

Briefing by MFA Spokesperson Maria Zakharova, Moscow, April 13, 2022

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On the forthcoming participation of Sergey Lavrov in the festive events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States

On April 19, the grand opening of a photo exhibition dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and the CIS countries will take place in the Grand Mansion of the Russian Foreign Ministry, with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov, ambassadors of the Commonwealth countries and the leadership of the executive structures of the CIS , CSTO , EAEU and Union State of Russia and Belarus .

Upon completion of the event, on behalf of Sergey Lavrov, a working breakfast will be organized for the guests, during which an exchange of views will take place on current international and regional topics, as well as current issues of interaction in the CIS.

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On the forthcoming meeting of Sergey Lavrov with the heads of diplomatic missions of Latin American and Caribbean countries accredited in Moscow

On April 21, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov is scheduled to meet with the heads of diplomatic missions of Latin American and Caribbean states accredited in Moscow.

During the upcoming event, traditional in this format, it is planned to consider the current state of Russia's relations with the countries of the Latin American region that is friendly to us, and to identify promising areas for further cooperation.

The intention is to exchange views on topical issues of the regional and international agenda.

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On the situation in Ukraine

Exactly eight years ago, on April 13, 2014, the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine adopted a criminal decision "On urgent measures to overcome the terrorist threat and preserve the territorial integrity of Ukraine." It took effect the next day. Under the name "Anti-terrorist operation", a civil war of the Kiev regime began against the civilians of Donbass, who refused to accept the anti-constitutional coup d'état of neo-Nazi forces. All this happened in the total silence of the European Union "lambs".

For eight years, we have witnessed the war crimes of Kyiv and the indifference of the West to the tragedy of Donbass. In September 2014 and February 2015, the Ukrainian authorities signed "Minsk-1" and "Minsk-2" after a military defeat by the forces of the DPR and LHP. Our attempts to force Kyiv to fulfill its obligations were unsuccessful, incl. because of the position of the Western countries, which played their own game, carrying out the military development of the territory of Ukraine and turning it into a springboard against Russia. At the same time, hiding behind the words about a certain "involvement" in the political process of peace negotiations.

Having exhausted the diplomatic means of protecting the Donbass and ensuring its security, Russia was forced to launch a special military operation. The Russian armed forces are targeting military targets with precision-guided weapons and are doing everything they can to avoid civilian casualties.

The same cannot be said of the Ukrainian militias, whose barbaric methods of warfare horrify those who know about it. But how can one know about this if the leading world media of the Western world do not show the real picture, but form the public's perception, solely on the basis of the propaganda guidelines that Washington and NATO structures give them? The Ukrainian side places tanks and artillery in schools, kindergartens and hospitals. Firing points are equipped in residential buildings in order to hide behind the population as a "human shield".

April 8 this year Ukrainian formations attacked the railway station in Kramatorsk with a Tochka-U tactical missile. Dozens of civilians were killed, more than a hundred were injured. March 14 this year they hit Donetsk with the same rocket. Again, those who saw it remember, who were told by the media what the projectile was, from what territory it flew, how many people died in the end. The Western community saw a different picture. The tragedy of March 14 this year in Donetsk was presented as a result of the actions of the Russian armed forces. This completely contradicted reality. Then 17 people were killed and 36 people were injured. Where was the world community? They did not talk about civilian casualties, or about children, or about the elderly, or about civilians. Exactly the same as they haven't talked about it for eight years. April 5 and 9 this year in the city

Against this background, Western countries continue to pump up the Armed Forces of Ukraine with weapons, including obsolete Soviet-made models, the disposal of which is more expensive than the transfer to Ukraine. Terrible, cynical, criminal logic. Why would Western countries spend their own money if they can "package" it and send it to Ukraine so that the conflict never ends at all, and the number of victims is even greater. Well thought out. Then someone will have to answer for it.

The main "donor of death" - the United States - since the beginning of the special operation has supplied weapons worth more than \$ 1.7 billion. This is only in the last month and a half. The European Union is confidently following - 1.5 billion euros. Among other suppliers of the Ukrainian Nazis are Great Britain, Germany, Canada, the Baltic countries, France, and the Czech Republic. This once again shows that the EU has ceased to be a purely economic association and is rapidly evolving towards a military-political entity. I would say degraded. And not because military-political formations are something bad, but because what NATO and the European Union are doing now is a crime. The supply of the regime, which for eight years has been hitting unarmed citizens, despite the fact that the conflict has "outgrown" the previously outlined frameworks and formats. Kindling, kindling and kindling.

To divert attention from its crimes, Kyiv uses fakes to show the alleged brutal treatment of civilians by the Russian military. [Last week we analyzed in detail the staging in Bucha](#) . Instead of sending forensic experts to this city, a landing force of journalists and European politicians landed there. They did not ask the question of the proportionality of what they were doing, they did not find anything better than to start taking pictures, giving interviews in the city center, where there was a criminal provocation of the Kiev regime, which they themselves created and armed. You ask yourself: is this the limit of cynicism, or can there be more "exploits" of the "collective West" in this direction? Yes, you can fall below what is happening now with the countries of the "collective West", primarily the United States and the NATO backyard.

It is noteworthy that the bodies that were cynically used in the staging in Bucha were not buried, so that five days later the EU leadership - U. von der Leyen and J. Borrell - could be photographed against their background. At least against the background of black packages. This is beyond even a staged stunt. There must be some limits. We are people. We live on the same planet. Something has to "jump" inside the hearts of Western politicians. Not everything can be cynically betrayed. Now Kyiv is preparing new productions in the settlement. Seredina-Buda and Nizhnyaya Syrovatka of the Sumy region, where Russian troops were previously located. We urge you not to succumb to these other provocations.

More and more blatant facts of illegal reprisals and abuse by Ukrainian militants against detained Russian military personnel are being revealed. In the West, they pretend not to notice the numerous videos on the Internet. We expect that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other organizations will insist that Kiev comply with the norms of international humanitarian law. According to my information, the Kyiv regime is doing everything to oppose the humanitarian mission of the ICRC.

We continue to seek the release and transfer of Russians held by Ukrainian forces. Recently, four employees of the Atomspetstrans company managed to return to their homeland, who delivered nuclear fuel to the Rovno NPP a month and a half ago and since then have been illegally detained by Kiev. We call on the IAEA and other international structures to give a legal assessment of such actions.

Yesterday, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the arrest of the leader of the Opposition Platform - For Life party, V.V. Medvedchuk, and his readiness to exchange him for Ukrainian servicemen. We consider this trend extremely dangerous, given that there are a lot of opposition-minded politicians and public figures in the country. Passed the use of such "tactics" in the 1990s. in the North Caucasus. Journalists, public and political figures, including foreign ones, were actively "invited" to the territory of the conflict, where militants and terrorists were operating. Then they were kidnapped and demanded a ransom. Their fate was different. This "tactic" is reminiscent of what is currently happening in Ukraine. The statements of the Kiev regime are similar to what our country went through in the North Caucasus in the 1990s.

For our part, we pay close attention to the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. Since the beginning of the special military operation in the DPR and LPR, as well as in the Kharkiv, Zaporozhye and Kherson regions of Ukraine, more than 13,000 tons of humanitarian goods have been delivered, including essentials, medicines and food.

The Russian Armed Forces open humanitarian corridors on a daily basis so that civilians can leave dangerous areas. Since the start of the operation, more than 740,000 people have left for our country, including 140,000 children. A sea corridor has been opened for the exit of foreign vessels blocked in the ports of Ukraine. However, Kyiv refuses to give civilians the opportunity to exit towards Russia and keeps foreign ships and crews. There are now 76 such courts out of 18 countries.

Russian-Ukrainian negotiations continue on an agreement on the settlement of the situation in Ukraine. They are conducted online. On the agenda are the issues of the neutral, non-bloc and non-nuclear status of Ukraine, its demilitarization and denazification, the restoration of the status of the Russian language, the recognition of territorial realities, including the Russian ownership of Crimea and the independence of the DPR and LPR. Unfortunately, the Ukrainian delegation, as it has been for seven years in the Contact Group and the Normandy format, is directing its efforts not at reaching agreements, but at dragging out negotiations.

We know this "tactic". This led to February 2022. Each time during the negotiations, we saw how the Ukrainian side "throws the hell out", invents the non-existent, rejects the real. The Ukrainian side called it "arrogant offensive diplomacy", which was supposed to lead the country "to success." Now we are all seeing this "success". Want to fix it, repeat? Then we must honestly tell our citizens that they are not going to go through negotiations. They are not interested.

They are satisfied with what their sponsors in the European Union said the other day. J. Borrell urged to solve not peacefully, but on the battlefield. Until now, the EU member states cannot understand - did he make a statement on their behalf? Did they agree in any way? Is it the collective position of the European Union or the personal opinion, aspirations, night dreams of J. Borrell? Maybe the third option is that his assistants and the environment are formed in such a way that "tweets" are published at the right time, which are not agreed with anyone, but are sent "from where it is necessary" and set up as the position of the EU. Member countries of the European Union, journalists, politicians tried to quickly clarify why J. Borrell called for wars, and not for peace. The participating states cannot understand: is this their position? Has anyone asked them about this?

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate. No supplies of Western weapons to Kiev, terrorist methods of warfare by Ukrainian armed groups, intimidation, propaganda, fakes, disinformation, threats - nothing will prevent the fulfillment of the goals and objectives of the special military operation to liberate Donbass, demilitarize and denazify Ukraine and eliminate the threats to Russia that came from from its territory.

This has been repeatedly stated by the leadership of our country and the Russian Foreign Ministry.

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On the discussion in the OSCE of the rocket attack on Kramatorsk by the Ukrainian side

On April 8 this year, on the day of yet another barbaric crime committed by Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population – the rocket attack on the railway station square in Kramatorsk – the Russian side on its own initiative requested the Polish OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office to hold a special meeting of the Permanent Council. We proposed to discuss the topic in a purely factual manner and under the neutral title of the agenda item, so that all participating States have the opportunity to freely express their point of view on what happened, to understand what really happened. They offered to talk about specifics, without pre-politicized and polarized approaches.

However, the chairmanship at first shied away, and then, citing a similar request from the Ukrainian delegation, convened the Permanent Council with an openly confrontational formulation "about the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine." Doesn't it remind you of anything? A week ago, the United Kingdom, which presides over the UN Security Council, "performed" the same thing. Russia convened the UN Security Council on Bucha. We were denied twice. Then it was said that the program already includes a meeting on Ukraine, and we will hold it. Without "your emergency". You know what happened next.

The same tactic. Countries follow the same logic. This is important to understand. They are not concerned about the question of what really happened there, what data, facts, information "on the ground" are. They are interested in the implementation of the course and approach, formed in advance - not yesterday, not a month ago, but for eight long years.

Thus, the mandate of the chairmanship was again grossly violated, requiring Warsaw to perform the functions of an "honest broker" - not taking a pre-engaged position, but performing presiding functions (logistics, support, organization, etc.). Instead, Poland continued with great zeal to promote the position of Ukraine and its Western patrons.

The meeting of the OSCE decision-making body on a serious issue was turned into an anti-Russian show that has already become a "tradition". We have presented objective data, incl. the facts established by foreign (I emphasize, not Russian) journalists of the use of the Tochka-U missile, which is in service with the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and not the Armed Forces of Russia. On the part of the Westerners, there is only a stream of unsubstantiated insinuations, emotions and insults, screams, swearing, etc. There should be only one approach here - you need to give them time to "go crazy". This is not even an attempt to return the situation to the mainstream of calm, normalization, negotiations. Exactly the opposite. They can't even articulate what they're accusing us of. unconscious flow. Because they don't really have anything to say. People break into shouting, rudeness and swearing when there are no arguments. And they are not. All this invented "story" crumbles before our eyes. Despite, that the "organism" of the media capabilities of the West is loaded with "military shells" towards Russia, each time a ricochet of lies, fakes hits them. Everything that they "charge" with.

Once again we are forced to acknowledge the toxic, Russophobic atmosphere in the OSCE. It is created on purpose. It is forced by the functionaries of the Organization headed by the Polish Chairmanship-in-Office. Nevertheless, we will continue to bring truthful information about what is happening in Ukraine on the Vienna site. Even if individual Westerners behave like in a wild circus during our report: they jump up from their seats, run out of the hall, shout and go to the buffet, fearing to find out the true state of affairs, which is offered to them in the form of speeches, information, data. I see this in Western journalists with whom I talk and give interviews. Answering the question, I try to show them the materials - they turn away. I have never seen such a thing. They wave their hands so that nothing is shown to them. As if afraid to touch the truth. Are afraid that suddenly for a second they will allow themselves to move away from a pre-formed position - all the "castles in the sand" will collapse. They will be face to face with the truth. Then it becomes scary.

We invite all those who are interested to regularly read the speeches of [our Permanent Representative to the OSCE](#) and other materials on the website of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in social media accounts. We answer questions, comment in detail, with all the invoice.

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[On the exclusion by Japan of the "Azov" battalion from the "Review of the situation in the field of international terrorism"](#)

I saw a lot of things, but did not expect this from Japanese politicians. On the one hand, this is not surprising, given the anti-Russian intensity of the current leadership in Tokyo. At the same time, the cynicism with which they approached one of the important aspects of this story around Ukraine is surprising.

The Japanese side removed the mention of the Ukrainian nationalist battalion "Azov" from the national "Review of the situation in the field of international terrorism" for 2021. Japan has a list of terrorist organizations or atrocities committed by them. It was published based on information received over the past year. Factual data collected by Japanese researchers (diplomats, international affairs, journalists). Now they have made a withdrawal. But this is not the worst.

Japanese experts apologized for the fact that they dared to include this formation in the mentioned list of terrorist organizations. As if at one moment they forgot that "Azov" was repeatedly marked by bloody crimes in the Donbass. Official Tokyo has shown itself to be an accomplice of neo-Nazism.

Unfortunately, in the history of Japan, this is not the first time that the government of the country takes the side of inhuman regimes. Japan never learned the lesson from the alliance with fascist Germany and today, following the actions of its own military in World War II, it is ready to cover for its "ideological associates" in Ukraine, as F. Kishida's administration emphasizes.

In Tokyo, apparently, they forgot how until recently the citizens of Japan were subjected to terrorist attacks in different regions of the world. At the same time, Russia has repeatedly provided active assistance in settling such incidents.

Whitewashing the terrorists and neo-Nazis, the Japanese side, first of all, damages their own security.

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On the seizure by the Polish authorities of the object of Russian diplomatic property in Warsaw

The Polish authorities seized Russian diplomatic real estate in Warsaw on the street. Sobieski 100. These are illegal actions.

We would like to remind you that the site for the construction of this facility was provided in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement of December 27, 1974. The building was built by the Soviet side on legal grounds, at its own expense and is the diplomatic property of the Russian Federation. Thus, the actions of the Polish side are a flagrant violation of international law, including both the bilateral intergovernmental agreement and the [Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961](#). A question for Warsaw: do you have any more buildings? Are you that poor? Nowhere else to "get hold of"? Turned to theft? Is that all the Polish administration is capable of? If we had said earlier, we would have known.

Particularly shameful in this situation is the position of the Polish Foreign Ministry, which, instead of ensuring the protection of a foreign diplomatic mission from encroachment on its property, said that it "accepts with satisfaction" the procedure for seizing and transferring the building to the State Treasury of Poland on the street. Sobieski 100.

At the same time, the Polish Foreign Ministry is engaged in demagoguery, talking about the "liquidation of disparity" in the field of real estate in Russian-Polish relations. Is that what they call stealing? Dont know. I will fill up the diplomatic dictionary.

The Ministry is well aware that over the past two years the Russian side has been actively and purposefully working to resolve this problem, and in July 2021 we handed over to the Ambassador of Poland in Russia a list of real estate objects that we were ready to transfer to the Polish side. She refuses to talk.

Once again we are forced to confirm: any unfriendly step by Warsaw will entail an adequate and effective response from our side.

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To the 40th anniversary of the Argentine-British conflict over the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands

40 years have passed since the beginning of the armed conflict between Argentina and Great Britain over the dispute over the sovereignty of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. Although we are talking about long-standing events in a distant archipelago in the South Atlantic, now this topic is being vigorously discussed at international venues and remains relevant, including from the point of view of the importance of mutual consideration of interests in the course of negotiations on difficult international problems.

Despite numerous UN resolutions urging the parties involved in the dispute to immediately enter into negotiations with a view to resolving the Malvinas issue by peaceful means, the British government

continues to demonstrate a stubborn reluctance to start a direct dialogue with Argentina on this issue. Such an obvious disregard for the opinion of the world community does not do credit to a state that is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

At the same time, we are talking not only about London's refusal to dialogue with Buenos Aires, but also about the attempts of the British to de facto change the status of the archipelago by deploying economic activities on it, militarizing the islands and adjacent territorial waters.

I would like to recall the obligations of the parties under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty) and its Additional Protocols. Recently, archival facts about the deployment of nuclear anti-submarine weapons on British ships that participated in hostilities in the zone of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands were revealed. We support Argentina's demand that the UK provide guarantees that there are no such weapons on ships sunken in the South Atlantic.

We draw attention to the "double standards" in the UK's approaches to the archipelago. London declares that the status of these islands was allegedly finally determined during a referendum in March 2013. At the same time, it is not embarrassed by the fact that British subjects who lived in the Malvinas mainly participated in the vote, and they accepted them with an overwhelming majority of votes (99.3%) the decision to retain the status of a British overseas territory for the islands.

The question arises: why do the British consider the results of this referendum sufficient to determine the status of the disputed territories, but refuse to recognize the free expression of will of the population of Crimea and Donbass, who unequivocally voted for independence from Ukraine, and Crimea for joining Russia?

In other words, the situation around Malvin clearly shows how the attitude of the British to this or that international issue is dictated by opportunistic attitudes and depends not on the "letter and spirit of the law", but on the requirements of current political expediency. In this sense, the lessons of the Falklands War have a direct and unambiguous projection on contemporary events. Just to understand who and how historically acted in their own interests, resorting to such methods. They never took responsibility for it.

We would like to once again emphasize the immutability and principled nature of Russia's position on the problems of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. We advocate the need for an early resumption of direct negotiations between Argentina and the UK with a view to a peaceful and final settlement of the sovereignty dispute in accordance with UN resolutions.

We consider it important to refrain from steps that could complicate the start of the above talks. We proceed from the inadmissibility of the militarization of the South Atlantic region and the need for the parties to strictly comply with their international obligations, in particular those assumed by them under the Treaty of Tlatelolco and its Additional Protocols.

The referendum held by Great Britain on the Malvinas on their ownership did not affect the Russian position, and is not considered by us as recognition of London's sovereignty over the islands.

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[On British colonial and neo-colonial practices](#)

The topic is historical, but is directly related to the current day. From time to time we come across interesting publications. We cite Russian ones, sometimes we quote Western ones, so that there is no question about our certain bias.

One of these was an article in The New Yorker, "[The British Empire was a lot worse than you think](#)". The author is S. Khilnani, professor of political science and history at the Indian Ashoka

University. Previously he was Professor of Political Science and Director of the London India Institute at King's College. With numerous references to authoritative Western researchers, the professor convincingly argues that the bloody practices of British colonialism, hidden behind the myth of the "liberal empire", are still waiting for their researchers and, possibly, judges. In general, we recommend that all fans of the British tradition of "liberalism" read carefully.

For our part, we were once again convinced of the timeliness of the appearance of our new [heading "Historical materials" on the website of the Ministry](#) . The collections of facts contained in it are reflected in this article and even received some conceptual understanding. A few quotes to understand who is now teaching us how to live.

"More than half a century after the British Empire took the final chord, historians are still unable to give a comprehensive assessment of the carnage, shrouded in preaching hypocrisy, and later in the bonfire of documents that blazed before the "last exit". The most complete picture of the damage inflicted on the colonies is given, as a rule, by regional centers ... South Africa, India, Ireland, Palestine, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus and Aden. A pattern is revealed that is obvious only in the long term. Military and police personnel roamed the Empire spreading suppression methods, and high-ranking officials rarely interfered with this. Instead, they fully endowed violence with the force of law, thereby supporting manifestations of ever greater cruelty.

... The wild practice of shooting Indian sepoys with cannons after the uprising of 1857, the killing of Mahdists with Maxim machine guns in the nineties of the nineteenth century (Sudan), the use of concentration camps in the Boer Wars, the massacres of peaceful demonstrators in Amritsar (India, 1919 d.), punitive killings and looting of civilian property in Ireland, all served to warm up the British Empire. The British paramilitary cadre became the starting point for an even more brutal ruling culture that sought to regain control after the Second World War, when the Empire needed colonial resources to rebuild its depleted economy and consolidate its declining geopolitical status.

A vivid example of a proven British strategy for maintaining colonial rule (already in the era of the UN!), according to S. Hilnani, who refers to the book "Imperial Reckoning" by K. Elkins, was the suppression of the Kenyan Kikuyu people. For decades, the colonialists tried to break his resistance with detentions, beatings, starvation, torture, forced hard labor, rape and castration. In response to the uprising, called "Mau Mau", in 1957, on the initiative of one of the governors, the brutal campaign "Operation Progress" was launched. More than a million men, women and children were herded into barbed-wire village settlements and concentration camps for re-education.

And this is English tradition. The people who are lecturing us now. Look at yourself. Turn back. We understand that the head of the British Foreign Office, E. Truss, considers history irrelevant, and invites everyone to proceed from the realities of today only. But they don't even want to see them. For one simple reason - as soon as they see the realities of today, they will become part of tomorrow's history. They will have to return. There is no history for them. In fact, she is.

Already in our time, in the course of collecting and claiming evidence on the claims of the victims, the British government admitted that it had removed large colonial archives from Kenya and thirty-six other former possessions. The documents were hidden in a secret vault in Hanslop Park, which the Foreign Office shared with British intelligence. Developed democracies always behave this way.

What was so hidden in these archives that they had to be so securely hidden? The most important thing, probably, is far from the "liberal" toolkit of imperial rule. Thus, paramilitary methods and the use of armored vehicles came from Ireland; from Mesopotamia - the experience of aerial bombardments and shelling of villages; from South Africa, the use of Dobermans to track down and attack suspects; from India, interrogation techniques and the systematic use of solitary confinement; from the North-West Frontier Province (Pakistan) - the use of "human shields". So similar to what British instructors are now teaching Ukrainian neo-Nazis. They have rich experience. They were practiced on people whom they did not consider their peers, in various parts of the world. This Fallen Terror Banner can now be passed on.

One British soldier recalled the following about the use of Arab prisoners: "If landmines were found, it was they who undermined them. Pretty mean, but we enjoyed it." We see the same thing now. "Quite mean"

to supply weapons to Ukraine. Now they are used to kill people with extreme cruelty. We see what has happened to the Azov battalions over the years, and so on. These people have only hardened in their misanthropic ideology. "Pretty mean" for the UK to allocate money, weapons, call on others. But, as a British soldier, who watched the Arab prisoners being blown up by land mines, recalled, they "like" it. Age-old cruelty, which is inherited. Part of the imperial ideology. She didn't go anywhere, she didn't die. It is simply "varnished" and hidden under the guise of "developed democracy", "liberalism", "freedoms".

Other methods seem to have been invented by the British in Palestine: night raids on suspicious communities, oil-soaked sand in the throats of locals, open-air cages for keeping villagers, mass demolition of houses. By perfecting these tactics on Palestinians, officers acquired skills that they would later use in service in Aden (southern present-day Yemen), the Gold Coast (Ghana), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia), Kenya, and Cyprus. Palestine became a "training camp" for the Empire's punishers. Exactly the same as the Ukrainian bridgehead has become for them now. They worked out "practices" there, which they then had to apply on our territory.

Why do we remember today the dark colonial past of Great Britain and the whole world? They remind themselves of this. We would like to forget. It's disgusting to even touch on it, but you need to know. Therefore, we remind them of their history themselves. London's methods have not gone away. They are successfully exported and operated. We have seen this in Ukraine. The methods of suppressing the Donbass were clearly taught by British instructors and political mentors. The handwriting is too recognizable.

Moreover, judging by the data of our Ministry of Defense, the Kyiv regime, under the leadership of the British special services, highly experienced in their field, is preparing another false staged provocations to accuse the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of allegedly cruel treatment of the population of the Sumy region of Ukraine. Who are you talking about cruelty? Did you see what the nationalist battalions did with prisoners of war? It doesn't matter which country. You can't behave like that with anyone. Servicemen don't behave like that - only extremists, terrorists and simply sick people. They shoot them in the legs, gouge out their eyes, beat them. All this is filmed on camera, posted on the network, without even fearing that they will be calculated and found from these frames. This is a matter of special pride for Ukrainian neo-Nazis. They learned their lessons well. The instructors were NATO, including British.

According to the plan of the "British directors", the units of the Russian troops during the retreat allegedly massively killed civilians and mocked them. Another fake is intended to be promoted in the Western media. Its goal is to further whip up Russophobia.

Interestingly, the awareness of the role of London will someday come to the entire world community? Citizens of Ukraine, who are now used as a typical colonial consumables?

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Two Europes or how to read news in a historical context

According to the agencies, the union of port workers in Sweden has decided to blockade the ships associated with Russia. According to the organization, a letter was sent to Infrastructure Minister T. Enerut with a demand to ban the entry of Russian ships into Swedish ports, or the trade union itself initiates a blockade. "We have notified the organization of employers and intermediaries that a blockade will be introduced," explained vice-chairman of the trade union E. Helgeson.

They introduced a "blockade" against the Russians. It turns out, against Russian sailors, our merchant fleet and its main home port in the Baltic - St. Petersburg. Again. Sweden imposed a blockade against the main port in St. Petersburg. Doesn't it remind you of anything? This is not the first blockade in the history of the northern capital. You don't know anything about it anymore. You are told only about how the

Americans "saved" everyone during the Second World War, "liberated", brought you "freedom". Were they "threatened" from the Soviet Union and from Germany? It's not like that at all. The Swedish trade union put itself on a par with the Nazis. Although, probably, he again considers himself on the right side of history.

During the Great Patriotic War around Leningrad, the Nazis also gathered a noble European "union". There were also hundreds of Swedish volunteers. Look, maybe in the ranks of the current trade union activists there are relatives of those who were then, 80 years ago? 72 people even fell into Soviet captivity. We remember this every time we see Swedish neo-Nazis in the ranks of Ukrainian punitive formations in the Donbass since 2014. Does Sweden know that for eight years their volunteers have been killing civilians in the Donbass? Where have you been? To whom was the blockade announced? Nobody? And why?

The predecessors of the current Swedish port lovers of the "blockade" regularly shipped millions of tons of iron ore to the Reich, without which the Nazi seizure of all of Europe would not have happened. Do you feel any guilt? Maybe there is some day when you ask for forgiveness for the way you behaved then? How many troubles, including by your "mercy", the whole world has experienced. Then you did not immediately figure out which side of the story to stand on. They just supplied the Reich with resources. As now, you supply neo-Nazis with weapons, money, medicines. People who have a swastika on their sleeves. They greet each other like collaborators during World War II. They read the same books, watch the same films, follow the same logic.

The Holocaust and the atrocities experienced by its victims also happened thanks to the "unclear" who did not immediately take the right side of history. Every third German tank, gun, rifle, cartridge was made from Swedish raw materials. They left everything to the Reich. For those who were then considered "heroes". Is there a day when you apologize for not understanding? Do not celebrate May 8 - the liberation of Europe from Nazism, but simply apologize. If it existed, it would be easier now to sort out the right side of European history.

This is not Russian data. These are the calculations of the Swedish historian R. Karlbum: in 1933-1943. German consumption of iron ore, taking into account its iron content, depended on Swedish supplies by an average of 43%. Even Grand Admiral E. Raeder, the commander of the German fleet, said that it would be "absolutely impossible to wage war if the fleet cannot ensure the supply of iron ore from Sweden." She was placed. The Reich fought on the basis of Swedish supplies.

This is only about ore, but there were also supplies of pulp, lumber, bearings, machinery and equipment, which the Reich really needed. Sweden then it was profitable and honorable. There was also a Swedish military "transit". On the Swedish railways in 1940-1943. 2 million 140 thousand German soldiers and more than 100 thousand wagons with German military supplies were transported.

Are you now copying yourself from 80 years ago? When you supply weapons to neo-Nazis, ship provisions and humanitarian aid, pay money. And block us. You are welcome. Watch CNN and other American channels. With the same success, you can stick photo wallpapers and look at them. Think you see the world. The Nazis also used Swedish airspace and local airfields.

Everything that was then is copied: blocking the airspace, money transfers - everything that is possible. At the same time, you provide unlimited opportunities to those who have been killing civilians for eight years, based on nationalist ideology. It is not new, which is yet to be understood. They never hid that they supported the collaborators, the Reich, Hitler, the SS. They wear the same uniform, march with torches, hang portraits of those who were Nazi collaborators 80 years ago.

When we hear about the NLAW anti-tank grenade launchers that Britain supplied to the Kiev regime, we know that they are made in Sweden. It is unlikely that they could be re-exported without the consent of Stockholm. They armed the Nazis, blockaded our cities then, they do it now. As if nothing has changed. "Rise from Hell"

Greece is a country that, according to some estimates, lost about 1 million of its citizens in the war against fascism. We know the position of the population of this country today. They write to us, screaming in pain and impotence. They cannot influence their government, which has become a puppet regime.

Employees of the Greek railway company TrainOSE did not want to take part in the transfer of US and NATO military armored vehicles to the border of Ukraine. Because ethnic Greeks lived and live there. They are on the territory of Ukraine, in the south-east of this country, in the Crimea. They tell the truth. There are not many ethnic Swedes living there as minorities. There are a lot of instructors, militants who came as volunteers.

According to the information portals of Greek public organizations, employees of the electric locomotive department of Thessaloniki refused to move to Alexandroupolis to service the trains that NATO tanks are taking out of the port these days. They are planned to be sent to Romania and Poland, then to be delivered to the Ukrainian border. When none of the railroad workers agreed to go voluntarily, TrainOSE began to force them, citing obligations under an employment contract. After that, the trade unions in Thessaloniki intervened. They adopted a resolution demanding that the Greek railroad not be used to transport NATO equipment and stop threatening workers who oppose it. I would like to ask a question to official Athens: Are you for peace or for war? The document was supported by a dozen local trade unions of workers in various industries.

It begs a conclusion. There are two Europes. They have always been the same as they were 80 years ago. Europe, which missed, and sometimes "waving" after the fascist tanks leaving to the east, helped to quarter the SS men, soldiers of the Third Reich, still enjoying life.

And the Europe that went underground, realizing that there should be no place for a misanthropic ideology in their country. It is the same now: one, like 80 years ago, Europe in every possible way at all levels directly assists neo-Nazis, using propaganda, material resources, taking away from its citizens, giving everything away. The other continues to resist. Yes, (the same with a capital letter) Resistance to the authorities and employers, following the lead of an aggressive, Russophobic and Euro-Atlantic bloc and de facto being accomplices of neo-Nazis? This is what they are resisting. They are confronted by a car "refueled" according to all the rules of the "cancellation culture".

If you did not swear allegiance to those who supported the neo-Nazis, you will be "erased with an eraser." It will not be easy to persecute you, but they will make sure that you are gone, that you yourself are not happy with yourself. This is what they worked out. In Russian it is called - persecution.

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[On the renaming of the Russian fortress in Hawaii](#)

We express our regret that the anti-Russian campaign unleashed in the United States has affected the common historical heritage of our countries.

In the spirit of the "cancellation culture" dominant in the West, the American authorities, who until recently destroyed monuments to figures of the past, including the founding fathers of the United States, at the request of the "progressive liberal public", are now engaged in eradicating references to Russia, renaming streets and historical sites.

How did it happen? Does history still exist, or does it no longer exist? Or does the past occur without any historical fixation? Is it alive or what? Explain yourself! This is impossible to understand. So is this "account closed" or can you go back to the past all the time, change what you don't like there, and then back to the present? How to deal with all this: with the destruction of monuments, with the renaming of streets, with what the entire international community has lived for many years, admired, paid tribute to? In one moment it all disappeared, as if it had never happened. But not because something new has come in

return, but because it is necessary to get rid of it, to get rid of it. The main thing is that there is no trace left of that past.

This is exactly what happened to the "Russian Fort of Elizabeth" in the state of Hawaii (Kauai Island), built in 1816 by the Russian-American Company. By decision of the local legislature, it should now be called "Paulaula" (translated from Hawaiian - "Red Walls").

Although, as stated, there was a public discussion, no one was interested in the opinion of our compatriots and professional historians. The document is still subject to approval by the governor, but the state administration, without waiting for the completion of the formalities, instructed the relevant services to produce plates with a new topographic name.

One can only guess where the Russophobia cultivated in Washington will lead. We hope, however, that common sense and awareness of the futility of any attempts to "cancel" Russia, which (it's simply impossible) will sooner or later take over. I mean sanity now.

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About International Day of Monuments and Landmarks

April 18 will once again be celebrated as the International Day of Monuments and Sites, which was established in 1982 by the Assembly of the International Council for the Protection of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and approved next year by the General Conference of [UNESCO](#) during its 22nd session.

Every year ICOMOS with its national committees, incl. and Russian, events and actions are organized to draw attention to the important humanitarian problem of preserving the world cultural heritage and to help strengthen international dialogue and mutual understanding. The central theme of the upcoming celebration is "Heritage and Climate".

The Russian Federation is an active and responsible participant in key international legal acts in the relevant field - [the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954](#) and [the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972](#).

Currently, our country has 31 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including 20 cultural monuments. The preliminary list includes 28 candidate sites for inclusion in the UNESCO list. Within the framework of the current chairmanship of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the governing body of the 1972 Convention, Russia pays special attention to the further development of international cooperation in the conservation and sustainable management of world heritage sites on a professional and depoliticized basis.

In pursuance of the 1954 Hague Convention and in accordance with a separate order of the Russian Ministry of Defense, in the course of a special military operation to protect the republics of Donbass, the armed forces of our country are taking effective measures aimed at ensuring the safety of world cultural heritage sites, museums, religious and religious institutions in Ukraine .

Unfortunately, a number of foreign states forget about their obligations to preserve monuments and respect for the common historical and cultural heritage. And it did not start today, and not even this year. I would like to talk about some of the most "fresh" acts of vandalism.

Cases of desecration and vandalism of the Soviet military memorial heritage continue in Latvia.

In March of this year. in the village of Vidrizhi, vandals painted a monument to 99 soldiers and local residents who died during the Second World War, and left insulting inscriptions on it.

February 28 this year monument in Riga with the inscription "Glory to the liberators of the city of Riga!" doused with paint in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. February 26 this year The monument to the 245th Infantry Division of the Soviet Army (on Brivibas Avenue in Riga) was doused with blue and yellow paint, vases with flowers were scattered around the fraternal military burial ground. February 25 this year an act of vandalism was committed against the memorial to the Liberators of Riga and Latvia from the Nazi invaders;

On December 1, 2021, an act of vandalism was committed against the memorial to the soldiers who liberated Riga and Latvia from the Nazi invaders (the inscription "occupiers" was inscribed in black paint).

On September 10, 2021, unknown persons dismantled and stole a commemorative plaque from the memorial stone installed at the site of the start of the operation to cross Kish Lake in October 1944.

On February 24, 2021, the monument at the military burial site of the Great Patriotic War in Jekabpils was destroyed - the 76-mm gun was dismantled.

After the start of a special military operation in Ukraine in Lithuania, cases of desecration of monuments to Soviet soldiers became more frequent:

April 10 this year - in the years Bubliai, Sheta and Kurkliai, April 8 this year – in Marijampolė, March 2 this year. – in Žasliai and Pašaltuonis. In all of these cases, investigations have been launched by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. With frankly blasphemous arguments on the topic of getting rid of Soviet monuments in April this year. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania G. Landsbergis spoke, calling for a temporary solution to cover them with Ukrainian flags. This was proposed by a man who is the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Is he in himself? This is incredibly monstrous logic. And it is not at all clear what lies behind it. So do you recognize these monuments or do you want to demolish them? If you want to demolish them, why are there Ukrainian flags here? You do not recognize one thing, you consider it unworthy of being on the territory of your country and combine it with the flag of those whom you consider worthy. The heads of local governments have already begun to follow his advice - in Klaipėda the mayor initiated a discussion on the transfer of the monument to Soviet liberators from the city, in the Raseiniai region they began to close the monuments in black boxes in anticipation of further decisions from the central authorities. This is the level of history and culture.

The initiative to prepare for the exclusion of monuments from the list of cultural heritage sites, which will allow the Lithuanian regime to further crack down on Soviet monuments "promoting war, aggression and symbols of a totalitarian state," is being developed by the Department of Cultural Heritage of Lithuania. The "black list" of memorials began to be compiled by the Kaunas City Hall. The goal is not hidden - to create a basis for making decisions on the transfer, removal, change of names of Soviet monuments.

On November 25, 2020, a burial place of Soviet soldiers was desecrated in the town of Obeliai, Rokigas district. The pedestal, on which the monument to the soldier is installed, and the tombstones with the names of the fallen soldiers were painted with a swastika. The very next day, the administration of the Rokiskis district sent a photograph showing that all offensive drawings had been removed and the memorial had been restored to the state it was in before this incident.

On September 4, 2020, a monument to Soviet soldiers was desecrated in the town of Žežmariai, Kaišadoris district (doused with paint and insulting inscriptions were made). Near the monument in the form of a warrior with a flag standing on a pedestal, there is a mass grave of soldiers and officers of the Red Army who died in battle during the liberation of the city of Žežmariai from the Nazis (more than 920 fighters). The embassy immediately contacted representatives of the city administration. The district police opened a criminal case on the fact of vandalism. The technical services of the city administration promptly cleaned the monument and put it in order.

On June 14, 2020 (on the Day of Sorrow and Hope, when the victims of Stalinist repressions are commemorated in Lithuania), a monument to Afanasy Loshakov, Hero of the Soviet Union, participant in the Great Patriotic War, was poured over with paint at the city cemetery in the village of Sheta, Kedainiai

region. The head of the Kedainiai region, V. Tamulis, assessed this act “as a case of hooliganism,” which he will not tolerate.

In Estonia on April 10 this year. in the town of Otepya, unknown people painted a monument to Soviet soldiers in the colors of the Ukrainian flag and wrote the letter Y in blue paint.

On April 8, 2022, in the city of Tapa, attackers desecrated a monument on a mass grave of a Soviet military burial (stained with paint depicting the names of Nazi leaders).

In March of this year. an act of vandalism was committed against an obelisk in the center of Rakvere on the mass grave of soldiers who fell during the Great Patriotic War: the memorial was desecrated with a Nazi image. There was also an act of desecration of monuments over the mass graves of Soviet soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War in the city of Tartu.

On October 1, 2021, unidentified persons desecrated a memorial stone dedicated to Afghan soldiers in the Lasnamäe district of Tallinn (the monument was doused with red paint). By October 4, 2021, the local authorities returned the monument to its original appearance.

In April, a monument to the victims of fascism at the Rahumäe cemetery in the capital was desecrated.

On April 7, 2021, unknown persons knocked over a memorial stone in the city of Pärnu at the site of the execution in July 1941 of the fighters of the Sindhi fighter battalion.

On March 1, 2021, unknown vandals desecrated a monument to a T-34 tank standing on a pedestal on the banks of the Narova River near the road from Narva to Narva-Jõesuu.

In Poland, a terrible picture. The Polish authorities are conducting a total dismantling of Soviet memorial objects outside burial places (the so-called symbolic monuments), which, as Warsaw groundlessly claims, are not subject to the [Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Poland on burials and places of memory of victims of wars and repressions from February 22, 1994](#). In October 2017 and January 2018, amendments to the law on the prohibition of propaganda of communism or another totalitarian system of April 1, 2016 (the so-called law “on decommunization”) came into force, according to which local governments were obliged to liquidate by March 31, 2018 the “communist symbols” located on their territory, including Soviet monuments located outside the burial places. We understand that this is all from the evil one. It was not communism that bothered me, but to completely erase the memory of the liberators.

As a result, out of 561 memorial objects included in 1997 together with the Polish side in the "List of memorable places of Soviet defenders of the Fatherland who fell on the territory of Poland", about 100 have survived to the present moment, and the process of their destruction has been going on regularly all these years, new ones are being identified. cases of dismantling, which the Polish authorities do not report. We receive information from the media or from residents, compatriots.

Acts of vandalism against Soviet memorials are regularly recorded. March 23 this year in Poland, another monument to Soviet soldiers-liberators, installed in the village of Chszowice, was dismantled. They tried to give the event the most “ceremonial” character, the destruction of the monument took place in the presence of Polish officials and was broadcast live. That's "achievement". This is how civilized nations always behave.

In 2022 5 cases of damage to Russian (Soviet) military, graves, memorials and monuments were registered in Slovakia;

February 27 this year - Kosice, a monument to Soviet soldiers on the square. Liberators - doused with paint;

March 3 this year – Bratislava, Slavin Military Memorial Complex – doused with paint;

March 5 this year - Svidnik, a monument to the Soviet Army - doused with paint;

March 15 this year - a monument to Soviet pilots "Small Slavin" (near Bratislava) - doused with paint;

March 26 this year - Settlement of Boshatsa-Grun, Trenchin region - the burial place of the soldiers of the Red Army - doused with paint.

Only in the beginning of 2022, two acts of vandalism were committed in the Czech Republic against Russian (Soviet) military memorial sites:

March 8 this year - Przybyslav, a monument to the fallen Soviet soldiers - a statue of a Soviet soldier was dismantled from the pedestal;

March 26 this year - Prague, a monument to the Red Army soldier Belyakov near the building of the Czech Foreign Ministry - doused with paint.

April 3, 2020 - Prague, the monument to the Marshal of the Soviet Union, Hero of Czechoslovakia, honorary citizen of Prague I.S. Konev, installed in the square. International Brigades in 1980;

January 5, 2021 - Ostrava, a monument to the Red Army soldiers on the street. Rudna in the Ostrava-Zabrzehk region - doused with a flammable liquid and set on fire;

April 21, 2021 - Brno, a monument to the Soviet soldier-liberator on Moravian Square - doused with paint, insulting inscriptions were applied;

Since 2014, after the coup d'état in Ukraine, nationalist and pro-fascist organizations encouraged by the Kiev authorities have regularly vandalized memorial sites dedicated to Russian and Soviet historical figures, primarily those associated with the Great Patriotic War.

February 3 this year in the city of Slavuta, Khmelnytsky region, a monument to the Hero of the Soviet Union, partisan of the Great Patriotic War A.Z. Odukh was destroyed.

February 4 this year in Poltava, on the initiative of the Institute of National Remembrance, a monument to the Russian commander A.V. Suvorov was dismantled. According to O.Pustovgar, representative of the Institute, the demolition of the monument in honor of the military leader of the times of the Russian Empire is a fight against "an element of Soviet propaganda." A.V. Suvorov - "an element of Soviet propaganda." Then we also need Engels, Marx, what's with them? How do they act, delete them from the encyclopedia on the territory of the developed EU countries? Books are burning, have you started already? That's Soviet propaganda.

April 7 this year in Mukachevo, Transcarpathian region, April 9 this year. in Ternopil and April 10 this year. in Uzhgorod, monuments to A.S. Pushkin were demolished. I don't even know how to call A.S. Pushkin by the frenzy with which they destroy all of his legacy. Apparently, he is the main enemy of today's Ukraine. Interestingly, we had a lot of things connected with N.V. Gogol in the Soviet Union: street names, monuments. How is it in Ukraine now? What will be done with it in other countries? Or, after all, N.V. Gogol, the great Ukrainian writer, could be part of Soviet propaganda? This is an ideological dead end. There is no way out of it.

April 11 this year in Cherkassy, the bust of A.S. Pushkin was painted in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. It's already embarrassing. Truth. On the same day, a Soviet T-34 tank, which symbolized the heroism of the Red Army, was dismantled in Mukachevo, Transcarpathian region. This is real xenophobic logic - destroy, smash everything that is in your way.

April 12 this year The monument to Soviet soldiers who liberated this city from the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War was dismantled in the city of Stryi, Lviv region.

On January 12, 2021, at the memorial cemetery in Kherson, vandals smashed and knocked down 17 monuments of a mass grave to the soldiers-liberators of the Great Patriotic War.

On the night of May 9, 2021, monuments at the burial places of Soviet soldiers were damaged in the cities of Novy Rozdil and Sudova Vyshnya, Lviv region.

On July 23, 2021, the demolition of the Monument of Military Glory, a monument to Soviet soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War during the liberation of this city, was completed in Lviv. The demolition work, which began back in 2018, led to the dismantling of not only the statue of a Soviet soldier, but also the monument to the Lviv Motherland, which were moved to the Territory of Terror Museum.

On September 6, 2021, the Kyiv authorities dismantled a memorial sign dedicated to the friendship between the Ukrainian capital and Moscow.

On September 30, 2021, in Kolomyia, Ivano-Frankivsk region, a monument was demolished by local authorities from the mass grave of Red Army soldiers. At the same time, several tombstones with the names of the buried were broken.

On October 26, 2021, in the Poltava region, unidentified persons destroyed the commemorative signs of the Soviet era in Lohvitsa and demolished the monument to the Red Army soldier V.I. Chapaev in Lubny.

On October 25-27, 2021, by decision of the Executive Committee of the Lviv City Council, under the pretext of "renovation, renewal and rethinking of the space around the Lychakiv military cemetery", the central element of the Marsovo Pole memorial-burial was dismantled - a large-scale copy of the Order of the Patriotic War.

On November 2, 2021, in the city of Dergachi, Kharkiv region, a monument to the fallen soldiers of the Great Patriotic War was desecrated and a granite monument to the Chekist soldiers of the 227th NKVD regiment, who died defending Kyiv, was demolished.

On November 5, 2021, nationalists of the Society of the Future organization (the political wing of the right-wing radical movement C14) damaged the memorial at the burial site of Soviet soldiers in the village of Zubra, Lviv region.

On November 28, 2021, in the village of Kalinovka, Kiev region, within the framework of the law on decommunization, a monument to Chekists - fighters of the revolution was dismantled. Before that, the inscriptions "NKVD - executioners" and "glory to Ukraine" were applied to it.

On December 7, 2021, the Eternal Flame was extinguished in Poltava at the memorial complex of soldier's glory by pouring the contents of a can of energy into the flame.

On February 4, 2020, in Odessa, nationalists removed a memorial plaque with a bas-relief of G.K. Zhukov from the wall of the student hostel of the Odessa National University. I.I. Mechnikov, where in the post-war years the headquarters of the Odessa military district was located, which G.K. Zhukov headed in 1946-1948. It was the last bas-relief of the Soviet commander in the city.

On February 10, 2020, in Kyiv, unknown people poured green paint over the monument to General N.F. Vatutin, erected over his grave in the Mariinsky Park.

On May 9, 2020, in Slavyansk, Donetsk region, at the main monument to the Soviet Liberator Soldier in the Shelkovichny park, the Victory Banner was painted in the colors of the UPA flag.

On May 19-20, 2020, in Kharkov, for two nights in a row, the bust of Marshal G.K. Zhukov was doused with red paint.

On October 12, 2020, in Rivne, unknown persons desecrated the "Memorial of Glory", located at the burial site of Soviet soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War. The name of one of the political parties was applied to the stele in a sculptural composition with white paint.

On February 16, 2019, in the village of Semyonovka, Zaporozhye region, vandals looted and damaged the burial place of soldiers who died in the Great Patriotic War during the liberation of Melitopol from Nazi invaders. Unknown people stole part of the memorial's fence and broke the metal star of the Eternal Flame.

On March 6, 2019, in Lviv, a bronze bas-relief was stolen from the tombstone of the legendary Soviet intelligence officer N.I. Kuznetsov located on the Hill of Glory.

March 14, 2019 in Rivne, unknown persons damaged the sculptures of the composition of the Monument of Glory.

On March 27, 2019 in the village of Feskovka and on April 14, 2019 in the village of Novye Borovichi, Chernihiv region, members of the nationalist organization "Sokol" smashed busts erected in the mentioned settlements in memory of the Hero of the Soviet Union, commander of the 1st Ukrainian Front, General N .F.Vatutine.

On May 9, 2019, in the village of Mezhirich, Pavlogradsky district, Dnepropetrovsk region, unidentified people broke a monument to the soldiers of the Great Patriotic War.

On June 2, 2019, in Kharkov, activists of the National Corps, during a picket during the congress of city authorities, knocked down a bust of Marshal of the Soviet Union G.K. Zhukov.

On July 9, 2019, in Chuguev, Kharkiv region, unidentified people damaged a memorial plate with the names of Red Army soldiers who died during the liberation of the city.

On July 16, 2019, in Yagotyn, Kiev region, members of the local branch of the nationalist organization "Svitanok" dismantled the bust of G.K. Zhukov.

On July 21, 2019, in Poltava, unidentified persons desecrated the monument to N.F. Vatutin, writing the word "enemy" on it with red paint.

On August 24, 2019, the bust of the Soviet partisan, Hero of the Soviet Union N.T. Prikhodko was damaged in Zdolbunovo, Rivne region.

On September 5, 2019, the central element of the Marsovo Pole memorial-burial, a large-scale copy of the Order of the Patriotic War, was desecrated in Lviv. The vandals left the inscriptions "Occupiers", "Communism", "Hammer and sickle - death and hunger" on it with red paint.

On November 10, 2019, in Odessa, on the memorial plaque to G.K. Zhukov, the word "kat" was applied with red paint, which means "executioner" in Ukrainian.

On November 20, 2019, a monument to G.K. Zhukov was poured over with red paint in Kharkov.

The permanent "war with monuments" continues in Moldova as well.

March 2 this year near the village of Leuseni, Hincesti district, a monument to the legendary T-34 tank was smeared with paint in the colors of the Ukrainian flag. It is noteworthy that the well-known "fighter against monuments" ex-Minister of Defense of Moldova A. Salaru took responsibility for this act of vandalism.

March 4 this year near the village of Chiniseutsy, Rezinsky district, the memorial "Immortality", erected in memory of 1250 soldiers, natives of 31 villages of the district, who died in the Great Patriotic War, was desecrated.

On January 28, 2021, in the Pridnestrovian city of Dubossary, vandals destroyed the monument to the Hero of the Soviet Union, General of the Army V.F. Margelov. However, by the Day of the Airborne Forces on August 2, 2021, it was restored.

On February 1, 2021, in the village of Rusca, Hincesti district, on the monument in honor of the soldiers of the 161st rifle regiment of the 95th Moldavian rifle division, the inscription "death to the occupiers" was applied.

On March 22, 2021, in the vicinity of the village of Ivancha, Orhei district, an obelisk was desecrated in memory of the heroes of the 2nd Cavalry Corps named after the Council of People's Commissars of Ukraine, who fell in battles on the territory of Orhei in the summer of 1941.

On August 21, 2021, a monument in honor of the soldiers of the 3rd Guards Uman Airborne Division, the first to reach the state border near the Prut River in March 1944, was damaged near the village of Korpach, Edinetsky District. Vandals broke a memorial plate in honor of the paratrooper heroes.

On August 23, 2021, in Chisinau, a commemorative inscription from the time of the Great Patriotic War "Inspected. Min no", recognized by the municipal authorities of the Moldovan capital as a historical monument.

On October 26, 2021, in the center of Chisinau, on the site of a monument to the 20th anniversary of the battles in the east of Romania near Mărești and Măreșeshti in the summer of 1917, where Russian and Romanian troops jointly opposed the German army, a monument was unveiled commemorating the soldiers of the Romanian army who fought on side of the Nazi troops.

There are also reverse examples. Against the backdrop of this madness, there are examples of a careful attitude to the memory of Soviet soldiers.

On October 7, 2021, the grand opening of the monument to the Soviet crew of the Catalina seaplane, who died on Sørøya Island in Northern Norway, took place. We see a careful attitude on the part of citizens, governments of states, but what is happening now is beyond the bounds.

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On the historical significance of the manifesto of Catherine II on the annexation of Crimea to Russia

On April 19, 1783, Empress Catherine II signed the Manifesto on the accession of the Crimea, Taman and Kuban to the Russian Empire. This step was dictated by the desire to ensure the security of Russia's southern borders. It is symbolic that Crimea also had an important ideological significance for Russia - in 988 Grand Duke Vladimir was baptized in Chersonese.

After the end of the second Russian-Turkish war (1768-1774), the Ottoman port recognized the independence of the Crimea under the Kyuchuk-Kaynardzhiysky treaty of 1774. The fortresses of Kerch, Yenikale and Kinburn and a significant part of the steppe between the Dnieper and the Bug became part of the Russian Empire. Russia was able to get access to the Black Sea, as well as confirm its rights to the territory of Kabarda, Azov and the Azov lands conquered by Peter I. However, the Ottoman Empire did not give up hope of regaining its dominion on the peninsula, raiding and devastating the lands.

Assessing the advantages of joining the Crimea to Russia, one of the closest associates of Catherine II and the ideologist of the annexation of the peninsula, G.A. Potemkin, wrote at the end of 1782: it cannot strengthen or enrich you, but only bring you peace... With the Crimea, you will also gain dominance in the Black Sea."

The manifesto completed an important stage in the struggle with the Ottoman Empire for influence on the northern coast of the Black Sea and provided access to natural borders in the south of the country. Russia was now able to build the Black Sea Fleet and had the right to pass through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. All this has become a powerful impetus for the economic and demographic

development of the Northern Black Sea and Azov regions. This is me especially for E. Truss, who must know where which seas are.

The date of the annexation of Crimea to Russia was approved at the federal level (No. 336-FZ of August 3, 2018).

Despite the fact that the region borders on Ukraine, where a special military operation is currently taking place, life in Crimea is going on in a constructive way. April 11 this year The Day of the Constitution of the Republic was celebrated there. The region is developing dynamically. It is going through a special time now, given both the influx of refugees and the challenges it has faced in recent times, despite all the attempts to make life more difficult that our opponents are making. The Crimeans will survive. They are people with a historically tempered character. It is a culture, part of a tradition. They are transmitted.

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin instructed the federal government to extend the term of the state program for the socio-economic development of the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol until 2027. Large Russian banks, Russian Railways, and telecommunications companies come to Crimea. Mobile roaming has been cancelled.

The North Crimean Canal, which was blocked by the Ukrainian authorities in 2014, is now fully operational and has now been unblocked by Russian specialists. This opens up new opportunities for the development of agriculture. Already this year, it is planned to allocate 850 hectares for rice production, and the area under this crop will only expand.

Undoubtedly, Crimea will develop in other directions as well. We expect further growth in the tourist flow, which will lead to the accelerated development of the service sector, the hotel sector, and the catering network.

Crimeans provide all possible assistance to refugees arriving on the peninsula. What future was prepared for the inhabitants of Crimea is clearly demonstrated by the facts of the atrocities of the Nazis, neo-Nazis, which come to light during the liberation of the territories of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions that were under the control of the Kiev authorities.

Like it or not, the future of Crimea is with Russia. For us, this question is finally and irrevocably closed. No sanctions from the US and their satellites, NATO members will change our position. They can only help to strengthen it. So the "masters of the world" can rest.

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On the completion of the battle for Right-Bank Ukraine (Dnieper-Carpathian operation)

The Dnieper-Carpathian operation is a strategic offensive operation of the Red Army during the Great Patriotic War, carried out from December 24, 1943 to April 17, 1944 in order to liberate Right-Bank Ukraine.

This operation included 11 operations of the fronts connected by a single concept - Zhytomyr-Berdichevskaya, Kirovogradskaya, Korsun-Shevchenkivskaya, Rivne-Lutsk, Nikopol-Krivorozhskaya, Proskurovsko-Chernovitskaya, Bereznegovato-Snigirevskaya, Polesskaya, Odessa, Tyrgu-Frumoskaya, Umansko- Botoshanskaya. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Ukrainian fronts under the command of N.F. Vatutin, I.S. Konev, R.Ya. Malinovsky, F.I. Tolbukhin, respectively, were involved in the offensive. The actions were coordinated by the Marshals of the Soviet Union G.K. Zhukov and A.M. Vasilevsky. In total, more than two million soldiers and officers, about two thousand tanks, more than 30 thousand guns and mortars, and 2.4 thousand aircraft were involved from the Soviet side. They were opposed by the German-Romanian troops, numbering about 1.8 million people and more than 25 thousand weapons.

In December 1943, Soviet troops took Zhitomir and Kirovograd, in January 1944 Novograd-Volynsky, Berdichev, Rovno and Lutsk, in February the advancing units of the Red Army managed to eliminate the Nikopol bridgehead, liberate Nikopol and Krivoy Rog.

The last stage was the Uman-Botoshanskaya operation of the troops of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, which ended on April 17, 1944, as a result of which the southwestern regions of the Right-Bank Ukraine and part of the Moldavian SSR were liberated, the 8th German army was almost completely defeated. During the offensive carried out in late winter and early spring of 1944, the 2nd Ukrainian Front sequentially, on the move, crossed six rivers under seasonal flood conditions.

As a result of the Dnieper-Carpathian operation, Ukraine with a population of tens of millions of people was completely liberated, and the enemy was driven back 250-450 km to the west. The Red Army restored the state border on the southwestern borders of the USSR and transferred the fighting to the territory of Romania.

Military successes came at a high price. On February 29, 1944, the famous Soviet commander, commander of the 1st Ukrainian Front, General of the Army N.F. Vatutin, was mortally wounded at the hands of Ukrainian nationalists.

The victory of the Red Army in the Right-Bank Ukraine ensured the entry of our troops to the approaches to Poland, to the border with Czechoslovakia and to Romania, had a great influence on the activation of the national liberation movement in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe. The front came close to Germany's vital sources of food, oil and other types of strategic raw materials in Romania and the Balkans. The successes of the Soviet troops had a huge international political effect. Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria began to look for ways out of the war (they immediately figured out where the right side of history was), and the allies of the USSR accelerated preparations for the landing of their troops in France.

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. On September 29, 2014, the Bank of Russia issued a commemorative commemorative coin - "Dnieper-Carpathian Operation".

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On the 90th anniversary of E.I. Pesov

Today, April 13, is the 90th anniversary of the legendary photojournalist and great master E.I. Pesov.

Thanks to the legendary photographer, millions of people were able to see unique shots of the historical moments of international meetings and negotiations, photographs of the everyday life of many statesmen of the Soviet era, modern Russia and foreign figures.

E.I. Pesov worked as the official photographer of all Soviet and Russian foreign ministers, starting with A.A. Gromyko. Under E.M. Primakov, he became the official photographer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. Business trips of E.I. Pesov covered the whole world - he crossed the equator six times, traveled almost all of America, visited the most remote corners of the USSR from Bering Island to Kushka. Wherever he was, what he didn't see, and most importantly, he managed to capture all this and make these shots spread around the world. In his works, he created a chronicle of Russian foreign policy and diplomacy (without his works, visualization would be extremely difficult, and in many ways impossible). It was not easy for him to create images, but he also penetrated the essence of those events and the personalities he photographed.

E.I. Pesov is a laureate of numerous Russian and international photo exhibitions, the winner of the prestigious international World Press Photo competition "Golden Eye" in 1982. In 2005, he was awarded

the national prize in the field of photography "Golden Eye of Russia". In 2007 he was awarded the medal of the Order of Merit for the Fatherland, II degree, in 2012 - the Order of Friendship.

Eduard Iosifovich is distinguished by his attitude to life and sense of humor. Today, on the day of his 90th birthday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov congratulated him. From the whole team and especially from our Department of Information and Press, I would like to wish him good health and creative inspiration, and to all possible difficulties in his way, as he himself likes to say, "Don't wait!".

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From the answers to the questions:

Question: The European Commission closed the airspace for 21 Russian airlines for non-compliance with international safety standards. How do you assess the consequences of the EU decision?

Answer: The Federal Air Transport Agency has already [given a detailed answer to this question](#).

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Question: "A group of French technical and scientific gendarmes is in Lviv to help Ukrainian colleagues in investigating war crimes," the French ambassador to Ukraine said. How would you comment on this post?

Answer: As far as I know, the Russian Ministry of Defense has already commented on this topic.

We hope that the mentioned experts will approach their work impartially, if possible, and impartially - they will interview witnesses, they will do it without segregation based on nationality. We hope that the shelling of Kramatorsk and Donetsk by Ukrainian nationalists will also be duly investigated. They actively called for this, including on international platforms.

It is not clear why such an initiative has never appeared, in particular, among the French over the past eight years. No one ever considered it necessary to send at least some kind of delegation, for example, to help the Kiev regime to investigate the crimes of the "House of Trade Unions" in Odessa, when not the house was burned, but the people in it. Where were the French specialists? Or, for example, for some reason, the European community also "rottenly" worked on snipers, without showing any desire, except in words (absolutely in solidarity with the Kiev regime), but in deeds, without showing any interest in establishing the truth. Although we remember the negotiations conducted by Brussels officials. Then, unambiguously saying among themselves that it is clear who opened fire on the Maidan in 2014, that these were forces that were supported by the very opposition,

Where were all the eight years of crimes, when children were killed, when they were buried alive, when mass graves were now found, mass graves of civilians, when people were tortured, kidnapped? Where were all these "investigators"? And what about those who were kept in prisons without trial or investigation? The same KV Vyshinsky. Have you ever seen statements from the French Interior Ministry that it would be nice to interview KV Vyshinsky in order for him to tell how he was treated as a journalist in Ukraine. Where was everyone? Where was the Union of Journalists? Maybe France showed some desire? They only blocked any attempts by residents of Donbass, Donetsk and Luhansk. It was necessary to tell about how they all lived and survived all these years. Zero information came out. Moreover, they did everything to ensure that not a single Western journalist ended up there. But now there is not a single Western mainstream newspaper that does not write what is happening there, but, of course, only from one angle. Segregation in the 21st century? Some lives matter, others don't?

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Question: How could you comment on the information about the use of the OSCE SMM technical equipment in Ukraine to correct the fire of artillery of the Armed Forces of Ukraine?

Answer: The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission worked for 8 years on both sides of the line of contact in Donbass, using various technical equipment, incl. small, medium and long-range unmanned aerial vehicles, various types of cameras. The data from these devices was intended to monitor violations of the ceasefire and agreements on the withdrawal of military equipment. The OSCE leadership has repeatedly assured us that the Mission does not transmit any operational information to Kiev. Interesting, really, how does it work?

From March 7 this year. all international personnel of the Special Monitoring Mission were withdrawn from Ukraine, the DPR and the LPR. Monitoring activity has actually ceased. March 31 this year the Mission's mandate has also expired, which excludes the continuation of its work, incl. use of technical equipment. It is necessary to find out in whose hands the equipment of the Special Monitoring Mission, which has not yet been removed, is currently located and how it is being used. So where is the equipment, where was it taken or to whom was it given? If the information about the use of technical means of observation of the Special Monitoring Mission to adjust the fire of artillery of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is confirmed, this will completely discredit the Mission and the leadership of the OSCE Secretariat. All those who "covered" it all. Then the role of the OSCE will be completely different from that declared in this story.

Unfortunately, there were precedents for the misuse of OSCE property (this information). Back in February of this year. Armored vehicles of the Special Monitoring Mission in Mariupol ended up with the militants of the Azov National Battalion. OSCE Secretary General H. Schmid ignored our warnings. She did absolutely everything so that these facts were not made public and said that "there is no need to spread fake news." Everything we love. We know it.

We demand that the OSCE leadership honestly, and not like last time, report by whom and how exactly the organization's equipment left on the territory of Ukraine, the DPR and the LPR was used. There is no politics here. These are facts, data. The organization is obliged to provide them to the public and report.

We remind you that in the current political and legal realities, the performance of its functions by the Special Monitoring Mission has become impossible. Further activities of the Mission do not have the consensus support of the participating States and cannot be carried out. We call on the Secretariat and the Polish Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization to promptly prepare and submit for consideration by all participating States a draft decision of the OSCE Permanent Council on the parameters for the closure of the Special Monitoring Mission, which would make it possible to allocate funds for the removal of the remaining property and close the financial obligations of the Mission.

On the territory of Russia, after the evacuation of the international personnel of the Special Monitoring Mission from Ukraine, the DPR and LPR, 75 armored SUVs of the Mission remain, the further purpose of which - sale, transfer to another OSCE field presence or, for example, donation to the civilian authorities of the DPR and LPR - is also to be determined.

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Question: Does Moscow see the risk that, under the new prime minister of Pakistan, cooperation with Islamabad in the gas sector may be curtailed and the Pakistan Stream gas pipeline construction project frustrated?

Answer: I would like to remind you that the current Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sh. Sharif, is the head of the very party - the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), which was in power at the time of the signing in October 2015 of the [Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on cooperation in the implementation of the North-South gas pipeline construction project](#), later renamed "Pakistan Stream". An objective reality is the fact that the project is mutually beneficial. In Pakistan, this is well known. Its implementation will give a good impetus to the development of the Pakistani energy sector and help solve the problem of energy shortages in the country. Also beneficial to us. Based on this, we expect that work on this project will continue under the new government of Pakistan.

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Question: How would you comment on the online marathon and the EU donor conference in Warsaw on April 9 this year? “Defend Ukraine”, as a result of which the European Commission and Canada announced the collection of 9.1 billion euros to help Ukrainian refugees and another 1 billion were provided on credit by the EBRD?

Answer: This event leaves a double impression. On the one hand, one cannot fail to note the unconditional humanitarian aspect and the need to provide assistance to refugees in the EU countries and Moldova.

On the other hand, the implementation of this good idea again highlights the traditional and double approach to what, unfortunately, is inherent in Western countries: selfishness, commercialism. The idea dominates: own shirt is closer to the body. The number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine, according to the European Commission itself, is 1.5 times higher than the number of Ukrainian refugees in the EU countries (6.5 million versus 4 million people), however, the distribution of funds is planned exactly the opposite - over 80% of all The collected money will be spent in the EU countries themselves (8.3 billion euros out of 10.1 billion) and only a small part will be directed to the needs of Ukrainians in the country itself (1.8 billion euros).

In addition, as it turns out, this help is not disinterested. The European Commission indicates that more than half of these funds were provided by the European Investment Bank, the Development Bank of the Council of Europe (5 billion euros), and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (1 billion euros) - in the amount of 6 billion out of 10.1 billion euros. As they say: "loans and grants." I don't know if there is a “loan with grants”, perhaps there are such options, but a loan is a paid thing. Translated from the language of the Brussels bureaucracy, this means that almost all of this amount was provided by loans, i.e. on credit. Thus, Ukrainian citizens remaining in Ukraine will be forced to pay from their taxes for the stay of their fellow citizens in the EU countries. This is now being clarified as a result of this "event".

That is, while helping themselves with one hand, with the other hand, the EU countries are waging an economic war against Russia, destroying global food supply chains. Thus, residents of dozens of developing countries are being brought to the brink of starvation. And then they will collect humanitarian actions.

We consider this approach of the EU to be far from moral ideals. The question arises - are the EU members afraid that Kyiv will subsequently begin to seek the annulment of such financial obligations to Brussels?

And most importantly, what did the EU bureaucracy do to alleviate the fate of the residents of Donetsk and Lugansk, who were subjected to physical destruction, economic and social blockade by the Kiev regime for eight years? Where were the attempts? Maybe we haven't heard. Collect humanitarian aid and send - never happened. We see the same thing, for example, in terms of aid to Syria. Help only those who are not affiliated with government forces. Normal, right? A sovereign state that was attacked by international terrorism, which defended itself and is still experiencing occupation by the United States and other countries. Only those who have been selectively chosen in the West as objects of assistance should be helped. But those who are affiliated with the government, live and survive in Syria, do not need help from the point of view of the Western community. Here is such an approach.

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Question: Russia's withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council was carried out after the General Assembly voted the day before to suspend its participation due to a special operation in Ukraine. Among others, Serbia also voted for it. Such actions were quite unexpected, since the country had previously been neutral on the issue of the conflict in Ukraine, and in early March, the population staged rallies of 50,000 in support of Moscow's actions. How will this affect relations between Moscow and Belgrade?

Answer: We have seen a series of identical votes, not only at the UN site, but also at other sites. These were identical votes in recent weeks. All of them were against our country.

We record the statements of Serbian politicians regarding the pressure that is being exerted on them, as well as statements by the Serbian side that Russia is their friend. Maybe we have different views on what friendship is. We always support our friends in difficult times. We always proceed from the fact that those who call us their friends profess the same approaches.

Representatives of many states striving to pursue an independent, balanced policy tell us (this was repeatedly said by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia S.V. Lavrov) that they are under tremendous pressure from Western countries, primarily the United States, who want to "incite" Russia the whole world, launch the "cancellation culture" mechanism. Accordingly, they go to "compromises". We don't understand this. We know there is pressure. But if we are talking about those who declare themselves our friends, then this is impossible to understand.

We presume that our traditional partners in their activities within the framework of international organizations, at various multilateral platforms, will consistently adhere to positions that reflect their true national interests and a true, friendly attitude towards us. This is not about the fact that we encourage them to make a deal with conscience by substituting facts. No, not only the Russian position, but also the origins of this crisis are well known in Belgrade. This has been repeatedly discussed at the highest level. They have the full range of materials. Most importantly, they lived through no less difficult historical moments, which are similar in many respects to what is now happening on the territory of Ukraine. After all, the sponsors of this perennial hell are the same. Here it is also important to understand that we are talking not just about supporting our country on the basis of friendship or on fundamental grounds,

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Question: Indian Prime Minister Nicolas Modi proposed to Moscow direct talks between President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky. At the same time, American leader John Biden said at a virtual meeting with the Indian prime minister that the United States intends to conduct "close consultations" with India on the situation around Ukraine. What role (possibly mediating) can India play in resolving the Ukrainian crisis?

Answer: Russia and India maintain an intensive dialogue at the highest and high levels, including on the situation in Ukraine. This topic was repeatedly discussed in [recent telephone conversations between the leaders of the two countries](#), during which President of the Russian Federation V.V. fundamental assessments of Kiev's aggressive actions against the civilian population of the DPR and LPR.

We highly appreciate (we talk about it publicly all the time) the independent position of New Delhi on the Ukrainian issue, based on the readiness to assist the peace process and the need to ensure humanitarian access to the affected areas. We are grateful to our Indian friends for refusing to politicize the activities of international organizations and not joining the illegitimate unilateral sanctions of the US, the EU and their satellites.

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Question: Now the EU is trying to assume a role in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Confirmation of this is the meeting in Brussels last week. How does Moscow feel about such an initiative from the West? Does Brussels help Moscow or oust it in the issue of normalizing relations between Baku and Yerevan?

Answer: We proceed from the fact that the basis of the Armenian-Azerbaijani normalization process is the trilateral agreements between the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia dated [November 9, 2020](#), [January 11](#) and [November 26, 2021](#). Last weekend, April 9 this year. President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin discussed with his colleagues President of Azerbaijan I.G. Aliyev and Prime Minister of Armenia N.V. Pashinyan the whole range of issues related to their implementation. This topic was the focus of attention held on April 8 this year. [negotiations in Moscow between the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry S.V. Lavrov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia A.S. Mirzoyan](#), as

well [astelephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan D. Bayramov](#) . In the course of these contacts, in particular, the issues of delimitation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, unblocking transport links in the South Caucasus and the conclusion of a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia were touched upon. Russia will continue to render all possible assistance to the normalization of relations between Baku and Yerevan. As for the role of the EU, Sergey Lavrov gave all assessments at [a press conference following the results of negotiations](#) with Alexander Mirzoyan on April 8 this year.

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Question (translated from English): Russian officials have previously stated that they do not rule out expanding cooperation, including in the field of defense, with partners in the Western Hemisphere in response to growing US and NATO military activity near Russia's borders. The Western powers have begun to do just that, by deploying additional US soldiers and military equipment on NATO's eastern flank. Given this situation, has Russia considered expanding its presence in partner countries in Latin America, including Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua?

Answer: Let me remind you that the events that took place in Ukraine, as well as the United States and NATO countries behind Kiev, crossed the well-known "red lines", showed that Latin America continues to be an independent, original direction of our country's foreign policy.

We understand that Latin Americans are currently under powerful pressure from the United States and the "collective West". For this, the whole arsenal of means is used, which has nothing to do with diplomacy and something legal, this is political influence, economic leverage and individual blackmail. In their pressure, the United States and the "collective West" frankly do not care about the global socio-economic consequences of anti-Russian sanctions, including for the region of their own residence. If we are talking about the two Americas - South (Latin) and North, this is a single organism and structure.

As a result of the imposition of illegal restrictive measures against Russia, global supply chains have been disrupted, and there has been a sharp increase in food prices. Naturally, due to the fact that there has been a sharp increase in fuel prices around the world, we hear the "baby talk" of American politicians who have come up with nothing better than every day to blame Russia for the rise in fuel prices. They say that V.V. Putin raised the price of gasoline in the USA. No, it's not because of V.V. Putin that gasoline prices have become high in America and in this region, no matter what N. Pelosi, J. Biden, J. Psaki say. This is because of those who developed sanctions and did not assume that they were a boomerang, they would quickly return to them. Or, if it is more convenient for them, they will rebound on their own economy.

Traditionally, Russian-Latin American interaction was free from any ideological restrictions. It was not subject to any opportunistic factors and was never directed against third countries.

We have always been open to mutually beneficial cooperation, further constructive cooperation with Latin Americans in all areas - from politics and trade to the humanitarian and military-technical spheres. At the same time, we emphasize that our current cooperation in the field of military-technical cooperation is carried out strictly in accordance with bilateral agreements, with respect for national legislation and international legal norms, and is not aimed at changing the military-political balance of forces in the region, much less directed against other countries.

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Question: Jean Borrell, head of EU diplomacy, spoke not so long ago about a "military solution" to the problem of Ukraine. Earlier, with obvious regret, he said that Russia "prepared" for sanctions and transferred part of the funds to countries where they would not be blocked. Where do you see the value for Russia of maintaining relations with the European Union as an organization?

Answer: [A commentary with appropriate assessments of the statements made by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Jean Borrell](#) , made by him following his

visit to Ukraine, was posted yesterday on the official website of the Ministry. I recommend that you familiarize yourself with it, as well as with the answers of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov to the relevant questions, transcripts and videos are available on our website.

I can only note once again that the statements of a European official that "this war will be won on the battlefield" confirm that today's European Union has finally renounced its lofty peacekeeping ideals laid down by the founding fathers. They wanted a new war in Europe to be "unthinkable and impossible." J. Borrell came today and ruined everything.

Before the eyes of the whole world, the EU is degenerating into a militarized and aggressive instrument of external expansion, reinforcing its far from market methods of work with such militaristic aspirations. There is no limit to the hypocrisy of the European Union - assistance to Kiev in order to help Ukrainian neo-Nazis continue to kill people with impunity is provided through the European Peace Foundation. The true values of the exceptional "enlightened West" are evidenced by the widespread use by EU politicians of the Nazi slogan, I will not repeat it - it is a tracing from the greeting used in Nazi Germany. Maybe the Brussels officials do it thoughtlessly, but they also have ideologists, speech writers, people who are engaged in fact-checking, they could tell what kind of greeting this is? N. Pelosi in the USA got out of the situation, now says "Glory to Wuhan". They, too, could come up with something for themselves. The EU media space is being "cleansed" of alternative views everywhere, unprecedented pressure is being exerted in the EU countries on Russians and Russian-speakers, ranging from citizens, the media, public figures, ending with business, humanitarian organizations. There is only one desire: for them to abandon today's Russia, from their historical homeland. They signed some papers, literally and figuratively, or gave some kind of virtual oath of allegiance to the Western world. This is 1930s Germany. Burning of books in the squares, torchlight processions, greetings and refusal in written or oral form (dissociation) from national feelings, traditions, cultural roots in favor of the current (then called so) liberal democratic community. All the same.

The theses about the need for a political solution and support for negotiations have disappeared from the EU lexicon. There is none of this. It is clear why: a political decision will interfere with their main goal - the continuation of the proxy war to the last Ukrainian. And this is actually so. At first, they looked at how some Ukrainians blocked accounts, railway routes, logistics, money transfers from other citizens of Ukraine. They watched for eight years how one part of Ukraine mocked another part. At that time we were not involved in such an open phase of the conflict, but we helped with food, money, medicines, humanitarian aid. The EU did not help. They were satisfied with this situation of destruction of one part of Ukraine by another. Now the "bonfire" is even bigger. Apparently, there is no limit to their joy.

Such "diplomacy" of the EU runs counter to the interests of the inhabitants of European countries, striving for peace and stability, preventing manifestations of Nazism and discrimination on our common continent.

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Question: Do Russian diplomatic missions in European countries monitor the Decree of Russian President Vladimir Putin on a special procedure for the fulfillment by foreign buyers of obligations to Russian suppliers of natural gas? Are there any preliminary estimates?

Answer: Russian diplomatic missions are constantly monitoring and analyzing statements by the leadership of host countries on important economic issues, including the aforementioned [Decree of the President of Russia dated March 31 this year](#). concerning the transition to payment in rubles for Russian gas exports to unfriendly countries.

Some states interested in continuing mutually beneficial gas supplies from Russia have declared their readiness to study the Russian proposal, which was the result of undermining confidence in the previous system of mutual settlements due to restrictive measures introduced by Western countries.

We also note the negative reaction of some politicians. One gets the impression that some European leaders, without understanding the essence of the matter, decided to demonstrate their anti-Russian attitude. Recall that the new payment scheme for gas does not require changing the payment currency specified in the contracts. All that is being introduced is a requirement to open currency and ruble

accounts with a Russian authorized bank, through which funds from the buyer, after the sale of currency at the MICEX auction, will be credited to the seller's accounts.

It is too early to comment on how the companies involved in the purchase of Russian gas and payments for them will behave in practice. April deliveries will be paid at the end of the month or in May. So far, Russia is fully fulfilling its contractual obligations, including the transit of gas through the territory of Ukraine. Apparently, Ukraine urges everyone to give up everything, but itself feels fine with the Russian gas passing through its territory.

I would also like to separately comment on the words of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, L. Di Maio, who called Russia's demand to open ruble accounts for Russian gas, which we supply to Italy, blackmail. At first I was surprised. Then I remembered: in Italy, the lira had long been abandoned. Therefore, it is strange for them that there are countries and states in which there is still a national currency.

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Question: April 11 this year. US President John Biden, in video talks with Indian Prime Minister N. Modi, again asked India to stop buying Russian oil in order to deprive Russia of income from the sale of energy resources, and said that if agreed, he could help with diversification from other suppliers. In turn, the head of the Indian Ministry of Defense, in an interview with the Indian media, called Russia a natural ally, but noted that "New Delhi will not allow relations with a third country to negatively affect Washington's national interests." How do you assess Russian-Indian relations in this difficult period, what is the probability of India's refusal to support energy and defense cooperation in favor of US national interests? Does Moscow plan to take measures to deepen cooperation with New Delhi?

Answer: I have already commented on our bilateral relations. Despite the unprecedented sanctions pressure from the United States and its allies, our relations with India are developing progressively. April 1 this year [Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov visited New Delhi](#), where he was received by Prime Minister N. Modi, and also held detailed talks with his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar.

Energy and military-technical cooperation are traditionally the key areas of the especially privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India. Building further cooperation in these areas is one of the unconditional priorities of the two countries. We are committed to the fulfillment of the obligations previously assumed, including following the results of those obligations that were reached, the agreements within the framework of the [visit to India on December 6, 2021 of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin](#).

Among the clear examples of many years of successful joint work in the above areas are the construction of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant, the development of the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas field, and the creation of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. Therefore, we do not let our partners down, we know how to be friends, despite any difficulties. This is part of the history of any state.

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Question: The United States and Great Britain responded to Ukrainian media reports based on statements from the secretariat of the People's Militia of E.A.Basurin about the alleged use of chemical weapons by the DPR forces and the Russian military during the liberation of Mariupol, saying that they were "preparing a response" to the possible use of this type of weapon. Is it planned to publish a separate commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a refutation on this issue? Would the Russian authorities be ready to allow representatives of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) into the territory of the DPR or into Russia to provide the necessary evidence of the work done in 2017, if such a request is received? (In 2017, work was already underway to eliminate all chemical weapons, and the same organization recorded that at the time of 2017 there were no chemical weapons left in Russia?)

Answer: It has already been fixed. Or do you mean what to do with the British, American and Ukrainian accusations? We know what to do with them. The Russian Foreign Ministry continues to record the appearance of various insinuations in the West and in Kyiv regarding the alleged use of toxic chemicals and chemical weapons by the people's militia of the DPR or LPR, as well as by the Russian military in the Donbass. Today there was news of an exotic plan that the Pentagon or one of the American security officials or J. Psaki said that there were no such data, but they could be (this is their favorite phrase). But they can use the means of spraying that are used against demonstrators. Some sort of fantasy.

Speculation on this subject is absolutely groundless. Regarding the fact that we said that there will be special messages, we comment on this regularly. Now, answering your question. I can say that this is absolutely baseless speculation. At the same time, I would like to recall that information from the Russian Ministry of Defense was recently made public that it was the Kiev authorities that were negotiating with the Turkish manufacturer of BYKAR UAVs on the subject of "improving" Bayraktar Akinci military aircraft manufactured by this company with mechanisms for spraying certain substances from 20 liter containers. I'm guessing it's not water. There are doubts that this is holy water.

Moreover, we are talking about people who do not shun anything. These footage of bullying is not just "leaked" to the network. They do it all with pleasure. This is a matter of their special pride, for them it is absolutely the norm to use means that provide opportunities for greater destruction - no matter the enemy, the civilian population, the territory, etc.

According to experts, the use of such aircraft in equipment with the indicated volumes, even chemical warfare agents, is ineffective from a military point of view, but the delivery of biological weapons in this way, which, even in such small quantities, can cause much more significant damage to the population, which has been exposed for eight years of genocide by nationalists in Ukraine is quite real. Moreover, the scale of the US military biological activities in the order of 30 specialized laboratories on the territory of Ukraine, operating under the auspices of the Pentagon, is already well known to everyone.

We emphasize once again that any insinuations about the use of chemical weapons by Russia have no basis and only remind of a series of accusations of a similar nature against the Syrian authorities, the Russian Aerospace Forces on the territory of Syria, against the backdrop of endless chemical provocations carried out by the pseudo-humanitarian NGO "White helmets." The White Helmets have now become more active, they came to London and received instructions. There is evidence of their activation in the context of events in Ukraine. So look there. I think soon everything will become clear and will be confirmed by facts.

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Question: In a recent interview, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Russia's special military operation is aimed at ending US dominance in the world. Does this mean that Russia does not rule out an escalation of the war, including a possible direct military confrontation with NATO?

Answer: I would like to immediately remind the rest of our colleagues of the full quotation from Sergey Lavrov's interview with the Rossiya 24 TV channel: "Our special military operation is designed to put an end to the reckless course of complete US dominance in the world. We are talking not only and not so much about Ukraine. Not everyone is ready to obey their dominance. Russia, of course, with its history and with its traditions, is one of those countries that will never occupy a subordinate position." Now this is a test of the strength of the whole world. Who is a friend, who is an enemy, and who is so. Who can oppose, who has the potential to conduct an independent sovereign foreign policy, and who has exchanged, sold, surrendered this sovereignty, lost it for a while, forgot about it. Anything can happen. There are no single patterns. Now there is a global check.

This meant (when S.V. Lavrov spoke about this) that the United States and NATO countries. Before - it is the cultivation, feeding, training of militants, who later proved themselves on the "Maidan", in camps in the Baltic countries and Poland, then the implementation of an anti-constitutional coup at the expense of these resources, which were well-trained trained militants with weapons in their hands, who knew how to fight in the street, with material and political support, etc. After this coup, a process of a different level, when the hidden forces that trained as militants gradually began to receive military weapons and

legitimize on the territory of Ukraine, and began to join the ranks of the armed forces of Ukraine, infecting regular Ukrainian troops with this neo-Nazi bacillus. Here's what to remember. On this base, "anti-Russia" was created from Ukraine, in a historical context, it was actively pumped up with weapons, turning its territory into a military foothold against our country. And not only against our country. 30 biological laboratories are not only against our country. With whom else does Ukraine neighbor? Biological weapons spread regardless of borders, they have no limit. 30 biological laboratories are not only against our country. With whom else does Ukraine neighbor? Biological weapons spread regardless of borders, they have no limit. 30 biological laboratories are not only against our country. With whom else does Ukraine neighbor? Biological weapons spread regardless of borders, they have no limit.

Russia has always done everything to prevent a military confrontation with NATO. We hope that the West will have enough common sense to avoid further escalation. But you are asking the right question. Escalation from the West is underway. Arms deliveries, material support, complete political, ideological, moral carte blanche, deliberate suppression of these facts, propaganda. This is part of the escalation.

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Question: The Japanese Security Service has excluded the Ukrainian Azov Battalion from the 2021 International Terrorism Handbook and expressed regret about this situation. How can you comment on this?

Answer: Today I [already commented](#) on this topic. I don't have more details at the moment.

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Question: French intelligence claims that the US and UK are waging a "secret war" against Russia in Ukraine. The same information was published in the Russian media. What is Moscow's position on this matter?

Answer: I don't see anything "secret" in their actions. Of course, there is also an underwater part, which is not visible to ordinary people, but it is clearly visible to specialists.

It seems to me that the "surface" part is quite enough to understand the role of these countries. I already talked about this today. We've been talking about this all these years. Creation of a springboard for conducting a hybrid war against our country, training militants under neo-nationalist cover, then incorporating them into the armed forces of the state and legitimizing them, creating dangerous "points" for the development of biological weapons under the guise of supposedly the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, but in fact they acted under the auspices and with Pentagon money. We are talking about creating a real monster on the territory of Ukraine. Training and testing of all these methodologies was carried out on citizens of Ukraine who live in the south-east of Ukraine and border on the territory of Russia. The role of these countries is obvious, it is not hidden.

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Question: The British "The Times" reported that the "White Helmets", remembered for a number of provocations in Syria, offered assistance to Ukraine. What do you think, what could such "cooperation" turn out to be, given how many fakes come from the Ukrainian side during the Russian special operation?

Answer: It will turn into a whole series of provocations, similar to those that took place on the territory of Syria. With a large number of informational staged materials, a number of actions that are well known to the Western media community and understandable to the local inhabitants. Now they will blame Russia at a new level and at the same time use everything that has been worked out on the territory of Syria. There is no doubt about it. They received instructions. The British special services, the main ones on "poisons", instruct them, their specialists are both on the territory of Ukraine and abroad. The White Helmets are back in the game. They are financed by the State Department, Great Britain, NATO structures. They were created for this and, in practical terms, taught everything on the territory of Syria. Now a new task has

been set. The methodology is the same. They are familiar to the media space of the West. They don't need to be unrolled. They went through an Oscar nomination, received a number of prestigious international awards, and became a transnational company. At the same time, being a front for the unsightly and illegal activities of Western intelligence services, primarily American and British.

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Question (translated from English): **ITV News and many other organizations have documented numerous alleged war crimes in Ukraine. US President John Biden accused Russia of genocide in Ukraine. What is your answer to this?**

Answer: The press service of the White House should comment on President George Biden. As a rule, after his statements, the press service issues two or three denials. Let's wait, maybe they will refute it once again.

With all due respect to democratic institutions that allow people in America to make their choice by voting, and recognizing this choice as legitimate, we respect the opinion of the American people and recognize American President John Biden. But not all of his statements are, frankly, adequate. This is proved by the work of his administration, which constantly makes adjustments to what he said, disavows or gives additional explanations. But the most interesting thing is that even the formation of his statements occurs with the help of some people who write theses to him. Did he read them correctly? Did he hit all the words and letters? I can not tell you. It is impossible to take seriously at such an important moment such statements that are made with regularity as the official position of the state. Because the press service of the White House constantly disavows what was said by its own president. I will not comment on these words and statements.

Speaking in general, regarding the position of the US Administration, we can talk not only about the current position and accusations against Russia. Let's look in retrospect. When was it different? When have we not been accused by the US administration or Downing Street of something? Can you remember the year when there was no announcement of another "guilt" of our country? There hasn't been a single year like this in the last 15 years. Every year we were guilty of something. There is only one small nuance. After these statements, no evidence was presented.

Today's accusations are made against the backdrop of an eight-year silence of the administration of the current and previous US presidents, the silence of Downing Street, Brussels regarding the real genocide that took place in the Donbass. Now, if US President J. Biden, D. Trump, the presidents of other NATO countries, British Prime Ministers B. Johnson, T. May, if they had made at least one statement over the course of eight years reproaching the Kiev regime with calls to stop shelling of civilians, I would believe in their sincerity. As of today, you cannot present me with a single statement from Washington, London, Brussels regarding the Ukrainian presidents V.A. Zelensky or P.A. Poroshenko with an urgent demand to stop shelling civilian objects, killing children for eight years, transport routes for food, medicines, sending humanitarian aid to the residents of Donbass. These statements have never been made. And there were victims. And there were thousands of them. Accordingly, one must sign one thing - the hypocrisy of those who make such statements. If they do not see the killing of the civilian population for eight years, there is no trust in their assessments either.

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Question (translated from English): **You spoke about Western governments, including the UK, who were talking about fakes about the brutal actions in Ukraine. What evidence do you have for this?**

Answer: When an allegation is made that someone is involved in a crime, evidence must be presented.

The Kyiv regime, Washington, London, a number of Western capitals accused Russia of the events in Bucha. I address your question to them - where is the evidence? As alleged evidence, they presented photographic and video materials, which were disavowed by us. They stated that these are either photographic materials that were taken after the departure of the Russian armed forces from there, or are

not reliable at all. Therefore, the evidence of the accusation should be presented by those who originally made these accusations.

Second moment. A lot of materials were presented in support of our position. There is an interview and a public statement made by the mayor of the settlement of Buchi, A.P. Fedorchuk, immediately after the armed forces of the Russian Federation left from there. He said that the city was without the Russian military, that life was getting back to normal. He did not say a single word about what we were then accused of. For any normal person, this situation will no longer have a logical continuation. Because if the mayor of Bucha A.P. Fedorchuk says that life is getting back to normal, he says it on camera and no one stands behind him with a gun barrel, he is free in his assessments, joyful, careless, it means no tragedy he did not see. The tragedy appeared a few days later, when Ukrainian militants arrived there.

There is another moment. In the village of Bucha, when Russian servicemen were there, the people who lived there had their mobile phones working. People had the Internet, communication with the outside world. They could take photos, send messages, make calls to the media, send relevant photos, leave voice messages, and so on. There was none of this. Do you know why? Because there were no facts on which they could call, tell and send materials. These facts appeared only when the Ukrainian military arrived there. We talked about how this is a staged story. Made exactly according to the same patterns that have been used for staged stories in Syria for several years, using chemical materials. And before that, one of the biggest staged stories in Europe is Srebrenica. She was passed off as one thing, but then,

Therefore, the evidence base of the accusations made by the West against us crumbled. Do not have another one. Some experts are now sent there, who will sort it out on the spot. We presume that they will find the strength to conduct a real depoliticized investigation. But I strongly doubt it. Do you know why?

May I ask you a rhetorical question (I think you will not answer it): what about the Skripals? You represent a British TV channel. Have you ever seen them? Have you spoken to them? How many years have passed. We were accused of being poisoned. Only once, on the camera of an unknown TV channel, most likely on the camera of the British special services, was a recording of the daughter of S.V. Skripal. And they did not answer any questions from journalists, the public, or investigators that could be presented to the whole world. No one knows where they are, what happened to them and what happened then. Scotland Yard took over the investigation. How much more time does Scotland Yard and all the rest of the British intelligence services need to figure out what happened then. At the same time, measures were introduced against our country, accusations were made and statements were made from the Prime Minister, British Foreign Secretary. This is the provocative behavior that lies at the heart of Western politics.

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Question: If it's not a secret, will the traditional Immortal Regiment procession take place in Moscow? If so, will the Russian foreign missions support the accelerated issuance of visas for those wishing to take part in the procession? Have invitations to participate in the Victory Day celebrations been sent to any foreign states?

Answer: You are right – the Immortal Regiment procession has already become an integral tradition of celebrating Victory Day. It takes place in different cities of Russia. Due to the pandemic, there were also virtual formats. In our country, this action will live. Those responsible for this event must announce in what form and when the procession will take place.

Organizers from public organizations are currently considering in what format it will be held in person or online. The question is for them, but we will certainly take part in this. Let's define the format. If a decision is made to hold a face-to-face Moscow Immortal Regiment and some of the foreign guests and journalists want to join it, we will, as always, provide assistance. But first, the organizers must decide on the format.

Abroad, our embassies are working on this issue, taking into account the full range of factors. We will definitely inform you when a decision is made.

As for inviting foreign countries to celebrate Victory Day, I would like to remind once again that this issue traditionally falls within the competence of the Presidential Administration of Russia. We keep track of the information. We are waiting for it to be published.

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