

# RUSSIAN EMBASSY WEEKLY

# 392

GO OVI!



# PRESIDENT ПРЕЗИДЕНТ

## **Greetings to participants of the International Forum, Memory of the Victors: 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War**

### **Президент Российской Федерации В.В.Путин направил телеграмму участникам международного форума «Память победителей. 80 лет Победы в Великой Отечественной войне»**

Vladimir Putin sent greetings to the participants of the International Forum, Memory of the Victors: 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

“It is heartening to see that your forum has become a good tradition, once again bringing together representatives of civic, search, and volunteer organisations, as well as coordinators of the Immortal Regiment project from cities across Russia and many countries around the world. Moved by a deep sense of duty, hundreds of thousands of people globally participate in the large-scale Immortal Regiment marches and contribute to a wide range of patriotic, creative, and information projects. They sincerely strive to preserve the memory of the most devastating war of the 20th century and the heroic generation of the victors by meticulously searching archives for photographs and documents about their relatives and loved ones. In



today's challenging times, such unity and commitment to historical truth take on particular significance, as we are witnessing efforts in many countries to promote Nazism and Russophobia, to revise the outcomes of World War II, and to distort the role our nation played in securing the Great Victory.

I am confident that during the forum, you will engage in discussions on a broad range of topics related to the organisation of public events marking the anniversary of the Great Victory, share experience and propose new initiatives that will strengthen our connections with compatriots and foster international humanitarian cooperation as a whole.”

## Meeting with US President's Special Envoy Steve Witkoff

### Встреча со спецпосланником Президента США Стивеном Уиткоффом



On April 11, 2025 the President of Russia held a meeting with Steve Witkoff, Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America. The meeting is focused on the aspects of the Ukraine crisis settlement.



## **Greetings to participants of the 3rd International Festival of Women's Creativity, Creative Industries, and Family Values "Sochi Spring"**

### **Участникам III Международного фестиваля женского творчества, креативных индустрий и семейных ценностей «Сочинская весна»**

Vladimir Putin sent his greetings to participants of the 3rd International Festival of Women's Creativity, Creative Industries, and Family Values "Sochi Spring".

"Forum participants represent leading public, scientific, educational, and entrepreneurial organisations of our country and a number of foreign states, holding leadership positions across diverse spheres of professional activity. I am therefore confident that your authoritative opinion and extensive experience in the realisation of social and other projects will be highly valuable in discussing pressing

issues concerning women and our entire society today.

The current agenda focuses on such important matters as support for families, particularly those with multiple children, enhancing the role of women in the life of the state and society, creating conditions for their creative self-realisation and personal growth, active participation in charitable and cultural initiatives, and providing effective assistance to participants and veterans of the special military operation."

**Press release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's  
meeting with heads of diplomatic missions of Eurasian  
countries accredited in Moscow**

**В Москве состоялась встреча Министра иностранных  
дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова с главами  
дипломатических миссий ряда государств Евразии**



On April 7, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met in Moscow with heads of diplomatic missions from a number of Eurasian countries accredited in Russia.

In his opening remarks, the Minister gave principled assessments of the security situation in Eurasia. He pointed out the Euro-Atlantic

security concept crisis, brought the attendees' attention to NATO countries' dangerous moves aimed at destabilising the Asia-Pacific region, and mentioned the explosive situation in the Middle East and stability risks in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

An exchange of views was held

on issues related to implementing President Putin's initiative to create new security architecture in Eurasia with the participation of all Eurasian countries and their associations. The participants emphasised the importance of stability in Eurasia, the principle of indivisible security, and Eurasian countries' primary responsibility in addressing Eurasian issues. The importance of the international conference held in Minsk annually as a venue for a serious discussion of Eurasian security issues was underscored as well.

The Minister brought the audience's attention to the initiative put forward by the Republic of Belarus which was supported by the Russian Federation to prepare the Eurasian 21st Century Diversity and Multipolarity Charter which is a policy document that could be used to lay out the continental security architecture framework parameters.

The discussion revolved around other international issues as well, including Russia-US dialogue and the Ukraine settlement.

## **Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement at the opening ceremony of a TASS photo exhibition "Their Immortal Heroism"**

### **Выступление министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова на церемонии открытия фотовыставки ТАСС Их Подвиг Бессмертен**



We are delighted to open a photo exhibition, Their Immortal Heroism, at the Foreign Ministry today. It includes archival photographs, official statements and reports by TASS correspondents made in the past few months of the Great Patriotic War. <...>

When speaking about the Great Victory, we recall the combat heroism of Soviet soldiers, who have saved the world from the Nazi plague. The "information army" greatly contributed to the common efforts to defeat the enemy. The courageous

TASS correspondents risked their lives every day to create a chronicle of the 1,418 days of that war. To this day, their photographs and reports remain a vital source of reliable information about those events.

TASS played a special role in exposing Nazi propaganda. The Agency's materials revealed the criminal nature of Nazism and its deadly threat to humanity. Thanks to the journalists' work, the world learned about the courageous defenders of Moscow, Leningrad and Stalingrad and about the atrocities the



invaders committed in the occupied Soviet territories. TASS photographs were included in the verdict of the Nuremberg Trials.

The TASS Windows war-time posters made an invaluable contribution to Victory. They showed that art and satire can be a lethal weapon in capable hands. These posters have become widely popular not only in our country but also beyond it, where they could be acquired by subscription and included in the exhibitions held in Washington, Johannesburg, London, Beijing, Istanbul, Stockholm and Tehran.

This TASS legacy is especially important today when more and more attempts are being made in the West to rewrite history and overhaul the political, international legal and moral results of the Great Victory in the Second World War. Our country's role in defeating the enemy is being deliberately played down. The monstrous crimes committed by the Nazis and their accomplices and collaborators are being justified. The very principle of outlawing the man-hating Nazi ideology is being undermined. I would like to remind you that it is one of the fundamentals principles of the post-war world order, known as the Yalta-Potsdam world order, alongside the primacy of

international law and the central role of the UN, and primarily its Security Council, in balancing the interests of states.<...>

A relevant example is a letter, which you can see at the exhibition, from the head of Poland's Provisional Government to the Soviet leadership, dated February 16, 1945, with assurances of eternal friendship between Polish, Russian and all other Soviet peoples. Equally eloquent are the photographs made in the liberated European cities, showing people welcome Soviet soldiers with joy and present them with flowers. The EU prefers to forget about these documents and is trying to eradicate this memory, but facts cannot be erased from history.<...>

I believe that this exhibition can be shown not only in Russia but also beyond it, also based on the possibilities of the embassies and Russia Houses, wherever they exist.

In conclusion, I would like to note that we also regard this exposition as our tribute to the 17 TASS journalists who perished in the war, as well as to our colleagues from the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs who died in battle and while delivering diplomatic bags or accompanying foreign journalists to the front line.



## Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's interview for the 'Newm TASS' educational media project

### Интервью Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова для образовательного медиапроекта «Ньюм ТАСС»



**Question:** My name is Vasilisa Pankova. I am an 11-year school student and winner of the 'MediaClass-in-TASS 2.0' competition. This year, our country celebrates the 80th Anniversary of Great Victory. I have participated in the competition with support from the National Centre for Historical Memory. While we in Russia cherish the memory of those who defeated Nazism during the Great Patriotic War, the West is attempting in every way to "forget" and distort our history. Is it worthwhile to "give them a shake" somehow?

**Sergey Lavrov:** We have sought to "give them a shake" for a number of years now. In fact, the tendency to

cast a veil over history emerged long before the special military operation. There were active attempts to equate the winners and the vanquished and to undermine and smear the role of the Soviet Union.

Our contacts with German diplomats over at least the past seven or eight years increasingly revealed a conviction on their part that they had paid everyone for everything and no longer owed anyone anything. That was a warning sign.

Germany has openly opted for a remilitarisation by changing its Constitution. It will borrow €800 billion to carry out an arms programme within the next three or four years. The ideology of Nazism is increasingly coming to the fore in the Federal Republic, despite the constitutional bans and rulings of the Nuremberg Trials.

But this is not limited to Germany alone. The same is happening in the Baltic States that are just living on Russophobia. <...> There are also some other countries in this category.

Generally speaking, we observe yet another “wave,” where Europe is again up in arms against our country. <...>

What is there behind this? Germany is undoubtedly out to regain its erstwhile grandeur, with the old Nazi instincts breaking out at the genetic level as something that might come in handy in this regard.

As for the rest of European countries, some of them want to finally delete from history the pages of their national disgrace, collaborationism and connivance at the Nazis, while others regard the Nazi ideology as a new tool for keeping their positions on the European political scene. We will fight this.

Forgetting history, forgetting national spiritual and moral values, forgetting national roots has become one of the main causes of what we are witnessing in Ukraine. The nation is being encouraged to forget its Russian roots and what Russia has done to liberate and develop the huge territory that makes part of what is now Ukraine. The Americans and Europeans have taken advantage of a crisis in the former Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to bring to power an openly Russophobic, Nazi regime that has declared a war on its own people. <...>

We have promoted for years a UN

General Assembly resolution against the glorification of Nazism. Each year, the overwhelming majority of states vote for it. Over the last couple of years, however, the West has meanly attempted to kill this resolution by submitting amendments that put Nazism on the same footing as what is going on within the framework of the special military operation.

But this did not prevent the resolution from remaining on the General Assembly agenda. It was approved again by an impressive margin of votes. This will continue in the future, too. <...>

All these things are important for preventing the recurrence of a situation where a half of Europe or even the whole of Europe would again be collected under the standard of Nazism and neo-Nazism and committed against our country, as, properly speaking, it is happening today. <...>

Our policy is aimed at preventing the sacred memory from ever disappearing from history and the minds of all generations, including the future ones. It remains unchanged. We are confident of our historical, moral and human righteousness.

## Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions following a meeting of the CIS Foreign Ministers Council

### Выступление и ответы на вопросы СМИ Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова по итогам СМИД СНГ



**Sergey Lavrov:** We have just completed our work within the framework of meetings of the CIS Foreign Ministers Council. We began yesterday with an informal conversation about current international and regional issues.

Today, we held two meetings, one in a restricted format, which was attended by the foreign ministers and their deputies, and the other in an expanded format, where several initiatives were

presented and documents were signed in your presence.

I would like to emphasise the special contribution our Kazakhstani friends have made to arranging these meetings. They have created the necessary conditions for our effective work. We would like to congratulate our Tajikistani comrades on the successful start of their CIS Chairmanship. We share the priorities Dushanbe has chosen for 2025 to build up

cooperation in all spheres and ensure continuity in our operations. These priorities include traditional foreign policy, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, as well as issues of special concern for Tajikistan, namely, the environment, climate and the promotion of contacts with external partners. We will provide all-round assistance to ensure the success of Tajikistan's Chairmanship.

We discussed the results of cooperation between our foreign ministries and the coordination of our activities on international venues in accordance with our Plan of Consultations in 2024. We have concluded with satisfaction that this Plan has been fulfilled.

These meetings were useful. They helped us learn more about each other's positions and coordinate our actions at the UN, the OSCE and other multilateral platforms.

I would like to point out that all of us laid special emphasis on the events dedicated to the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. We will be delighted to see our friends from the CIS states at the May 9 events held in Moscow to commemorate a date that is of superior importance to our fraternal peoples and humanity as a whole. President Vladimir Putin has

invited all CIS leaders to attend the Victory Day Parade and other events in Moscow. We hope to see them in Red Square on that day.

It has been decided today, in connection with the anniversary of the Great Victory, to introduce a new title in the CIS, City of Labour Glory, 1941-1945. The decision has been approved. The title will be awarded to cities the list of which we are coordinating now. We will soon make it public.

We discussed the latest international and regional developments, and I offered my colleagues an update regarding the Ukraine crisis. I reaffirmed Russia's continuing commitment to achieving a reliable, solid and lasting settlement. Addressing the root causes of the conflict constitutes the only path forward, and everyone knows this. This conflict has been many years in the making. In fact, it all started when NATO stepped up its eastward expansionist efforts going up to our border, while also encouraging an openly Nazi regime in Kiev. This regime came to power following a bloody anti-constitutional coup, and started, among other things, adopting laws to cancel everything Russian and anything pertaining to the Russian world, be it Russian language,



culture, or Russian-language media outlets, or the canonical Orthodoxy as represented by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and many other things.

I also offered my colleagues an insight into Russia's contacts with the United States at various levels, including in terms of Washington's efforts to facilitate a settlement for the Ukraine crisis. President of the United States Donald Trump keeps saying that this is what he is interested in. We can see that the United States is willing to go to the bottom of this issue, which sets it apart from Europe, including the UK, which has opted for ignoring the root causes of the current situation altogether.

President of the United States Donald Trump said many times during his public appearances that attempts to draw Ukraine into NATO were misguided. This mistake was a key factor behind the ongoing developments, and Moscow has been warning against going down this path all along. In addition, there is an understanding in the United States that there will be no going back to the 1991 borders, even if this objective is still on Vladimir Zelensky's wish list. Why? Everything else aside, there are people living in these territories, but Vladimir Zelensky views them as

species rather than humans. He has called them this way many times even before the special military operation started. And he suggested that people who identify with the Russian culture pack up and move to Russia. These were his words, and he said this before the special military operation. In one of his recent interviews, Vladimir Zelensky said that the feeling of hatred towards Russians was his main driving force. And when asked whether he hated Vladimir Putin as a person, he responded by saying that no, he hated all Russians. He hates them all. Putting this man in charge of these people once again would be unthinkable. We will never do that. There is a similar understanding within Donald Trump's administration. In their public statements they have said many times that Vladimir Zelensky would have to come to terms with the territorial issue.

This meeting paved the way for the adoption of a package of decisions on cultural and humanitarian affairs, law enforcement, as well as security matters. We approved several draft international treaties, including the draft programme of cooperation among CIS countries on strengthening security along the CIS external border in 2026-2030. In addition to this, we focused on documents

setting forth the main tracks for creating a common framework for monitoring developments in terms of radiation, chemical and biological security, as well as the basic principles governing our joint military-to-military communications systems within the CIS. We also discussed the initiative by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to establish a Volunteer Forum. It will now operate as a permanent platform within the CIS. We fully supported this initiative.

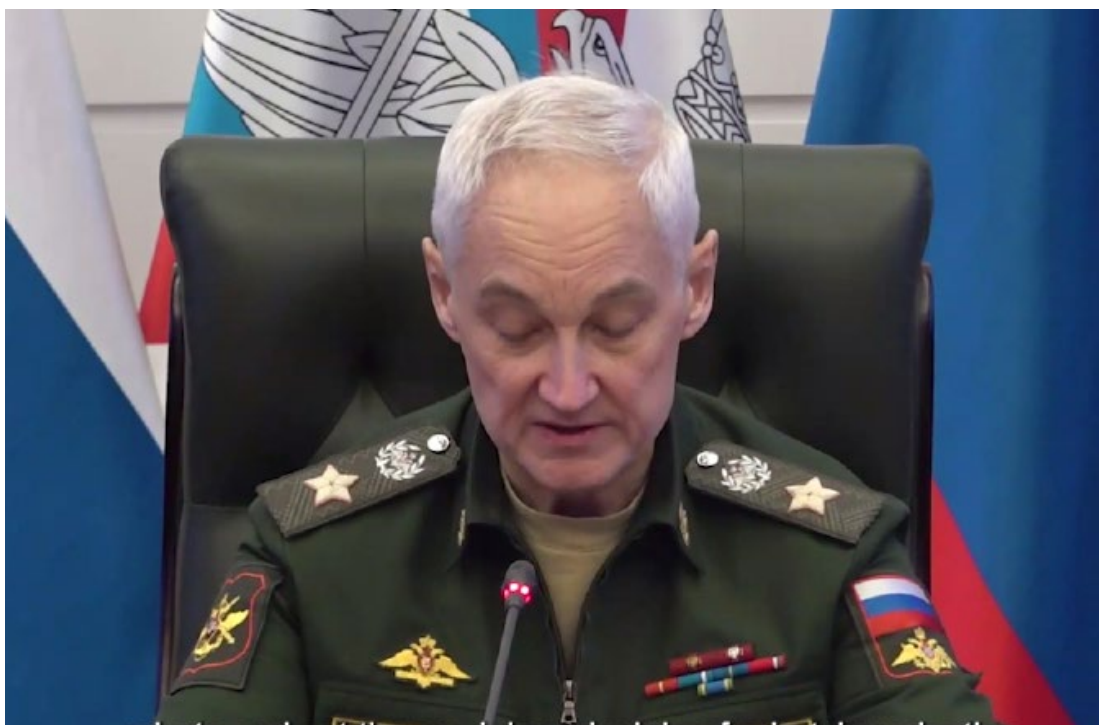
This movement has been gaining traction for several years now and we want it to reach an international dimension within the CIS.

We will be releasing some of the documents as decisions approved by the foreign ministers at the meeting. The rest of the papers were drafts to be signed by the heads of government when they hold their meetings in June and September, as well as at the summit, which is scheduled to take place on October 10 in Dushanbe at the level of heads of state.



**In 2025, it is planned to significantly increase supply of unmanned ground vehicles to Russian Armed Forces —  
Andrei Belousov**

**Андрей Белоусов: В 2025 году планируется  
значительно увеличить поставки наземных  
робототехнических комплексов в ВС РФ**



The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation saw a sci-tech conference on the exploitation and development of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), taking into account the experience of the special military operation. Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov chaired the conference.

‘In the long run, the role of UGVs

will only increase. In the coming years, it will be possible to speak about consolidation of all unmanned systems in all dimensions, operating according to a single plan,’ said the Russian Defense Minister.

Andrei Belousov noted that several hundred UGVs were supplied to the Russian Armed Forces by enterprises and volunteer organisations last year.

‘This year, we’re planning to deliver much more systems,’ announced the Minister. In addition, he said that today each Group of Forces has established its own production of UGVs. ‘Today, the exhibition had the samples of those robots that are produced in the troops. I’d like to stress that the systems produced in the troops have the best performances,’ added the chief of the Russian defence department

The Minister of Defense has ordered the responsible officials and relevant organisations to work out after the conference an order to address shortcomings of the drones basing on the requests from the troops. Moreover, it is necessary to put in place the feedback channel between the troops and the enterprises, integrate unified and standardised components

when manufacturing robots, and set the modular principle of robots’ production and design based on the mission.

‘We need to analyse constantly the combat employment of the UGVs. It is necessary to form a certain mechanism to improve specifications of the systems, and outline the tactics for combat employment of the UGVs in cooperation with other unmanned systems,’ stressed Andrei Belousov

The sci-tech conference of the Russian Defense Ministry was attended by representatives of the military department, federal bodies of the executive power, research and scientific organisations of the Russian Defense Ministry and industry enterprises.





# **SPECIAL MILITARY OPERATION СПЕЦИАЛЬНАЯ ВОЕННАЯ ОПЕРАЦИЯ**



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**О российско-американских консультациях в Стамбуле**

**PRESS RELEASE  
ON RUSSIAN-AMERICAN  
CONSULTATIONS IN ISTANBUL**

April 10 marked a round of Russian-American expert consultations in Istanbul, aimed at normalising the operations of the diplomatic missions of both nations and addressing accumulated bilateral “irritants.”

The delegations, led by Russian Ambassador to the United States Alexander Darchiev and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Sonata Coulter, exchanged diplomatic notes to formalise agreed commitments. These commitments are designed to facilitate unimpeded banking and financial services for Russian and American diplomatic missions, in addition to ensuring the fulfilment of the Russian Federation’s contributions to the budgets of the UN and other international organisations.

In the context of the issue raised by the Russian side regarding the return of six diplomatic real estate properties confiscated by the United States

authorities and lawfully owned by the Russian Federation, the parties agreed to develop a roadmap. Ambassador Alexander Darchiev emphasised the importance of urgent practical measures in this regard, including immediate access for Russian representatives to inspect these premises and assess incurred damages.

Discussions also continued on easing visa processing and travel regulations for diplomatic staff within the host countries. The Russian Ambassador pressed for accelerated progress in resolving pivotal issues to bolster mutual trust and expand bilateral business and social ties, such as resuming direct air flights.

Following the consultations, the parties resolved to promptly refine the proposals tabled. The objective remains to achieve mutually acceptable solutions ahead of the next round, the timing of which is currently under coordination.

**Russian Ambassador to the US A.Darchiev attended  
a solemn divine service at St. Nicholas Patriarchal  
Cathedral in New York**

**Посол России в США А.Н.Дарчиев посетил  
торжественное богослужение в Свято-Николаевском  
патриаршем соборе Нью-Йорка**



On April 7, Russian Ambassador to the United States A.Darchiev attended as a guest of honor a solemn divine service at St. Nicholas Patriarchal Cathedral in New York on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of St. Tikhon of Moscow, who nurtured the Orthodox flock and

brought the light of faith to all corners of the American land.

The Divine Liturgy was led by Bishop Matthew of Sourozh, Temporary Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada and the United States, who read a message from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of



Moscow and All Russia, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, and Metropolitan Nicholas, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. The event was attended by representatives of the Serbian Orthodox and Antiochian Churches, the Mayor's Office of New York City, as well as numerous parishioners of the church.

Earlier the Ark with the relics of St. Tikhon was delivered to New York, from where it is planned to be moved to churches and parishes in North America.

In his welcoming remarks, the Ambassador emphasized that the diocese under Tikhon of Moscow, who was an outstanding church figure, became a true spiritual home for all Orthodox people in America. Helped our compatriots to preserve their faith, native culture and the great Russian language.

It is especially noted that thanks to the tireless labors of the saint the St. Nicholas Patriarchal Cathedral was built, the first Orthodox seminary in Minneapolis (Minnesota) and the first Orthodox monastery in the state of Pennsylvania with a school for orphans appeared. By the example of his righteous life Blessed Tikhon gives us strength and hope to overcome

adversity and modern temptations of spirituality and permissiveness.

A.Darchiev expressed his gratitude to the Orthodox parishes in America for fruitful interaction with Russian diplomats. He thanked the clergy for their contribution to the consolidation of the Russian-speaking community.

As a sign of deep respect for the merits of St. Tikhon, the Mayor's Office of New York City assigned his name to the street on which St. Nicholas Cathedral is located.



## Comment by the Russian Embassy in the USA

## Комментарий Посольства России в США

### Comment by the Russian Embassy in the United States



On April 6, 2025 not only the fans of the National Hockey League, but also hockey fans in Russia and all over the world witnessed a historic event - Alexander Ovechkin surpassed Wayne Gretzky's record for the most goals scored in the NHL!

The Embassy of Russia in the USA joins numerous congratulations to our distinguished compatriot! We

wish him good health and achieving new heights! We are always happy to host our hockey players to share the joy of victory with them and help in solving urgent problems.

The staff of Russian diplomatic missions in the USA feel proud for Alexander, who became the NHL's top scorer and forever inscribed his name in golden letters in the history

of world hockey. Regularly attending games of the Capitals team in the capital, we have the opportunity to see for ourselves the sincere respect Americans have for him and in his person for the entire Russian hockey.

It's remarkable that in recent weeks, literally the whole of America has been cheering for the conquest of the former record that seemed eternal. The media wrote a lot about it, there were constant reports on TV, and the NHL itself put Alexander Ovechkin's photo on social networks instead of the logo. Matches with his participation were held in packed stadiums, where American officials were also present. This is what sport should be - beyond borders and politics.

The unifying potential of hockey was discussed during a recent telephone conversation between the

Presidents of Russia and the United States, who supported the idea of organizing a match between KHL and NHL stars. Today's event on the ice in New York confirms the demand for this initiative, which, we are convinced, will resonate with millions of hockey fans in our countries.

Against the background of a true celebration of sport, the discriminatory ban on accreditation of Russian journalists at NHL games looks ridiculous and absurd, which should be immediately eliminated. Our correspondents, along with everyone else, should have access to coverage of the historic events taking place on America's ice arenas these weeks. Moreover, Alexander does not plan to stop there and intends to continue to rewrite his own record, which we sincerely wish him!



## The Russian manned spacecraft Soyuz MS-27 arrived at the ISS

«Союз МС-27» прибыл на МКС



On April 8 at 11:58 Moscow time, the Russian manned spacecraft Soyuz MS-27 arrived at the #ISS. In automatic mode, the docking with the node module “Berth” of the Russian segment of the ISS took place.

Russian-American crew (Sergey Ryzhikov, Alexey Zubritsky and

Johnny Kim) joined the crew of the 72nd long-duration expedition - Roscosmos cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin, Ivan Wagner and Kirill Peskov, NASA astronauts Donald Pettit, Anne McClain and Nicole Ayers, JAXA astronaut Takuya Onishi.



**8 апреля 1944 года — началась Крымская  
стратегическая операция**



In early April 1944, the Crimean strategic offensive of the Soviet forces commenced during the Great Patriotic War.

The Nazi-occupied peninsula was liberated in just 35 days through the coordinated efforts of Red Army units, the Black Sea Fleet, and the Azov Warship Flotilla, under the command of Chief of General Staff, Marshal of the Soviet Union Alexander Vasilevsky.

By autumn 1943, Soviet forces encircled on the Crimean Peninsula a Nazi troops grouping totalling over 200'000 personnel strength (soldiers and officers).

At dawn on April 8, 1944, the Soviet forces delivered a crushing blow to the Nazi positions and breached

the enemy defences by April 10. During the next three days, the cities of Dzhankoi, Kerch, Yevpatoriya, Simferopol, Feodosiya, Bakhchisarai, Alushta, and Yalta were liberated.

April 15 marked the onset of fierce fighting on the approaches to Sevastopol, the main base of the USSR Black Sea Fleet, which the Germans had turned into a heavily fortified zone.

Thanks to the selflessness, unwavering resolve, and valour of Soviet soldiers, as well as a strong support from the guerrilla movement, Sevastopol was liberated on May 9, 1944. The German and Romanian occupant troops were crushed. By May 12, 1944, the remnants of the enemy grouping laid down arms and surrendered on Cape Khersones.

All in all, 238 people were awarded the title of Hero Of The Soviet Union following the Crimean Offensive, and thousands of other participants of the operation were decorated with orders and medals.

**10 апреля 1944 года — силы 3-го Украинского фронта под командованием генерала армии Родиона Яковлевича Малиновского освободили Одессу от немецко-фашистских и румынских захватчиков**



The operation began on the night of March 26, 1944, when the 3rd Ukrainian Front formations began to force the Southern Bug River in order to break through the German defences, and lasted until April 14, 1944.

By 10 am on April 10, as a result of fierce fighting, Odessa was liberated. The Red Army units were strongly supported by partisans and underground fighters, who cleared the city of the enemy and prevented the blowup of the Odessa port, piers, buildings, and warehouses as planned by the Germans.

The Nazi occupation of the city lasted 907 days. During this time, about 200,000 people perished in Odessa and the surrounding region. Many of them became victims of mass-scale massacres and cruel executions; 78,000 people were shipped for forced labour in Germany, plants and factories were destroyed, and more than 2,000 buildings, including hospitals and schools, were blown up and burned down.

Retreating, German and Romanian soldiers shot old people, women and children in the streets in cold blood, mined the most important buildings,

factories, the power plant, and the seaport.

The Soviet forces inflicted a crushing defeat on the enemy, killing more than 27,000 enemies and taking over 11,000 prisoners; 952 artillery guns, 443 tanks and assault guns, and 95 warehouses with ammunition and food were destroyed.

Thanks to the liberation of Odessa, the Red Army managed to interrupt the supply of the Crimean group of German troops and to open the way for further advance towards the Balkans.

During the whole time of occupation, local residents, many of whom after the capture of the city went hiding in the catacombs underneath the urban landscape, put fierce resistance to the Nazis. During the war, Odessa underground fighters and partisans destroyed

more than 5,000 enemy soldiers and officers, 248 automobiles, and saved about 20,000 Soviet citizens from being taken to Germany.

The liberation of Odessa was marked in Moscow with fireworks of the highest category with 24 salvos from 324 artillery guns. The entire Soviet nation was united in a jubilation.

Twenty-seven formations and units with the most distinguished track record during the operation were awarded the honorary name of Odessa units and formations. For heroism and bravery in the battles for the city, 14 people were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and more than 2,000 people were awarded Soviet orders and medals.

On May 1, 1945, Odessa was declared a Hero City, and on May 8, 1965 it was awarded this title officially.



## **10 апреля отмечается Международный день движения Сопротивления**



This commemorative day honours the memory of all those who refused to surrender and continued to fight the Nazi evil on the fascists-occupied territories during WWII.

Participants of the Resistance against Nazi tyranny in Europe were united by a shared objective: to collectively repel Hitler's aggression. Putting aside the differences, the Resistance movement's participants stood shoulder to shoulder in their struggle for the freedom and independence of their nations and peoples from fascism.

The Resistance reached its greatest scale in the USSR, Yugoslavia, Italy, Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Bulgaria, Norway, and the Netherlands – where anti-fascist underground groups, varying in size and efficacy, emerged across Nazi-

occupied territories, collaborating with intelligence agencies of the Allies.

In the USSR and occupied states of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, where Nazi forces perpetrated the most horrific atrocities, mass Resistance movements played a decisive role in eventual liberation. In many countries, the Resistance evolved into full-scale national liberation operations against the Nazis. For instance, in Yugoslavia, by 1943, the Wehrmacht was forced to deploy 24 divisions (!) to combat partisans.

Between 1941 and 1944, a total of 6,200 partisan units operated across Nazi-occupied Soviet territory, with an estimated overall strength of one million fighters. Over 184'000 partisans were honoured with Soviet orders and medals, and 249 were awarded the title Hero Of The Soviet Union.

Despite attempts in certain foreign states to rewrite history and erase the memory of the immortal heroism of anti-Nazi fighters, the International Day of Resistance Movement annually reaffirms our tribute to the true heroes who gave their lives to defeat Nazism.

## On April 11, 1944 Kerch was liberated from Nazi invaders



On April 11, 1944 in the course of the Crimean offensive operation of Soviet troops Kerch was liberated from Nazi invaders.

Kerch was one of the first cities to fall under Hitler's attack at the beginning of the Great Patriotic War. The front line passed through it four times and it was twice under enemy occupation.

For the first time fascists captured Kerch in November 1941, but in December during the Kerch-Feodosia landing operation it was liberated.

In May 1942 the Nazis concentrated large forces on the Kerch peninsula and again began the offensive. Despite the desperate resistance of Kerch's defenders, the city was again under the control of

the Nazis, who held it from 320 days.

During the occupation 15 thousand civilians died, more than 14 thousand Kerch residents were taken to Germany for forced labor.

The sad fame as a place of mass executions was acquired by Bagerovsky ditch near Kerch, where in November-December 1941 7 thousand people were shot and tortured, including 245 schoolchildren, who were poisoned to death by fascists with potassium cyanide. Then the Germans tricked parents into bringing their children to school, after which they took the schoolchildren out of town for a "picnic" and gave them pies poisoned with the poison. Children who did not have enough food were buried in

their mouths with potassium cyanide.

The Nazi invaders destroyed all factories, burned bridges and ships, cut down parks and destroyed the city's infrastructure. Kerch was almost completely wiped off the face of the earth.

A legendary page in the history of the Great Patriotic War was the feat of Soviet soldiers who were trapped in the Adzhimushkay quarries in the north of Kerch. There, underground, thousands of old men, women and children found refuge. Trying to bury them alive, the Nazis piled the entrances, exploded aerial bombs, used poisonous gases. Almost the entire garrison of Adzhimushkay fell, but each of the defenders fought the enemy to the last, turning the quarries into a symbol of unbending courage and loyalty to duty to the Motherland.

On the night of November 1, 1943 began Kerch-Eltigen landing

operation, as a result of which the Soviet soldiers captured a bridgehead north of Kerch. With this feat began the liberation of the Kerch Strait and the whole Crimea. This success was continued by the Crimean Offensive Operation in April-May 1944, which led to the expulsion of the occupants from the peninsula.

One of the symbols of the city was the Obelisk of Glory on Mount Mithridates, opened on August 8, 1944 and became the first monument in the USSR dedicated to the Great Patriotic War.

For the defense and liberation of Kerch the title of Hero of the Soviet Union was awarded to 153 people, 21 military units and formations began to wear the honorary title of "Kerch". September 14, 1973 Kerch was awarded the title of Hero-City.



# RUSSIA'S SCENERY КРАСОТЫ РОССИИ

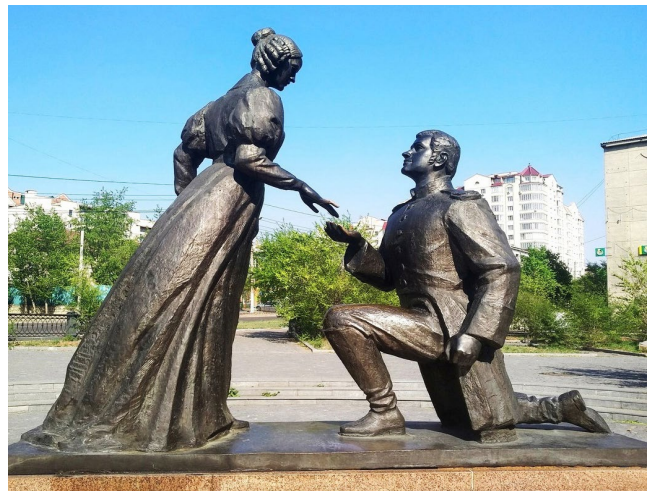
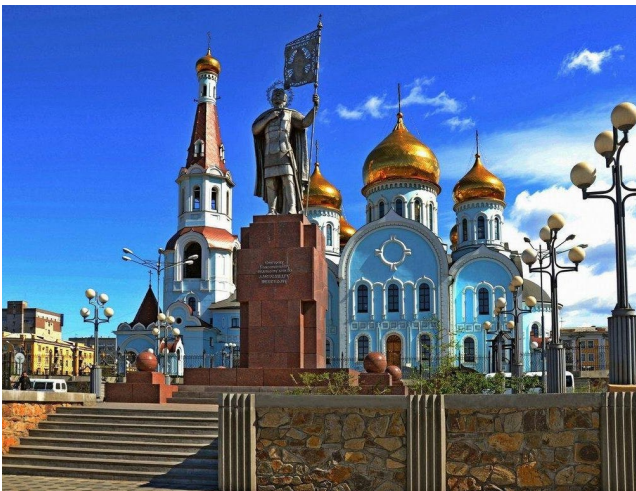
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