

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, of Pakistan, we have been asked to hold our Attack on the Country of Iran," he wrote on Truth Social.

Trump added that the U.S. military will continue "the Blockade and, in all other respects, remain ready and able." The extension was announced just hours before it was set to expire. The president did not specify how much longer the ceasefire will continue.

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Pakistan's prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on X thanked Trump for the ceasefire extension. "With the trust and confidence reposed in, Pakistan shall continue its earnest efforts for negotiated settlement of conflict," Sharif added.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

As Pakistan seeks to broker US-Iran peace, citizens watch for gains at home

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Mandi Mohammadi, an adviser to Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, also responded to the announcement. In a post on X, Mohammadi wrote, "Trump's ceasefire extension means nothing, the losing side cannot dictate terms."

Here is a look at where things stand and what the main sticking points in negotiations are:

Are the talks happening?

The potential talks between the U.S. and Iran are up in the air.

Vice President Vance, head of the U.S. delegation, remained in Washington on Tuesday instead of flying to Islamabad as planned.

"Additional policy meetings are taking place at the White House in which the vice president will participate," a White House official said, on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

According to Iran's semiofficial news outlet Tasnim, Iran later notified Pakistan it would not be sending a delegation for talks on Wednesday, contrary to some news reports stating otherwise. It cited alleged violations of the temporary U.S.-Iran ceasefire by the U.S. among the reasons.

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Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an English post on social media the continuing U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports is "an act of war and thus a violation of the ceasefire."

Prior to the extension, Trump told Bloomberg News on Monday the ceasefire would expire Wednesday evening Eastern time. Yet mediating country Pakistan's information minister later said it expires Wednesday at 4:50 a.m. local time, which would be Tuesday night (7:50 p.m.) in Washington.



Representatives from more than a dozen foreign diplomatic missions, United Nations offices and the media view damage at sites previously targeted by U.S.-Israeli strikes in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy.

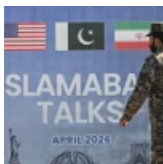
Majid Saeedi/Getty Images

By clicking "Accept All," you agree to the use of cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about your device to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience. Earlier Tuesday, Trump said in an interview with CNBC that Iran should "use reason and common sense, so the two countries can reach a deal to end the war. But he said, he was ready to resume bombing if an agreement wasn't made before the two-week ceasefire ends.

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 "Well, I expect to be bombing because I think that's a better attitude to go in with. We're ready to go," Trump said.
 Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to target oil facilities in neighboring countries that allow the U.S. to resume launching attacks on Iran from their territory.

What is the U.S. asking Iran to do?

For officials in Washington, the main points of contention remain control over the Strait of Hormuz and the future of Iran's nuclear program.



MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

What's it like to negotiate with Iran? We asked people who have done it

The Trump administration has said it wants commercial shipping through the strategic waterway to be fully restored. Around 20% of the world's crude oil and natural gas typically passes through the narrow strait.

After the U.S. and Israel started to attack Iran on Feb. 28, Iran began to exert control over the Strait of Hormuz. It prevented most commercial ships from transiting and collected steep tolls from some of the few that did.

Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has rattled global markets, raising the national average price of gas above \$4 a gallon.

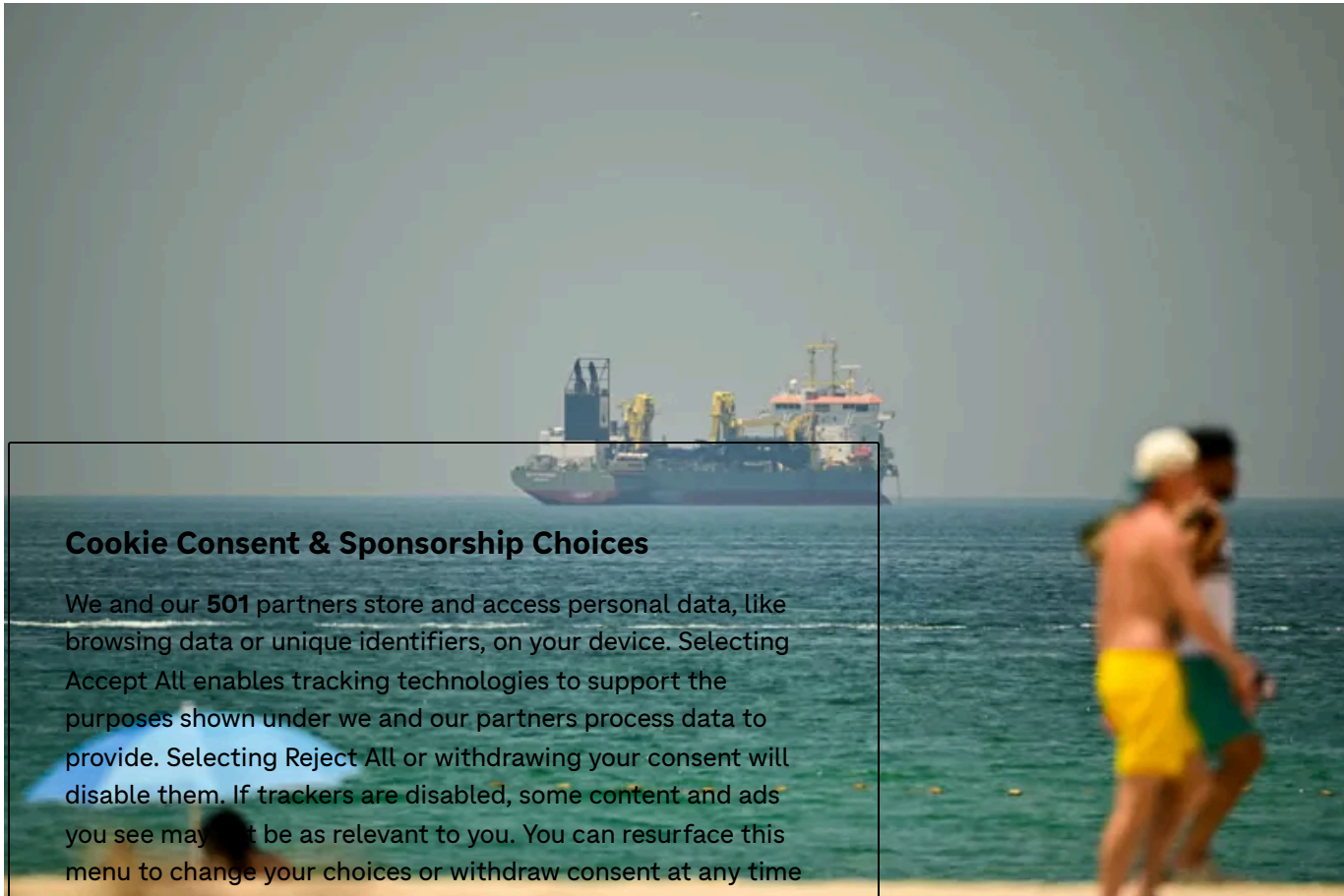
"The weaker party gains just by virtue of entering into a negotiation process," Mark Freeman, executive director of the Institute for Integrated Transitions, a peace and security think tank based in Spain, told NPR.

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The other big demand coming from Washington centers on Iran's nuclear program — and whether Tehran will accept limits on nuclear enrichment.



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A commercial vessel is seen off the coast of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Monday. AFP via Getty Images

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Trump has consistently said that one of the main objectives of the war with Iran is to ensure that it never has a nuclear weapon. In his first interview after the fighting started, he said he believed Iran was "going to attack first" if the United States did not act. Trump did not cite intelligence to support that claim.

Vice President Vance said the first round of ceasefire talks held over a week ago broke down because Iran would not commit to forgoing a nuclear weapon.

"The simple fact is that we need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon, and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," Vance said.

For Iran, ending Israel's attacks in Lebanon and lifting the U.S. blockade remain key demands

For Tehran, the key demands for extending the ceasefire include an end to the U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports and guarantees that the fighting between Israel

and Hezbollah will not resume.

Israel and Lebanon agreed on a 10-day ceasefire last week, pausing fighting between Israel's military and the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.



Mourners carry the flag draped over a casket of members of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah who were killed in southern Lebanon during the conflict in Beirut's southern suburbs, on Monday.

Fadel Al-Fayez. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers.

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 Iran had earlier refused to engage in more negotiations with the United States unless Israel stopped its attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israel, however, has vowed to keep its troops in southern Lebanon, and Hezbollah said the Lebanese people maintain the "right to resist" Israeli forces in the country.

Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah broke out shortly after the start of the war with Iran on Feb. 28, with Hezbollah firing rockets into northern Israel in a show of solidarity with Tehran. Israeli forces responded with airstrikes and an invasion of southern Lebanon. Israel says it is creating a "buffer zone" to distance Hezbollah fire from Israeli border communities.

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Israel's strikes have killed more than 2,800 people and displaced over 1 million in Lebanon, according to Lebanese authorities. Hezbollah's attacks have killed at least 12 Israeli soldiers and two civilians, according to Israeli authorities.

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As for the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, Iran has made it clear it sees lifting the blockade as a condition for further diplomacy.

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After the first round of ceasefire talks in Islamabad ended without an agreement, the U.S. military blockaded Iranian shipping ports in a bid to pressure Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as well as put economic pressure on Iran to end the war.

Effective U.S. military says it has forced 28

begin. However, maritime data analysis firm Lloyd's List says it has tracked

"shut down our porters process data to provide Iranian ports.

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Iran briefly reopened the key shipping route for less than a day, only to announce it was reinstating control over the strait once more in response to the continued U.S. blockade.

Iranian officials have also signaled they want financial relief, including access to \$6 billion in frozen assets, and do not want to negotiate while Washington keeps up military and economic pressure.

Rebecca Rosman contributed to this report from London.



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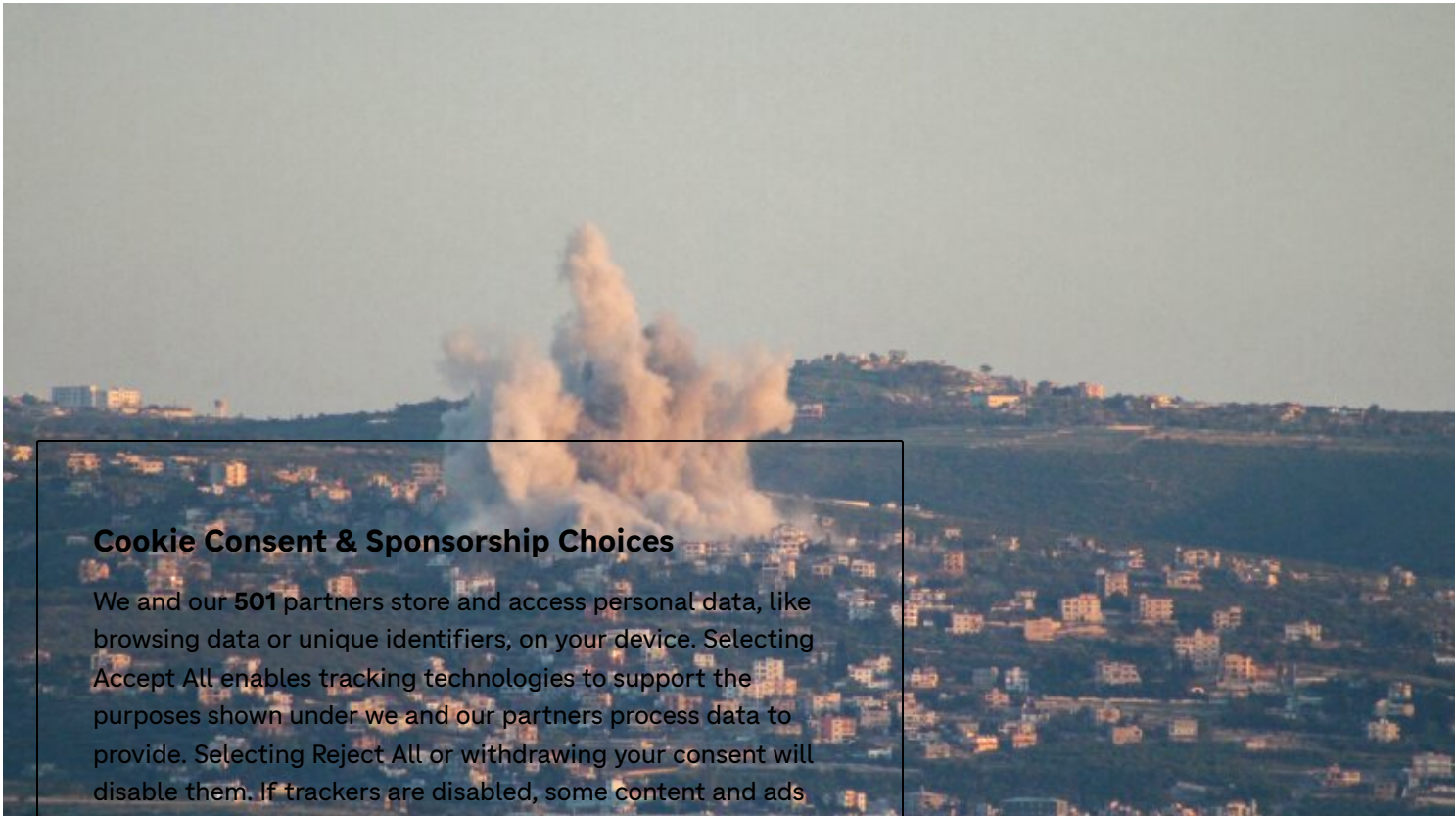
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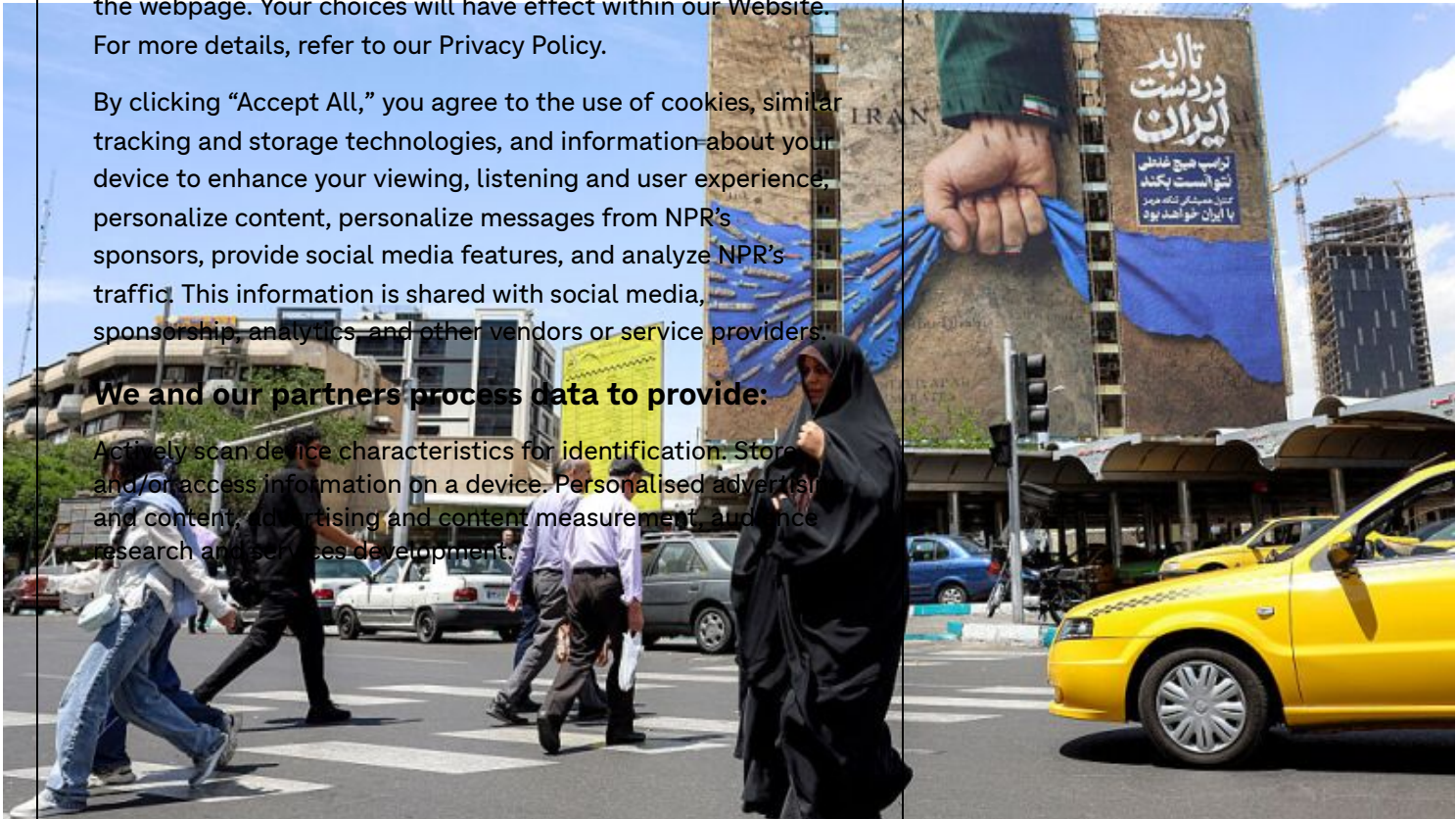
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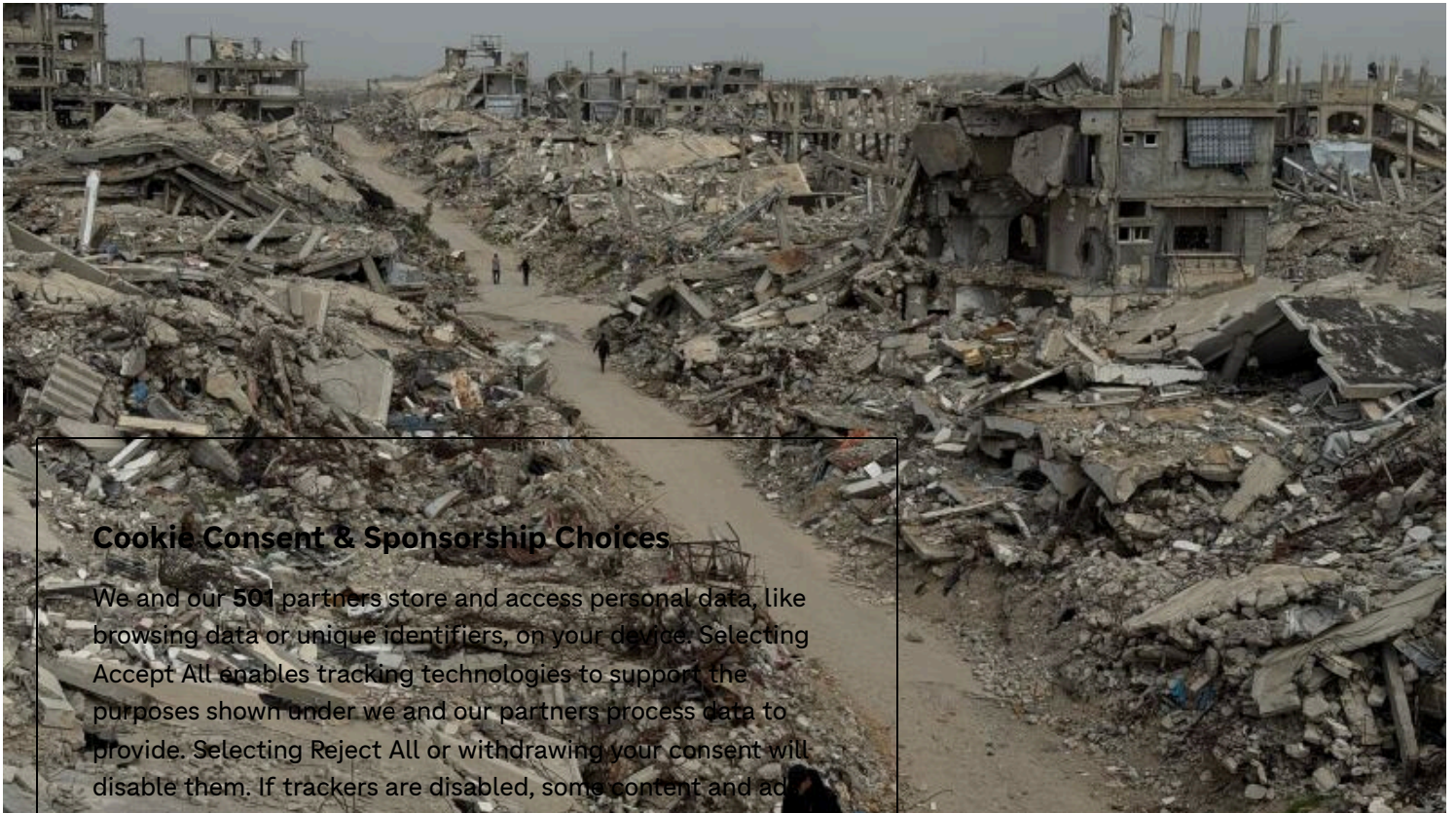
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MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Pakistan says it's hopeful a U.S.-Iran deal can happen soon



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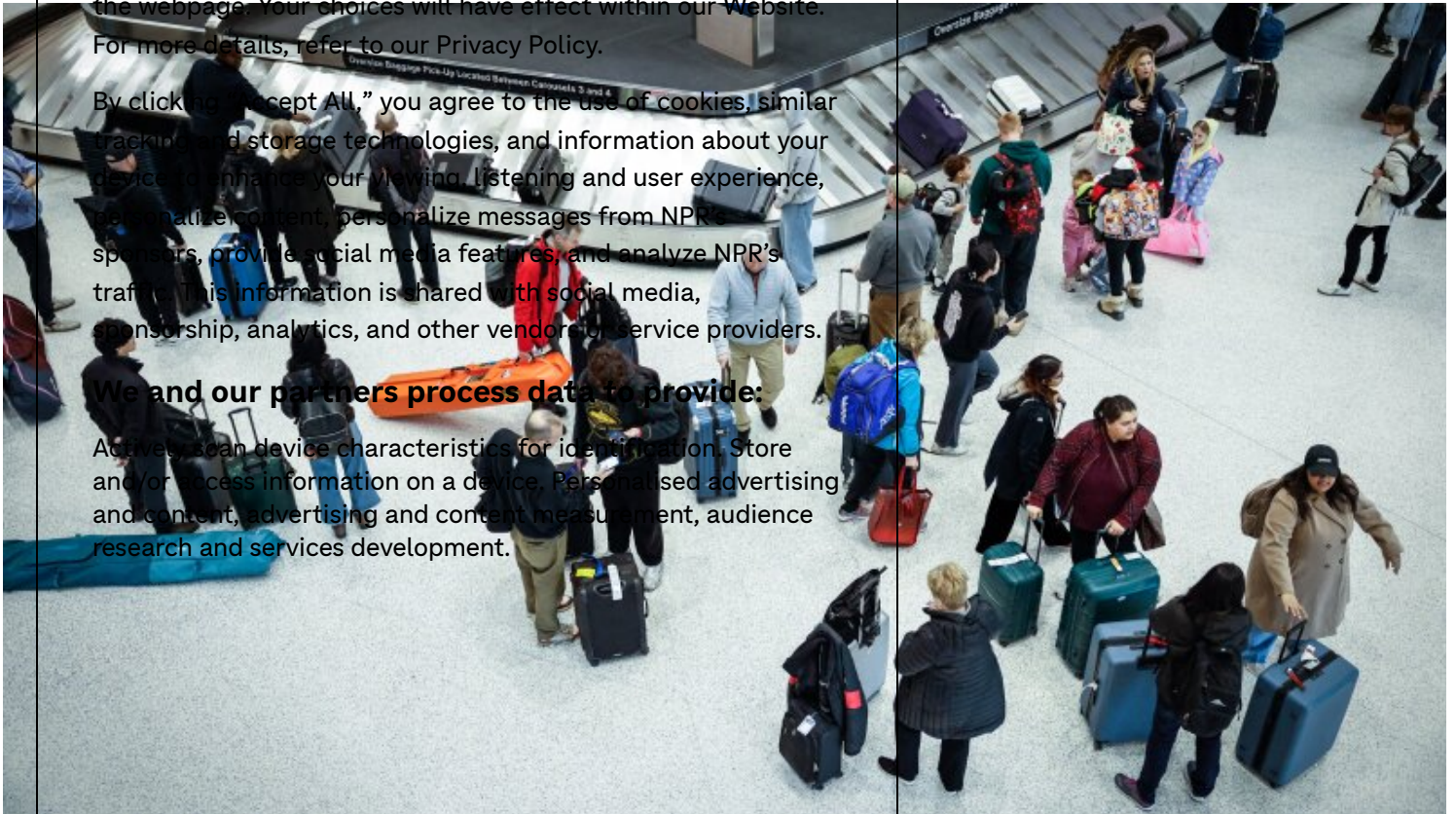
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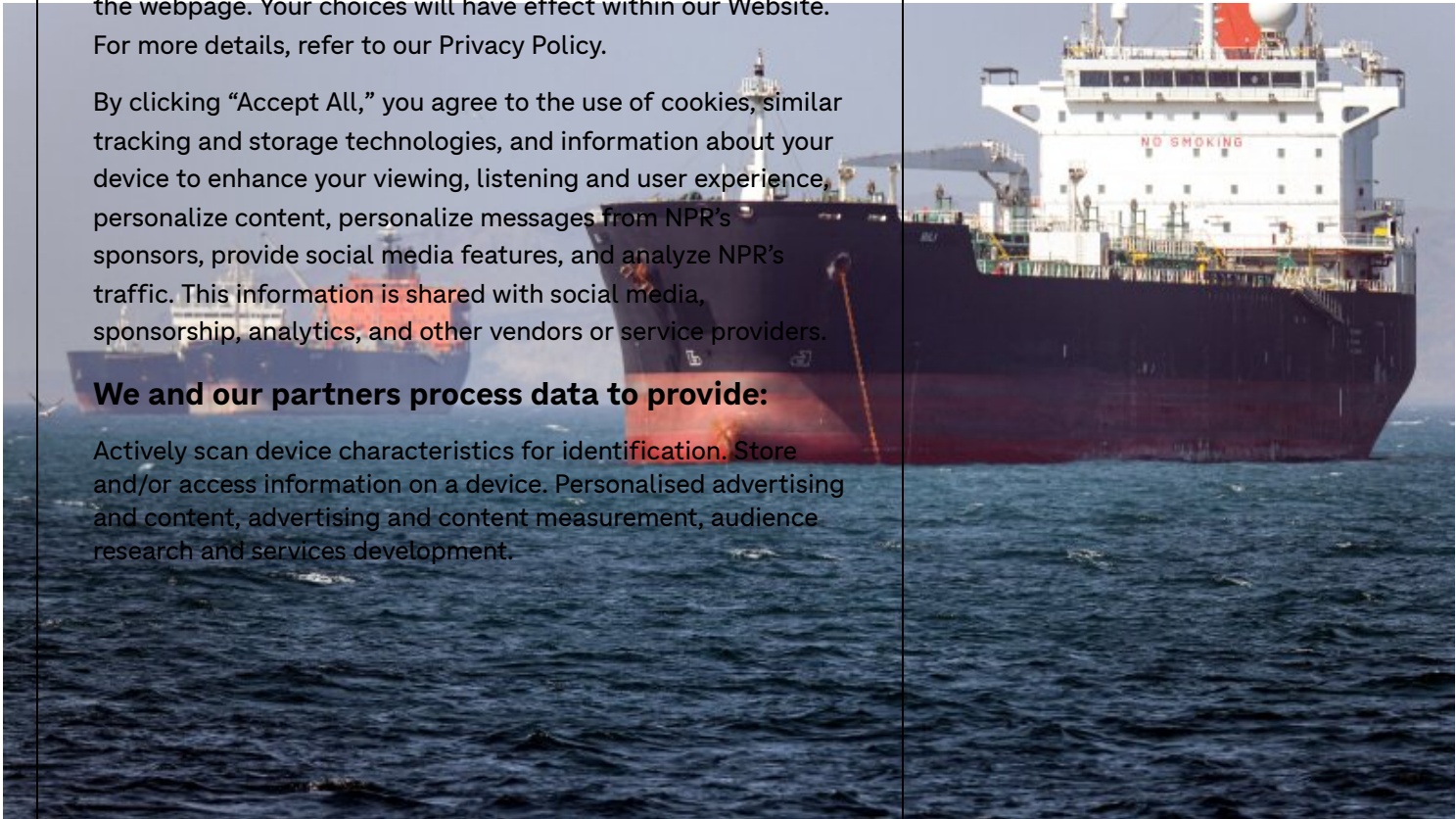
Trump says he's paused U.S. effort to guide stranded vessels out of Strait of Hormuz

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The standoff in the Strait of Hormuz

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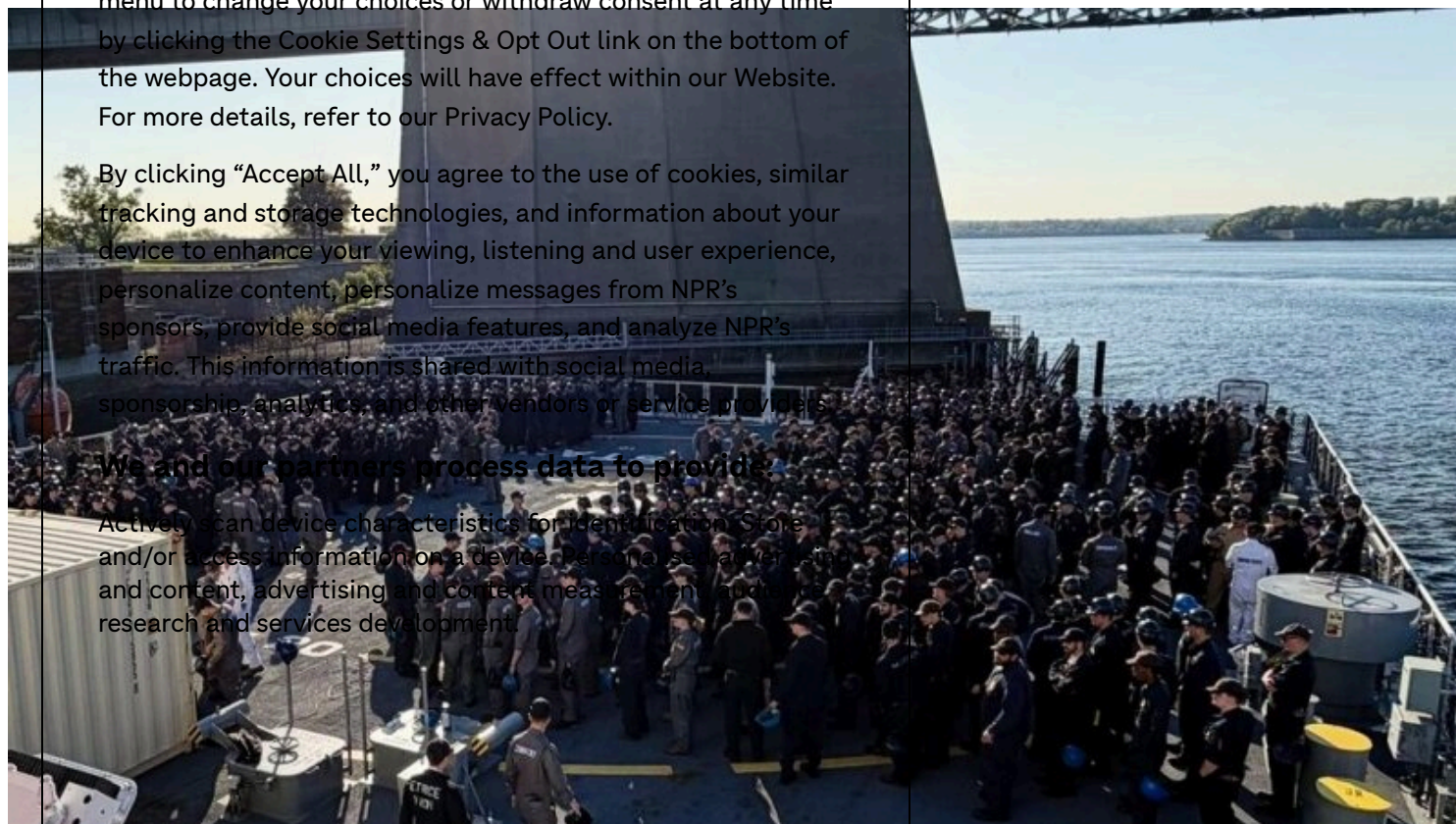
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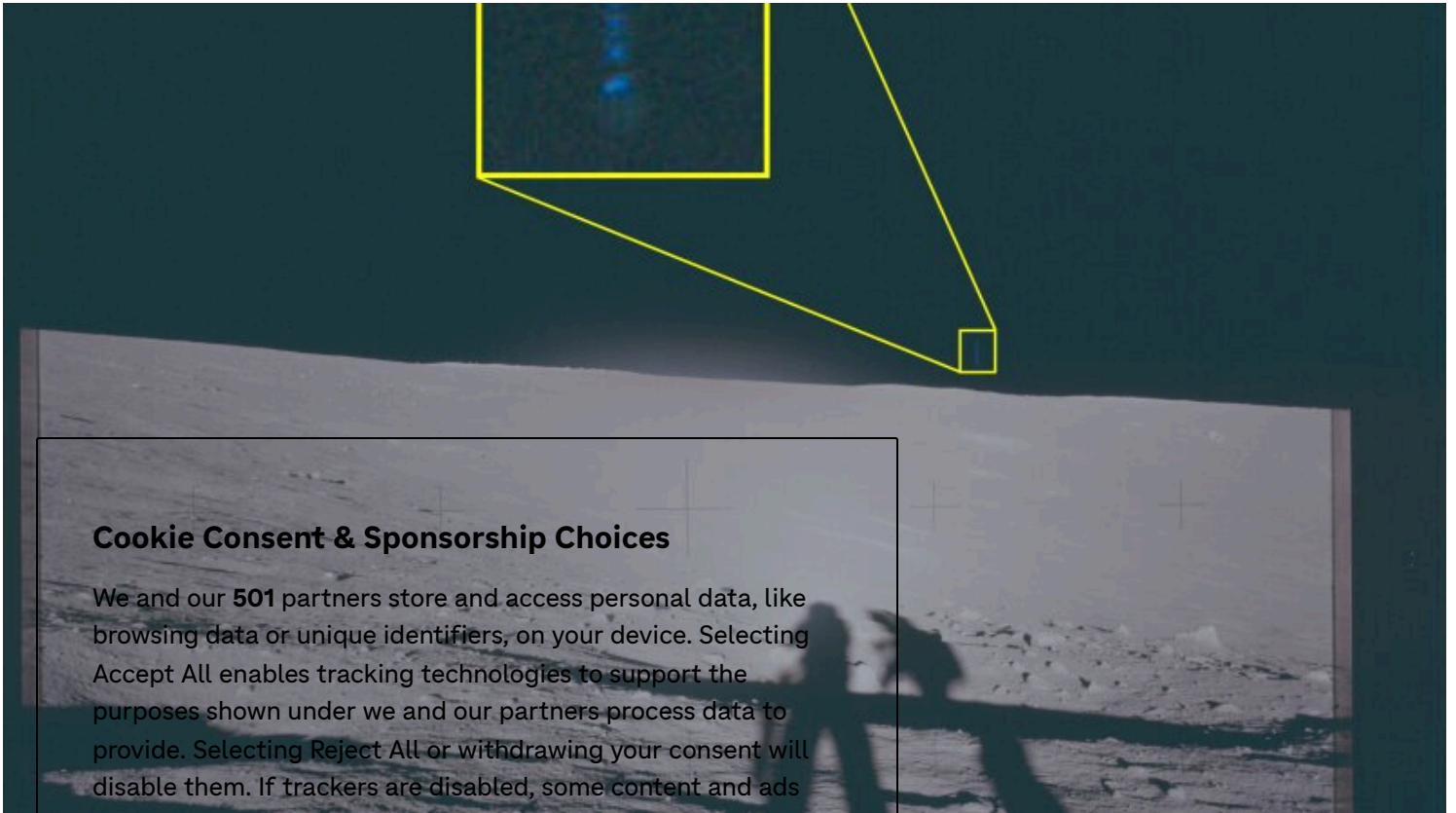
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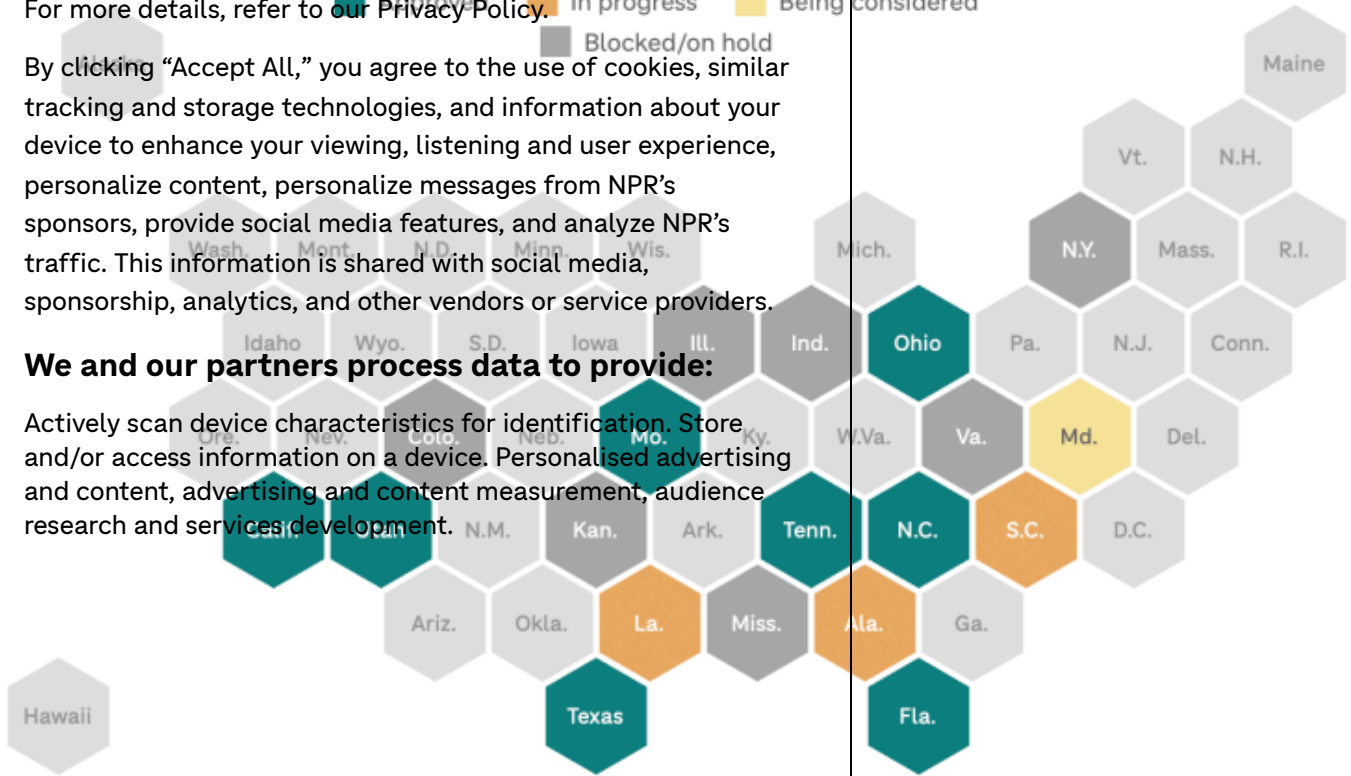
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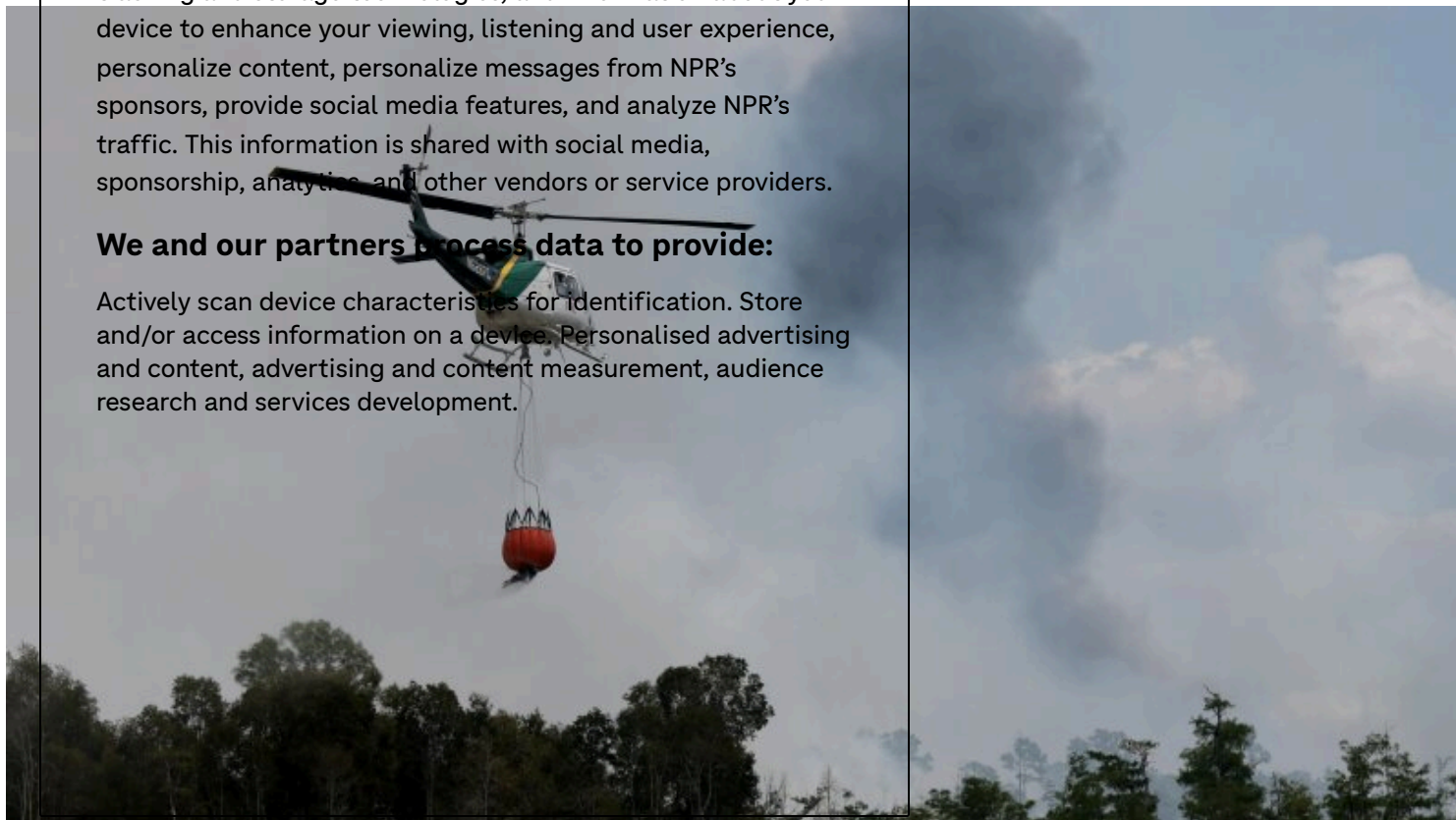
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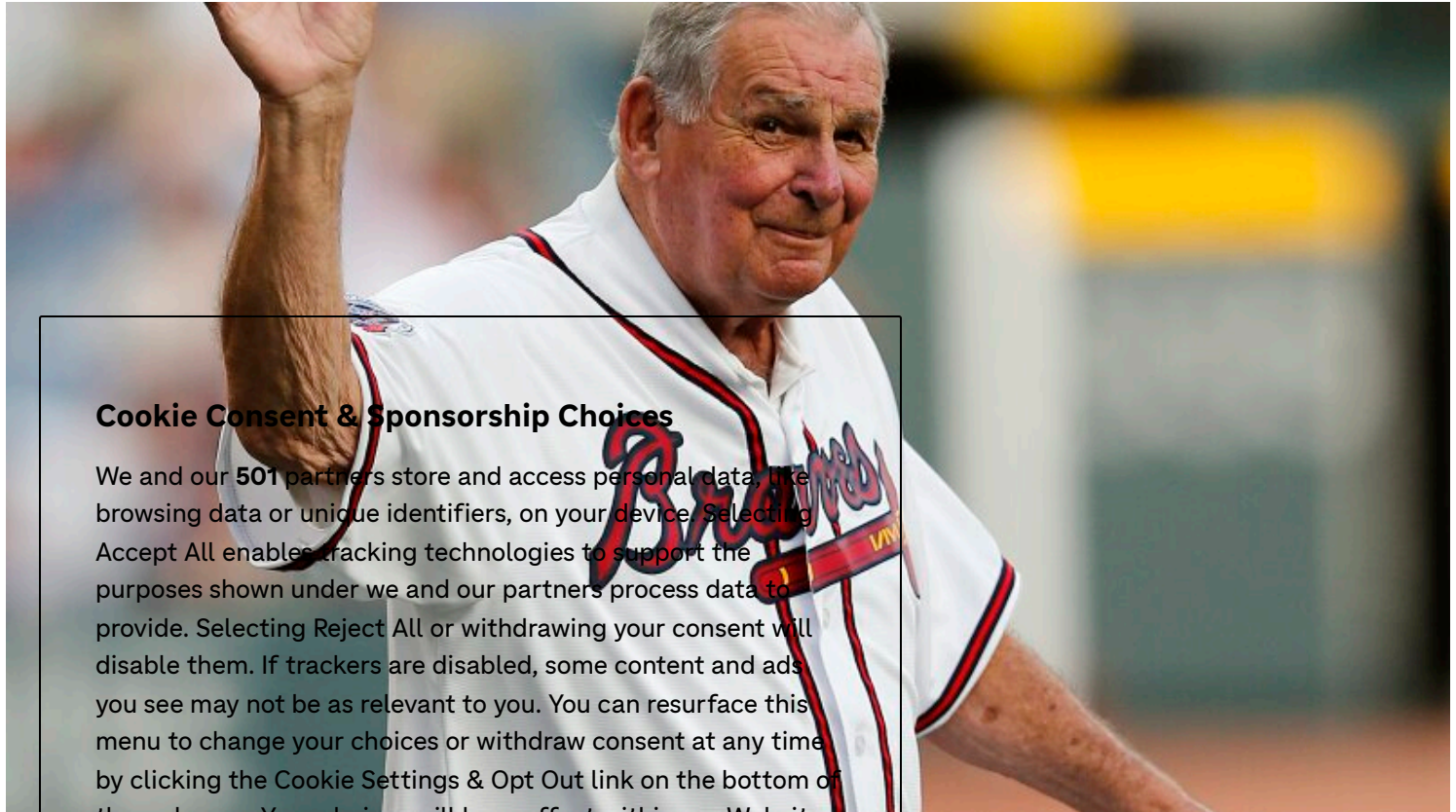
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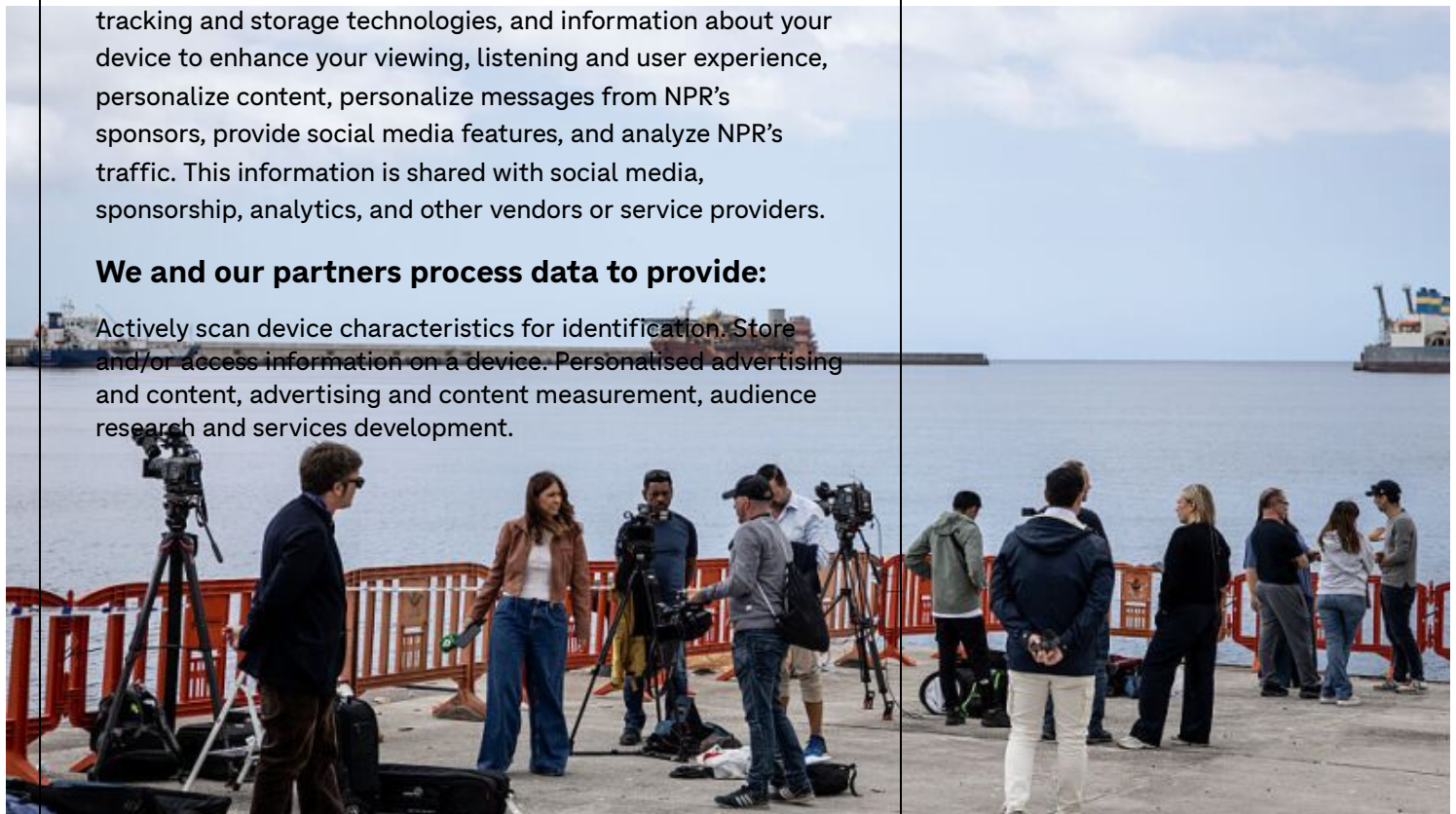
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