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[TO THE POINT]

UNRELIABILITY OF THE WEST AND YET ANOTHER BLOW TO THE CRIMEAN ISOLATION

The images of the "harsh" Crimean isolation, as well as the topic of sanctions, have firmly planted themselves in the information agenda of the West and its allies. The nature of the "near-Crimean" myth-making was defined by Head of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, who pointed out the susceptibility of the Western partners to the temptation to "play geopolitical games and put politics above the economy while ignoring the fair development of the events that was taking place in Crimea...." →

This definition was confirmed by the US military exercises on the Romanian Black Sea coast, which Forbes called "a surprise for Russian troops in Crimea," and once again demonstrated the West's propensity to using the Crimean peninsula for the purpose of putting pressure on the Russian Federation, even at the cost of threatening the security of the Crimeans. It is obvious that the victory of Joseph Biden in the US presidential elections will not change this trend. On the contrary, this trend is very likely to strengthen and to add even more of pro-American agenda to modern international relations. For Crimea, this may mean that Ukrainian politicians' harping (as far back as in 2014) on "Crimean Transnistria" which should have neither entry into nor exit from, will be persisting. However, like many other Western myths, the image of "isolated Crimea" falls apart when faced with reality.

For example, the first international representative office was opened in Russian Crimea on November, 10. A while back Nicaragua, the Central American country, was one of the first to recognize Crimea as part of the Russian Federation, and now Nicaragua has opened its Honorary Consulate on the peninsula. According to Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Crimea – Permanent Representative of the Republic of Crimea to the President of the Russian Federation G.L.Muradov, the opening of this Consulate may be followed by a series of representations of other states. And should the Ukrainian neighbors "come to their senses", they'd better open such Consulate as well.

The reaction of Ukrainian side is indicative. They started complaining to "international authorities" in advance and now accuse Nicaragua of "unfriendliness" while initiating "imposition of sanctions in accordance with the legislation of

THE CONSULATE OF NICARAGUA WAS OPENED IN CRIMEA

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Honorary Consul of Nicaragua in the Republic of Crimea Oleg Belaventsev (former Plenipotentiary representative of the President of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal district) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua in the Russian Federation Alba Azucena Torres Mejia. Photo: rk.gov.ru

Ukraine", probably counting on the help of the "friends from the West".

For Crimea itself, the opening of the Consulate of Nicaragua, in addition to political symbolism, also signifies the development of international contacts, potential joint educational programs, trade, including high-quality coffee which now accounts for half of the country's exports to Russia. ■

THE SWALLOW'S NEST, HEALTHCARE AND "WATER PROBLEM" - CRIMEA CONTINUES ITS DEVELOPMENT

Despite the gloating of the Ukrainian media, Crimea continues to develop and to successfully cope with the arising difficulties. The opening (after the restoration) of the world-famous Crimean castle Swallow's Nest has become the symbol and embodiment of this development.

The restoration started in the middle of 2017 after reinforcing the cliff on which the castle is located. The significance of this event was expressed by Chairman of the Crimean Parliament Vladimir Konstantinov: "Thousands of facilities are currently being built in the republic – Crimea has never seen such a volume of construction and transformations in its history. And of course, the cultural heritage sites have special value and significance. The restored Swallow's Nest castle represents a symbol of the transformations in Crimea that took place on the peninsula after its reunification with Russia".

Crimea continues to purposefully cope with the water shortage problem which emerged due to the water blockade by Ukraine and has been ongoing since 2014.

At the moment, the water supply from underground sources is increasing, and a new water pipeline is being built to meet the needs of the city of Simferopol. The Russian government allocated about 50 billion rubles to address this issue, while the members of the Federation Council and Russian scientific experts developed a set of recommendations aimed to address the issue of water supply at the peninsula. Possible measures will cover optimization of drinking water consumption in Crimea and the issues related to irrigation of agricultural land and water supply to chemical enterprises. ■

**THE FAMOUS SWALLOW'S NEST
CASTLE WAS OPENED IN CRIMEA
AFTER A LARGE-SCALE RENOVATION**

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Photo: puteshestvovat.com



**THE FEDERATION COUNCIL
PROPOSED A SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM
OF WATER SUPPLY IN CRIMEA.**

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BUSINESS IN CRIMEA →

ENTREPRENEURS WILL NOT BE LEFT WITHOUT SUPPORT

Even in these trying times of sanctions, Crimea remains an attractive platform for investment activities. As of today, there are 186 active investment projects in the republic that address the widest possible range of the Crimean economy areas: from agriculture and industry to infrastructure projects and the tourism sector. With that, three more projects were greenlighted in November that involve construction of facilities in the Simferopol district and in Sudak City.

Recently, the Russian Federal Agency for Tourism (Rosturizm) allocated grants amounting to 130 million rubles for implementation of Crimean tourism projects; moreover, subsidized air flights to Crimea will be carried out from 12 Russian cities. The amount of 1.387 billion rubles bears evidence to the fact that other segments of the Crimean business are not overlooked and are not left without support, either. This amount represents the subsidies from the Crimean authorities for those sectors of regional economy that suffer most from the pandemic. The results of such support and active work of the Crimean businessmen are demonstrated by their high performance indicators. During the first nine months of 2020, tax payments from the tourism industry in Crimea amounted to about 2.3 billion rubles. In November, the capital of the Republic of Crimea, the city of Simferopol, was top-listed as one of the most popular destinations of Russian tourism.

**THE EXPORT SUPPORT CENTER
OF THE REPUBLIC HAS EXCEEDED
THE ANNUAL INDICATOR
BY ALMOST 20%**

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Photo: Mikhail Patlis

In addition, exports are actively developing in Crimea, despite the sanctions. Main export destinations are the Russia's neighboring countries (Belarus, Abkhazia) as well as China, Central Asia and Syria. The most sought-after areas of cooperation with Crimea are the following: agriculture, food industry, wine-making and home care products. ■

UKRAINIAN PR AT THE CRIMEAN EXPENSE

The information war against Russia and Crimea is going on. And as in any military action, it requires additional allies to be brought in with their resources. Ukraine continued its frenzied activities and carried out a number of manipulations "on the Crimean topic". They resulted in a vast number of informational messages. The first and most "resonant" of them is the draft of the higher-level resolution on human rights in Crimea" approved by the third Committee of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, accusing Russia of even more "crimes" than the one that was concocted earlier. This news invaded the whole Ukrainian media space, starting with Twitter and ending with analytical publications. However, these sources usually tend to omit the information that this resolution was supported by the standard set of Ukrainian allies who have a strategic goal to oppose Russia. With that, half of the UN members who took part in this vote - 85 states - preferred to abstain on such a dubious issue. The second direction of information attacks was manifested in the continuation of the PR of the so-called "Crimean Platform". While lacking the scale of a draft UN resolution, this information product of the Ukrainian government is very convenient for the government itself, as it allows adding the "Crimean issue" to all international events. In mid-November, the ambassadors of EU member states received an invitation to the potential founding summit of the "Crimean Platform". Before that, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States which have their own Balkan-Black Sea geopolitical projects, expressed support for the Ukrainian initiative. At the same time, there are some reasonable and straight-thinking forces present in the West. One of the most striking examples of adequate perception and analysis was an interview with Polish political scientist Mateusz Piskorski, who spoke about

the irrelevance of the Crimean topic for the Polish information agenda and about deliberate information "fibbing" into the Polish media space from Kiev. ■

RUSSIA CRITICIZED THE UN ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION ON CRIMEA

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POLISH POLITICAL SCIENTIST MATEUSZ PISKORSKI ON AIR OF "SATELLITE IN CRIMEA" BROADCASTING STATION

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"THE ISSUE OF CRIMEA'S BELONGING TO RUSSIA HAS LONG BEEN DISAPPEARING IN THE WORLD POLITICS, AND THESE STEPS BY UKRAINE ARE AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THIS ISSUE." GEORGY MURADOV, DEPUTY PM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

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LOOK AT CRIMEA



BEAUTY OF CRIMEA: PAINTINGS BY AIVAZOVSKY AND "AUTUMN SYMPHONY" OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Despite the current coolness, Crimea is still happy to welcome guests heading to the beautiful seacoast. It is symbolic that everyone who arrives on the peninsula since recently can see the three-meter high monument to the great marine artist Ivan Aivazovsky, after whom the Simferopol international airport is named.

The artist's paintings are known all over the world. The artist himself was known far beyond the borders of the Russian Empire during his lifetime, although he lived in one of the oldest coastal cities of Crimea – Feodosia. Aivazovsky founded the Feodosia Art Gallery which he bequeathed to his hometown.

As of today, there are more than 13 thousand exhibits in this Gallery.

The gallery building will be reconstructed in 2021. But the amazing nature of Crimea is not requires the restoration. Regardless of the weather and season, its diversity pleases the inhabitants of the peninsula and its guests.

All visitors of the annual hrysanthemum Ball in the Nikitsky Botanical Gardens were able to touch the extraordinary beauty. More than 500 varieties of these flowers have been planted outdoors. The collection included both already known varieties and hybrid forms recently bred by garden breeders. This year the Chrysanthemum Ball is held 67 times. ■

[A MONUMENT TO AIVAZOVSKY WAS UNVEILED AT SIMFEROPOL AIRPORT](#)

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Photo: Press Service of Simferopol Airport

[A PLACE THAT WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY: "AUTUMN SYMPHONY" OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS IN CRIMEA:](#)

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