

# The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly

"Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another."

April 20, 2026

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## Current Events

1.



Sir Ian McKellen as Hamlet at the Theatre Royal in Windsor - 2021

William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Act 3, Scene 1:

"To be, or not to be, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles  
And by opposing end them."

The active verb is *take arms*. What happens when you oppose a sea? It drowns you. What the playwright is saying is, *I can fight back, but I know this will only end one way, with my death.* (Bloomberg 4/18/26).

2.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio sent out a cable that offers talking points for U.S. diplomats to help them make the administration's case to their international counterparts. The cable began with the statement that "under President Trump, America has entered a new Golden Age."

The Trump administration is pushing countries around the world to sign a joint declaration that calls for "trade over aid" and explicitly rejects America's history as a leading provider of humanitarian assistance and other support to the developing world.

In a cable sent Wednesday to all U.S. embassies and consular posts, Secretary of State Marco Rubio ordered American diplomats to issue a *démarche* — an official call to action — to foreign governments no later than Monday that asks for their backing before the U.S. initiative is introduced at the United Nations at the end of April.

The "trade over aid" push is an opportunity, Rubio's directive says, to use the U.N. system to "promote America First values and create business opportunities for U.S. companies." The Washington Post reviewed a copy of his cable, which has not previously been reported.

The move comes as the Trump administration has sought to dramatically remake the global aid system, dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and pulling back funding from multilateral efforts at the United Nations, arguing that such initiatives have led to waste, fraud and dependency.

Other major donors of foreign assistance, including France, Germany and Britain, have followed the Trump administration's lead and scaled back their efforts, leading to what some have called a

"great aid recession." Studies have suggested that such a sweeping rollback of funding could result in 9.4 million deaths by 2030.

While there have long been many criticisms of the global aid system and the dependency it can breed, skeptics have argued that the Trump administration's approach will allow for-profit companies to exploit poorer nations.

"It's solidifying our stance on dropping aid completely and letting companies enrich themselves on newer markets," said one State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk with the news media.

The push to encourage countries to sign on could be an indicator that other nations are skeptical of the Trump administration's efforts.

Sam Vigersky, an international affairs fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said the initiative may be received poorly at the U.N., particularly as the Trump administration advances other efforts — such as the Board of Peace, an international body set up by the U.S. with President Donald Trump as its chairman — interpreted in some foreign capitals as undermining the global body.

"Having been on the driving end of many *démarches* over my time, I would not see this being well received because it comes across as undermining the U.N.," said Vigersky, who previously served as senior humanitarian adviser to the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Mike Waltz, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, attended a U.N. Security Council meeting last week. On Tuesday, he told a Senate committee that "on the development side, we are heavily engaging the private sector."

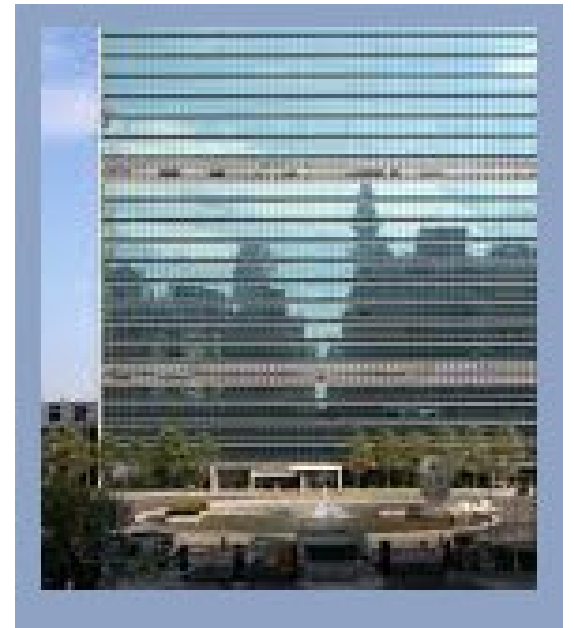
The Trump administration also has faced pushback as it seeks to negotiate with countries that receive U.S. health funding. Its "America First" approach in this space has led to accusations that the State Department is conditioning crucial funding for HIV prevention and treatment on foreign governments' acceptance of commercial side deals related to critical minerals and other natural resources. The State Department has rejected those claims.

Daryl Grisgraber, humanitarian policy lead at Oxfam America, said that there were "constructive ways to include business in efforts to improve people's lives and futures," but that the administration's efforts sought to replace the global aid system rather than work with it in partnership.

"President Trump's repeated attacks on lifesaving humanitarian aid over the last year have been deadly, leaving people in desperate need without food, medicines, water and other basic necessities crucial to their survival," Grisgraber added.

Rubio's cable offers talking points for U.S. diplomats to help them make the administration's case to their counterparts, beginning with the statement that "under President Trump, America has entered a new Golden Age built on a booming economy fueled by pro-business policies: deregulation, lower taxes, and a liberated energy industry."

It also includes the text of the full declaration. While much of it is a relatively uncontroversial promotion of free-market values, it also takes aim at the global aid system, which, it asserts, "has often created dependency, inefficiency, and corruption."



43<sup>rd</sup> Street canyon reflected in the façade of the United Nations Secretariat Building  
New York City

"It was private business that developed all the world's successful economies, not government aid," the declaration continues.

"On the development side, we are heavily engaging the private sector," Waltz told lawmakers. "Let's lower barriers to capital, drive foreign investment and create jobs, not dependency, and we're calling that trade over aid." (Washington Post 4/16/26)

## Word of the Week

### ineffable

/in'efəb(ə)l/

adjective

adjective: **ineffable**

1. too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words.

"The ineffable beauty of the sunset left the crowd in total silence."

"She felt an ineffable sense of peace during the ceremony".

"The poem tried to capture the ineffable mysteries of life".

"He was filled with ineffable sadness upon hearing the news".

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