

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF RIA-NOVOSTI ARTICLES OF 13 MARCH, 2015:

American analyst: U.S. not ready to consider the interests of the Russian Federation in Ukraine

The Executive Director of the Russian-American Pacific Partnership Derek Norberg explained that the U.S. position is highly principled and insufficiently pragmatic. He noted that the United States endorsed the desire of Ukraine to freely choose their destiny.

WASHINGTON, 13 Mar RIA Novosti. The U.S. is not ready to consider Russia's interests in Ukraine, said in an interview with RIA Novosti, the President of the Council for U.S.-Russia Relations and the Executive Director of the Russian-American Pacific partnership Derek Norberg.

"The fundamental problem with American policy is the unwillingness to consider the interests of Russia in Ukraine. The U.S. position is highly principled and insufficiently pragmatic," said Norberg.

According to him, "The US approved Ukraine's desire to freely choose their destiny and create alliances regardless of how Russia is looking at their own interests in the field of national security".

"If Kiev had been consulted to move more slowly, the current crisis might have been avoided. But after statements from Kiev and Washington, including absolutely irresponsible appeals representatives of the U.S. government to fast-track Ukraine's NATO membership, Russia was virtually set-up to act inappropriately, and she did it", - the expert believes.

He noted that "regardless of political views, most people do not like secret military operation carried out by "little green men" in unmarked uniforms or "voluntary" participation of servicemen in wars on foreign territory". While Norberg said that he did not support, "as an American citizen, covert operations by the United States, nor the apprehension in third countries of persons accused of crimes, and their illegal extradition to the United States."

The Head of RAPP noted that "the Ukrainian crisis is a tragedy most particularly for the people of Ukraine and Russia". However, in his words, "it is also a tragedy for the institutions and norms governing international behavior". According to his opinion, "the civility of international relations between the U.S. and Russia has been seriously degraded".

He warned that "a full-fledged war with someone else's hands between the U.S. and Russia on Ukraine will be devastating for all parties, it will lose everything, and first of all - Ukraine".

Members in the Council for U.S.-Russia relations include major companies of both countries, including, Exxon Mobil, Aircompany "Yakutia", and the U.S.-Russia Business Council (USRBC).

RAPP is positioned as "the only inter-regional forum between the U.S. and Russia, which unites the private sector, regional and federal government. The aim of its activity is the expansion of trade and cooperation between the Far East and the Western U.S.

Norberg: sanctions against the Russian Federation have had a mixed impact on companies in the U.S.

The President of the Council for U.S.-Russia relations and the Executive Director of RAPP Derek Norberg believes that the vast majority of U.S. companies have not experienced effects from the sanctions. "But

the U.S. companies working extensively with Russia, have suffered real losses... most particularly from counter-sanction measures subsequently introduced by Russia," said Norberg.

WASHINGTON, 13 Mar RIA Novosti. U.S. sanctions against Russia have had mixed impact on U.S. companies, said in an interview with RIA Novosti, the President of the Council for U.S.-Russia Relations and the Executive Director of the Russian-American Pacific partnership (RAPP) Derek Norberg.

"The impact of the sanctions on American companies has been both minimal and significant," he said.

According to him, the vast majority of U.S. companies (not working with Russia) have not experienced impacts from the sanctions or loss of trading opportunities in Russia. "However, those companies working with Russia, has suffered serious damage from sanctions in themselves, and perhaps to a greater extent from the counter-sanction measures introduced by Russia," said Norberg.

In particular, large American companies involved in oil and gas projects, were forced to put a number of their projects on hold," said he. In addition, the expert stressed there are also related difficulties related to the banking sector and other industries.

Russia's imposed ban on the imports of food products from countries party to the sanctions on Russia have led to serious losses in trade and market opportunity, and the ban on the import of certain types of equipment have impeded the exports of American goods to the Russian Federation", - he said.

The result is a serious price imposed on those American companies working with Russia, with almost no impact on the rest. We at the Council believe this burden is unfair to these American companies working with Russia, their partners in Russia and Russian consumers," said Norberg.

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How were the sanctions imposed against Russian politicians, businessmen and companies?

From March 2014, western countries have imposed multiple waves of sanctions over the position of Russia in Ukraine. The latest were additional restrictions imposed in March 2015 through an expanded sanctions list by the United States.

Analyst: The U.S. does not sufficiently appreciate its interest in a prosperous Russia

A strong Russia is a major buyer of U.S. securities and is valuable to economic growth both in Europe and the global economy, says Derek Norberg.

WASHINGTON, 13 Mar RIA Novosti. The U.S. government insufficiently appreciates the importance of a strong and prosperous Russia, said on Thursday, RIA Novosti President of the Council for U.S.-Russia relations and the Executive Director of the Russian-American Pacific partnership (RAPP) Derek Norberg.

"The United States insufficiently recognizes the fact that they are more interested in an economically

strong and prosperous, than in a struggling Russia", - said the expert. According to him, "a strong Russia provides an economic stimulus to Europe and the world economy, including the American".

He also reminded that "an economically strong Russia is a major buyer of U.S. securities. In particular, he said, "the government of the Russian Federation in recent years, was consistently in the top ten going government buyers of securities of the U.S. Treasury, which are critically important to the U.S. budget."

Insofar as the Russian economy has weakened or has been weakened by Western sanctions, Russia will no longer be in a position to purchase these securities and will over time sell these asset holdings", - the expert believes. In his opinion, "this poses a fundamental threat to the U.S. that the American authorities don't seem to be considering seriously enough". In particular, according to the expert, this may lead to a strengthening of the position of China as the main purchaser of American securities.

"The threat to the American financial model due to an overdependence on any singular foreign government is obvious. Especially if we are talking about China," said Norberg.

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