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U.S. and NATO play with fire

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Since the disastrous 9/11, the world changed for the worse, power in the West was taken by an elitist, mediocre and arrogant sector, which squandered more than seven trillion dollars in wars of plunder and has led the planet to the brink of burial.

The worst thing is that he intends to continue governing as if nothing had changed and he was still the owner and master of the planet, without regretting the bars committed.

One of them is remembered. In 1990, the West promised Gorbachev that if the Soviet Union allowed the reunification of Germany, NATO would not expand an inch to the East. Since then he has broken his word on numerous occasions: in 1999 he incorporated Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic; in 2004, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia; in 2009, Albania and Croatia; in 2017, to Montenegro, despite the massive protests against such a decision made by the population of that country, and in 2020, to North Macedonia. In 2008, NATO agreed that Ukraine would join its ranks, although it did not specify the date or how it would do so.

For these and other reasons, President Putin said: "The accumulation of US and NATO military groupings immediately near Russia's borders, as well as the holding of large-scale, even unplanned, exercises is very worrying" and proposed to start negotiations to draw up binding agreements that guarantee the security of all, that exclude any advance of NATO to the east and the deployment of lethal weapons in countries neighboring the

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united states. Russia, mainly in Ukraine, a country that since June 2016 proclaims NATO membership as the primary objective of its foreign policy, despite the fact that, in order to obtain separation from the USSR, it accepted the prohibition of joining any military alliance.

Putin demanded credible assurances that NATO will not place attack missiles near his country's borders, said that Russia will behave the same as the US would behave in the event that offensive weapons were installed near its borders, so "if on the territory of Ukraine appear attack weapons that reach Moscow in 7-10 minutes, and in 5 minutes in the case of hypersonic weapons, we will have to create something similar against those who threaten us" and reported that Russia has the technical ability to neutralize this danger.

He also said that these negotiations should not degenerate into inconsequential talk, so he expects concrete agreements to the concerns raised, and noted that Russia reserves the right to respond with appropriate military-technical measures to the hostile steps of the US. And, as if to be heard well in Washington, he added that "our actions will not depend on the course of the negotiations, but on the unconditional guarantee of Russia's security and that, even if the United States provided legal guarantees in terms of security, they would not be very reliable, since that country easily abandons the agreements."

According to the draft for an agreement on security guarantees, which Moscow wants to reach with the US and NATO, published by the Russian Foreign Ministry, Putin proposed that both sides confirm that they do not consider themselves enemies, commit to peacefully resolve their disputes and refrain from the use of force or the threat of its use in any way incompatible with the objectives of the UN, in order to reduce existing geopolitical tensions; that NATO give guarantees of non-enlargement to the east, does not admit to this alliance states that were members of the USSR and does not move attack forces near the Russian borders; that neither the US nor Russia install armaments or military personnel outside their territories, where the other party considers them a threat to their security, even if such an installation is made within the framework of international coalitions or military alliances; that a commitment be achieved not to deploy nuclear weapons outside its borders and that the infrastructures made for this purpose be eliminated.

On January 10, the negotiation between Russia and the United States was held in Geneva; on 12 January, in Brussels, the meeting of the Russia-NATO Council and the following day in Vienna the dialogue took place within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, without any positive results in these meetings.

Sergei Ryabkov, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, after negotiating in Geneva with the US delegation, said: "We explain why it is an absolute imperative to obtain legal guarantees of NATO's non-expansion, why it is imperative that we obtain legal guarantees against the deployment near the Russian borders of the strike forces, that could achieve objectives on our territory, and why we raise the question of NATO largely abandoning the material development of the territories of the states that joined NATO after 1997. We believe it is absolutely necessary to ensure that Ukraine is never a member of NATO and the same applies to Georgia."

Alexander Gruskoko, a senior official at the Russian Foreign Ministry, said: "They have two paths. The first is to take seriously what we put on the table, or deal with a military-technical alternative," adding that proposals on European security guarantees are necessary to engage in normal dialogue. "The moment of truth has arrived. In fact, we have arrived at a very dangerous line. And our proposals are aimed precisely at moving away from this dangerous line and finally entering into some kind of normal dialogue, in whose priority will be security interests." He stressed that Moscow has taken a step that is impossible to ignore or simply surround with words, stressed that his country has all the technical capacity to guarantee its military security and that currently NATO is dedicated to trying to neutralize these advantages of Russia.

For Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of Russia, the position of the US and its allies is to "ensure dominance in Europe. They seek to create spearheads on Russia's perimeter, military outposts, factors of irritation along our borders." It recommended that everyone read the Charter on European Security adopted in Istanbul in November 1999. "Everything the West says and does today is a gross violation of the obligations contracted at that time. In addition, Russia categorically rejects the presence of the Atlantic Alliance right on our borders", so for Moscow the entry of Ukraine into NATO would be "a real red line", even if, without joining NATO, Ukraine allowed on its territory the deployment of military

bases of that organization. "Our philosophy has long been well known: Russia does not want a war, but we will defend our security firmly with the means we deem appropriate."

President Putin gave various options in the event that the United States and NATO refuse to provide security guarantees to Russia: "The response can be very diverse. That depends on the proposals put to me by our military experts. Moscow's future actions will not depend on the course of negotiations on security guarantees with the United States, but on the unconditionality of Russia's security today and in historical perspective." In this regard, he made it clear that it is not Moscow that places missiles near American borders, but the United States that is at Moscow's doorstep. In particular, the US should not install offensive weapons either in Ukraine or in Russia's neighbouring countries.

It seems that the US and NATO are stubborn in rejecting the proposals put forward by Russia, belittling them, considering them unacceptable, announcing that they will not allow NATO's open-door policy to end and will not make concessions on issues of the enlargement of the alliance and the deployment of forces to Eastern Europe; they also drag their feet on the matter, accusing Russia without evidence of preparing an invasion of Ukraine. That is why it is to be expected that they will respond negatively to Russian demands, which eliminates strategic stability between the two powers and amounts to playing with fire by jeopardizing world peace.

What will happen when Russia responds symmetrically to those who threaten it and behaves the same as the US would behave, in the event that some country installs lethal weapons near its borders? That the world is going to live a danger similar or worse than the one it experienced during the Caribbean Crisis, because at that time there were revolutionary political forces that defended peace and, to a certain extent, stopped the aggressive hand of the circles of world power; this is not the case today. At a good time, the US no longer has the economic and military supremacy that it had then. Hopefully, the political elite in Washington will become aware of this detail, analyze the Russian proposal point by point and avoid the possibility of a world hecatomb; otherwise, the question would not be: What is going to happen tomorrow?, but: Is there going to be tomorrow?

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