**Tehran** 20 September

Russia’s defence minister, who on a visit to Tehran met with the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council as well as senior military officials, remarked that “we are aiming at an entire range of planned activities, despite opposition from the U.S. and its Western allies… Sanctions pressure on Russia and Iran shows its futility, while Russian-Iranian interaction is reaching a new level”.

**Washington/Israel** 20 September

President Biden met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, with both leaders reaffirming “their commitment to ensuring Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon, as well as ongoing close cooperation between Israel and the U.S. to counter all threats posed by Iran and its proxies”. Netanyahu contended that “prevent[ing] Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability… can be best achieved by a credible military threat, crippling sanctions and supporting the brave men and women of Iran who despise that regime and who are our real partners for a better future”.

**Washington/MERV/Tanf** 20 September

A senior U.S. commander expressed concerns over what he described as “the growing relationship between Russia and Iran and the drones being supplied to Russia… Who would have ever thought that the Russian Federation would need to go to Iran for military capabilities, and yet we’re there. That means that Russia actually owes Iran something”. He further noted that “there could be some amount of cooperation and collusion between Russia and Iran that’s playing out here in Syria… It is something that we watch very closely. That burgeoning relationship is of a military concern to me”.

**Iraq** 19 September

Iraq’s foreign minister asserted that “the threat of attack or violence against the Kurdistan region and the violation of Iraqi sovereignty is unacceptable; a fact we have explicitly mentioned in Tehran. [The] Kurdistan Regional Government and [the] Kurdistan Region have adhered to the security agreement [with Iran]… Therefore, we need Iran to adhere to the agreement and not use violence against Iraqi sovereignty”. He further noted that “the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government have taken the necessary measures towards the implementation of the security agreement, including the return of those who were in the border regions to camps, for whom five camps were established to live in”.
**Washington 19 September**

The U.S. designated “seven individuals and four entities based in Iran, the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Russia and Türkiye in connection with Iran’s unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and military aircraft development”. “This network”, according to the Treasury Department, “facilitated shipments and financial transactions in support of the U.S.-designated Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company’s (HESA’s) UAV and military aircraft production, procurement, and maintenance activities”.

**Washington/Riyadh/Bahrain 19 September**

The U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states concluded a ministerial meeting with a statement supporting “diplomatic engagement by Saudi Arabia and other GCC states with Iran to pursue regional de-escalation”. They also reiterated “their commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and maritime security in the region and their determination to deter illegal actions at sea or elsewhere that might threaten shipping lanes, international trade and oil installations in the GCC states”. Participants further urged “Iran to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency” and “to cease its proliferation of unmanned aerial vehicles and other dangerous weapons that pose a grave security threat to the region”. The joint statement went on to reaffirm “their commitment to work together to deter and address threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity and other destabilising activities”, while expressing “support for the United Arab Emirates’ call to reach a peaceful solution to the dispute over the three islands”.