Substantial developments around and in Ukraine

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ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue 2022 in Washington – "Only if no word of blaming Russia is pronounced..."

US President Joe Biden hosted in Washington on 12-13 May, the special Partnership summit USA Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam (Myanmar and Philippines didn't take a part) to commemorate 45 years of establishing US-ASEAN ties.

From the sources in the couloirs, ASEAN participating leaders told the hosting partners during the event that they were ready to be present at the closing speech "only if no word of blaming Russia is pronounced…"

Hence, Ms. Kamala Harris attempts to say "work together" as many times as possible in just 30 seconds. If you want to witness, please, watch video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IT1doZvmlM

"The USA and Ukraine giving false information on the Biological Weapons Convention" – Duma *ad hoc* Commission

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Mrs. Irina Yarovaya, Vice-Speaker of the State Duma, has made this statement in Moscow on May 16 at the meeting of the Federation Council's *ad hoc* Commission on biological laboratories of the USA *i.a.* in Ukraine.

In particular, both countries denied the involvement of military personnel and the financing of programs by defense departments.

...Kiev did not provide information about outbreaks of infectious diseases, "which is a mandatory requirement of the Convention."

Dozens of such biolabs around Russia and worldwide are a threat to the whole world – concluded the participants.

Washington continues to ignore the demands of the Russian Federation to explain goals and agenda of dozens of the US bio-laboratories in the post-Soviet republics, but such a mutism is more eloquent than words.

Whitewashing Ukrainian Nazi *Azov* regiments the USA removed 5 other extremist groups from the National Terrorism Blacklist

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Washington is dropping five – believed-to-be inactive – extremist groups from its terrorism list, some of which are responsible for hundreds of deaths across Asia and Europe.

The 'whitelisted' groups include the Basque separatist group ETA, the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo, the radical Jewish group Kahane Kach and two Middle-Eastern Islamist organizations – The Mujahidin Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem and Gama'a al-Islamiyya, or Islamic Group-IG, an Egyptian Sunni Islamist movement.

According to the State Secretary Anthony Blinken, the decision to remove the groups from terror watch lists was made after a mandated review of their operative status, which is required every five years.

The U.S. is in the most challenging energy crisis in the last 50 years and the Biden administration has no strategy

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"The U.S. is in the "most challenging" energy crisis in the last 50 years and the Biden administration has "no strategy" to help the U.S. get out of record-high gasoline and diesel prices", Oil and Gas Association President Tim Stewart comments.

 $\begin{tabular}{lll} Watch & the & full & video & here & \underline{https://www.foxnews.com/media/u-s-oil-gas-association-president-country-facing-most-challenging-energy-crisis-50-years} \\ \hline \end{tabular}$

EU oil embargo on Russia is not feasible, at least in foreseeable future Published on May 16, 2022 https://t.me/rtnews/24575

European union has found itself divided on the oil embargo on Russia after 10 days of talks, with Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria strongly objecting.

The EU Commission has informed companies they can make payments in USD or Euros to Gazprombank accounts, without breaching sanctions placed on the entity.

The EU Foreign Policy chief Josep Borrell has admitted he wasn't sure the situation could be "deblocked."

Some Sergey Lavrov's remarks on strategic stability

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov remarked in Moscow at the 30th Assembly of the Russian Council on Foreign and Defence Policy: "...We did everything in our power to avoid a direct conflict. But they issued a challenge and we have accepted it."

We do not remember anything like the current massive and synchronised expulsion of diplomats happening even in the grimmest Cold War years.

The Americans started preparing the current crisis long ago, right after the end of the Cold War, having decided that the way to global hegemony was then open. NATO's eastward expansion has been one of the key components of such a course.

On NATO's plans to call Russia a "direct threat" - Sergei Ryabkov

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Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, commenting on NATO's plans to designate Russia as a "direct threat", said that the Russian Federation would have to comply with this.

"We will create a direct threat to them in order to be at the height of this assessment," he told reporters. Previously, *Bloomberg*, citing an unnamed NATO representative, reports that the new strategic concept of the alliance, which will be adopted in Madrid at the June NATO summit, could label Russia's behavior as an "imminent threat."

CSTO Summit in Moscow

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Heads of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) member states assessed the development of international situation in the region of the CSTO responsibility and signed some multilateral documents at the summit that took place in the Russian capital on Monday, May 16.

They included a statement of the Collective Security Council in honor of the 30th anniversary of the Treaty and the 20th anniversary of the Organization.

The Joint Statement – taking into account the experience gained during the CSTO peacekeeping operation in Kazakhstan, – confirms the determination of the CSTO countries to continue to cooperate as partners in various areas of military and defense development and to increase coordinated action on the international stage.

The meeting was attended by Putin, Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

The CSTO is an international security organization including six member states: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Collective Security Treaty was signed on May 15, 1992 in Tashkent.

The Collective Security Council is the supreme body of the CSTO. It includes the heads of the states that are members of the Organization.

300 wounded Ukrainian military evacuated from Azovstal plant on May 16

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On May 16 an agreement was reached to evacuate the wounded as a result of negotiations with representatives of Ukrainian servicemen blocked at the *Azovstal* Iron and Steel Works in Mariupol.

On Monday, May 16 ceasefire regime was established in the area of the enterprise and a humanitarian corridor was opened, through which *circa* 300 wounded Ukrainian military were transported to a medical facility in Novoazovsk, Donetsk People's Republic, to provide them with all immediate necessary assistance.