZ OCR	1.00			
3m Bank Bill	1.23			
5y Swap	1.30			
10y Swap	1.62			

Commodities Futures (Spot Price \$USD)				
	Last	Change		
Gold	1,556.20	18.10	▼	1.15%
Silver	18.10	0.29	▼	1.59%
Crude Oil	59.84	2.86	▼	4.56%

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