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For geopolitical risk in the Middle East region, the worst has passed.

What we were all dreading or fearing has happened. We had very coordinated and calculated attacks and counterattacks between Iran and Israel, and that's it. We're now back to asking whether Israel is going into Rafah or not, and the US is very much in election mode, which will determine what they do about both Russia Ukraine and Israel-Palestine.

Is the new US aid to Ukraine seen impacting energy markets?

The attacks on Russian refineries by Ukraine and the impact on oil prices, was a red line for the US, the same way that we sensed a red line in the Middle East, whereby the Houthis, with whatever else they were doing, did not attack tankers with oil or gas, and there was also no indication that the Iranians would close the Strait of Hormuz. The new batch of US money might stop the Ukrainians from attacking Russian infrastructures; we will have to wait and see. But in a way, the oil market has become nuanced about geopolitical risk. What everyone is now saying and believing is that, if there is no direct attack on oil supplies, prices are not going to go up. Everything else that's been happening, like the Israel and Iran attacks, feels coordinated, orchestrated, and controlled. No one worldwide wants an escalation into a war. ■

*Paraphrased Comments

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