

Minister: Turkish President Erdoğan to visit Russia on Aug 9

Hurriyet Daily News, 26.07.2016



President Erdoğan will visit Russia for his first face to face meeting with Russian President Putin since Moscow and Ankara started to mend ties damaged by the downing of a Russian jet last year, Turkish Deputy PM Şimşek has said.

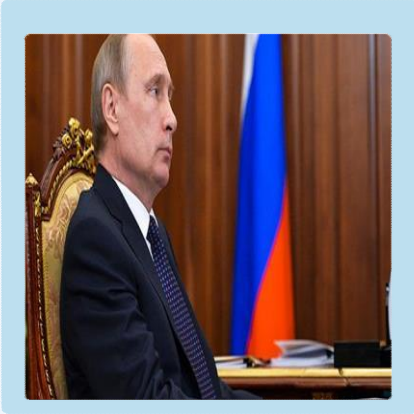
“The ambassador has informed us that our president has confirmed that he will be in Saint Petersburg,” Anadolu Agency reported Şimşek as saying, where he and two other ministers had gone to meet their Russian counterparts as part of moves to restore broken economic relations between the countries.

Erdoğan’s visit to Russia will mark the first such meeting as part of mutual efforts to normalize bilateral ties after months of tension due to the downing of a Russian warplane by the Turkish Air Forces in November. It will also be Erdoğan’s first announced trip abroad since the failed military coup attempt in Turkey on the night of July 15.

Putin called Erdoğan, a day after security forces quashed a coup attempt staged by a group of high-ranking officers within the army. He reportedly told the Turkish president that “Russia found anti-constitutional acts and violence unacceptable and is hoping for the restoration of order and stability in Turkey.” It was during this phone call that the two leaders agreed to meet in person soon.

Turkey thanks Putin for unconditional support over coup attempt

Hurriyet Daily News, 25.07.2016



Turkey has expressed its satisfaction with the unconditional support Russian President Putin lent to the Turkish government in the wake of the July 15 failed coup attempt and vowed to speedily improve bilateral ties with Moscow.

“We thank the Russian authorities, particularly President Putin. We have received unconditional support from Russia, unlike other countries,” FM Çavuşoğlu said. “This is our expectation from our other friends, as well,” he added. Turkey and Russia ended eight months of tension after Turkish President Erdoğan wrote a letter to his counterpart to express his sorrow over the shooting down of a Russian warplane.

Russia was one of the first countries to condemn the failed coup attempt on July 15 and express its support to the democratically elected Turkish government. Erdoğan and Putin are expected to come together in Moscow in mid-August to revive ties, Çavuşoğlu said, recalling Turkey’s two ministers responsible for the economy would hold preparatory talks with their counterparts in Russia. Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli and Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekçi were scheduled to depart to Russia from Ankara.

Russia recently officially removed all economic and touristic sanctions which had been put against Turkey in the aftermath of the Nov. 24, 2015, incident. The ministers will discuss the agenda of the Erdoğan-Putin summit, Çavuşoğlu said, adding the two countries were also focused on the revival of military and intelligence mechanisms to increase the cooperation in Syria.

Çavuşoğlu also reiterated his urging to the government of Kyrgyzstan, as he described the country as “the base of the Gülenist organization in Central Asia.” “They have infiltrated the Kyrgyz administration as well. They can stage a coup there,” Çavuşoğlu said, adding that Kyrgyzstan was under a serious threat. Çavuşoğlu said he informed his Kyrgyz counterpart about the members of this organization in the Central Asian country and gave him an updated list of Gülenists.

Erdoğan: US general is on side of coup plotters

Hurriyet Daily News, 29.07.2016



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has slammed comments by the head of U.S. national intelligence for suggesting that crackdowns in the Turkish military after the failed July 15 coup had harmed the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), saying the statements showed that he was “on the side of the plotters.”

“The U.S. general [Joseph Votel] stands on the coup plotters’ side with his words. He disclosed himself via his statements,” Erdoğan said during a visit to the Gölbaşı Special Operations Department in Ankara, where bombing by coup plotting soldiers killed scores of police officers.

“Is it up to you to decide on this? Who are you? Instead of thanking the state for repelling the coup attempt, you stand with the coup plotters. The coup plotter is in your country. You are nurturing him there; it’s out in the open,” he said, referring to the U.S.-based Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen, who lives in Pennsylvania and who is believed by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) government to have masterminded the failed coup attempt.

“We have certainly had relationships with a lot of Turkish leaders – military leaders in particular. I am concerned about what the impact is on those relationships as we continue,” Votel said at the Aspen Security Forum, a think tank in Colorado.

Saying the world was just “watching the people in the streets out for democracy,” Erdoğan criticized the countries that previously voiced concerns on “the future of Turkey.” “What are their concerns? They are concerned about the suspensions, detentions, arrests and the like and the increase in them. Are they going to increase? If the people are guilty, it will,” he also said. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also criticized Votel’s remarks, describing them as “unfortunate.”

“Restricting the military capacity of Turkey in terms of the fight against ISIL, the PKK [the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party] and other groups this much stems from a lack of knowledge and ignorance – if not malicious intentions,” Çavuşoğlu said, adding that the army would be more effective and trustworthy when it is “cleansed from what is rotten.”

“If the U.S. generals say that only the members of the parallel structure are struggling against ISIL, we would strongly reject it,” he said, referring to the members of the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ). Votel had expressed U.S. worries about the fact that some of the generals that Washington used to work with in Turkey were now in jail. The general leading the Pentagon’s operations in the Middle East said Turkey was beyond being just a place for the U.S. to “park our assets and launch them.”

“They have been integrated into many things that we are doing,” he said, noting Turkey’s contribution to the anti-ISIL fight and significant intelligence sharing between the two countries with respect to terrorism.

He expressed his concerns that in the long run, the coup and Ankara’s efforts to cleanse the military of coup supporters would have an effect on U.S. operations in the region.”I am concerned that it will impact the level of cooperation and collaboration that we have with Turkey which has been excellent, frankly,” Votel said.

Deputy PM: Turks exchanged \$9 billion into liras

Hurriyet Daily News, 27.07.2016



Turkish citizens have sold some \$9 billion for Turkish Liras since the start of the military coup attempt on July 15, Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Şimşek said during an interview with broadcaster CNN Türk.

“Turkish citizens exchanged over \$9 billion into liras as of yesterday, which is of grave importance. When looking at the data, the loss of value for the Turkish Lira, the rise in the stock market and market risk premium, it can be seen that the foundations are secure and strong,” said Şimşek, while evaluating the possible impacts of the bloody attempt on the Turkish economy.

“Foreign capital entries have begun, minor amounts went out and they continue to be drawn,” Şimşek added. Şimşek also commented on an upcoming Turkey rating by Moody’s, after another agency, Standard and Poor’s, cut Turkey’s rating, triggering a wave of criticism by the government.

“Moody’s is in Ankara today and I will be meeting them. There’s no reasonable argument for Turkey’s rating to be downgraded,” he said. “Relations with Russia are remarkably positive; the Russians are supportive, constructive and well-intentioned,” Şimşek said while commenting on his recent meeting of him and two other Turkish cabinet ministers with their Russian counterparts in Moscow.

“We discussed tourism with Russia. The ban on scheduled flights has been lifted but charter flights are of great importance to us. They wanted assurances, which we’ve taken care of. We’ve invited them to discuss and get their approval on these precautions. Export of raw vegetables and fruits and white meat is of grave importance; I’m confident that this process will pick up its pace however it’s a problematic issue,” he said. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will visit Russia on Aug. 9 for his first face-to-face meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin since Moscow and Ankara started to mend ties damaged by the downing of a Russian jet last year, Şimşek had announced.

“There are ongoing efforts for a significant systemic reform. Important steps have been and are continuing to be taken,” Şimşek said on precautions to prevent similar coup attempts in the future. “The heroic actions of our people that night, including yours, encourages and heartens us,” he told Hande Firat of CNN Türk, who had talked to Erdoğan via FaceTime on the night of the coup attempt and facilitated his call for citizens to rush to the streets against the plotters, playing an important role in the defeat of the attempt.

“We will prevent the system from attempting a coup through significant reforms however I have underlined the importance of the resistance that the people of Turkey have shown against this attempt not just for Turkey but for other countries as well,” he added. “I’ve talked to the Prime Minister [Binali Yıldırım]. He jokingly said, ‘I don’t want to see you here.’ We’re working really hard to let everybody know about what’s going on,” said Şimşek.

Kerry says US-Russia talks on Syria ‘making progress’

Hurriyet Daily News, 26.07.2016



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that talks with Russia about cooperation in Syria were “making progress,” adding he hopes next month to announce new steps aimed at ending the fighting, while U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that Russia is still far from American positions on Syria.

Russia and the United States support opposing sides in Syria’s five-year war, which has left 280,000 people dead and forced half the population to flee their homes. Speaking after fresh talks on July 26 with Lavrov on the sidelines of a regional meeting in Laos, Kerry said discussions were edging forward.

“I think we are making progress,” he told reporters. “If we do our work as effectively as it’s been done over the last days since I was in Moscow my hope would be that somewhere in early August... we would be in a position to be able to stand up in front of you and tell you what we’re able to do,” he said.

“In simple terms... what we’re trying to do is strengthen the cessation of hostilities, provide a framework which allows us to actually get to the table and have a real negotiation.” Carter struck a different note, saying Russia and America remained far from finding common ground on how to end the war. Talks led by Kerry are aimed at seeing if “it’s possible... for the Russians to begin to do the right thing in Syria,” Carter said.

In other words, Russia’s policies that have prolonged the war should end, he said. “We had hoped that they would promote a political solution and transition to put an end to the civil war which is the beginning of all this violence in Syria,” Carter said referring to the regime of Syrian President Assad.

But “they’re a long way from doing that,” Carter stressed. “But that’s what Secretary Kerry’s trying to promote. And getting the Russians to do the right thing.” Lavrov said that recent discussions between Russia and the United States should encourage moderate Syrian opposition groups to leave areas occupied by the al-Qaeda’s branch in Syria, thus helping to implement a truce.

Meanwhile, U.N. Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said he aimed to convene a new round of Syria peace talks towards the end of August, quietly scrapping a previous timeline while putting down a new deadline for a U.S.-Russia deal to support the talks. De Mistura, speaking after a meeting with U.S. Syria envoy Michael Ratney and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov, said the United States and Russia both needed to do more work in the coming days. De Mistura said the trilateral meeting in Geneva focused on the urgent need for progress on Syria’s cessation of hostilities, access for humanitarian aid, counter-terrorism and political transition.

US seeks opportunity to attack ISIL from south

Reuters, 28.07.2016



The U.S.-led coalition fighting the ISIL aims to open a new front in southern Syria against ISIL in addition to its ongoing offensive in the northeast, U.S. Defense Secretary Carter said.

“We will aggressively pursue opportunities to build pressure on ISIL in Syria from the south, complementing our existing, robust efforts from northeastern Syria,” he was quoted as saying by AFP. Carter said the move would help Jordanian security and further split ISIL theaters of operation in Syria and Iraq. At the moment, the main coalition effort is centered on recapturing the Manbij pocket in northern Syria, the last jihadist-held territory bordering Turkey.

Meanwhile, Syria ally Russia announced a “large-scale” aid operation July 28 for trapped civilians and opposition fighters fleeing the embattled northern city of Aleppo, as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad offered an amnesty to rebels who surrender. Pro-government forces effectively surround opposition neighborhoods of the divided city, sparking fears for at least 200,000 people trapped there.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told reporters that three humanitarian corridors were being opened “to aid civilians held hostage by terrorists and for fighters wishing to lay down their arms” and one more corridor to the north of the city for rebels to flee with their weapons. Medical posts and food handouts would be provided along the routes intended for civilians and fighters who surrender, Shoigu said. In a parallel move, al-Assad on the same day issued a rare presidential decree offering amnesty to armed rebels who give themselves up in the next three months, the official SANA news agency reported.



“Everyone carrying arms... and sought by justice... is excluded from full punishment if they hand themselves in and lay down their weapons,” SANA said, adding the reprieve would also include any rebel who freed a hostage.

State television announced “the opening of three passages to allow citizens out of eastern districts” of Aleppo, adding that “everything was ready to receive them in temporary installations.” But an AFP correspondent who went to see one of the corridors said that it remained closed and saw no movement of residents nearby. Regime planes dropped flyers showing a map with the location of these humanitarian passages, he said.

Hours after Russia and Syria’s moves, U.N. Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura called on Russia and the United States to work together in reducing the fighting in Syria, saying that the failure of their cooperation plan would have a very negative impact on planned peace talks.

“We are all awaiting and urging the two co-chairs – which means Russia and the U.S. – to expedite their own discussions on how to reduce violence,” de Mistura said, according to Reuters. “I understand that there are several experts from the military establishment from both Russia and perhaps from the U.S. on their way to Geneva and probably, most likely, in order to discuss the so-called ‘devil in the details’ which are the ones we have been asking to be sorted out as soon as possible,” he said.

Shoigu said that Moscow was sending a top general and experts to Geneva at the request of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to discuss the crisis surrounding Aleppo, the Associated Press reported. Meanwhile, the international anti-ISIL coalition has opened a formal investigation to determine whether its air strikes last week near the Syrian city of Manbij claimed civilian lives, spokesman Col. Chris Garver said.

After examining “internal and external information,” the coalition determined that there was sufficient credible evidence of civilian victims to open a formal inquiry, said Garver. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 56 civilians, including 11 children, died as they fled from a village near Manbij, a strategic waypoint between Turkey and the jihadist stronghold of Raqqa.

Merkel defends refugee stance after attacks

AFP, 28.07.2016



German Chancellor Angela Merkel rebuffed calls to reverse her welcoming stance toward refugees in the wake of a series of brutal attacks in the country. Merkel, who interrupted a summer holiday to face the media in Berlin, said the four assaults within a week were “shocking, oppressive and depressing” but not a sign that authorities had lost control.

The German leader said the assailants “wanted to undermine our sense of community, our openness and our willingness to help people in need,” as reported by AFP. “We firmly reject this,” she said at a wide-ranging news conference.

Merkel repeated her rallying cry from last year when she opened the borders to people fleeing war and persecution, many from Syria, which brought nearly 1.1 million migrants and refugees to the country in 2015. “I am still convinced today that ‘we can do it’ - it is our historic duty and this is a historic challenge in times of globalization,” she said.

“We have already achieved very, very much in the last 11 months.” Merkel was speaking after an axe rampage, a shooting spree, a knife attack and a suicide bombing stunned Germany, leaving 13 dead, including three assailants, and dozens wounded. Three of the four attackers were asylum seekers, and two of the assaults were claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Merkel said that she would not allow jihadists, following a series of deadly attacks in France, Belgium, Turkey and the US state of Florida as well as Germany, to keep her government from being guided by reason and compassion. “Despite the great unease these events inspire, fear can’t be the guide for political decisions,” she said. “It is my deep conviction that we cannot let our way of life be destroyed.”

The German attacks came with two state elections looming in September, in Berlin and in Merkel’s fiefdom of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, an economically depressed state on the Baltic coast. The rightwing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party hopes to make a particularly strong showing there with a campaign against “Islamization”, which would deal Merkel a stinging blow one year ahead of a general election.

Hollande seeks to defuse row over Nice security

AFP, 25.07.2016



French President Francois Hollande sought to defuse a row over allegations his government tried to alter a security report after the Bastille Day massacre in Nice. A probe into the claim should be allowed to run its course, Hollande said, declaring the truth would be established by “the law and no one else.”

“Truth and transparency are essential in a democracy,” he added. At the center of the storm is Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, whom right-wingers accuse of security failings after France suffered its third major terror attack in 18 months.

Eighty-four people were killed when a truck driven by a 31-year-old Tunisian ploughed through a holiday crowd on the Nice seafront. Pressure on Cazeneuve intensified when a local police officer, Sandra Bertin, accused his ministry of trying to bully her into altering a report on police deployment on the night of the attack.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls waded into the affair, telling French TV the row was “purely political and aimed at destabilizing the government.” While “obviously we need the truth,” the row should stop, he said, defending Cazeneuve as “a man of integrity, a statesman, and a great interior minister.”

A national police report into the bloodbath had said Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel forced his lorry onto the sidewalk to avoid a police barrier. But Bertin, who was in charge of the video surveillance system in Nice on the night of the massacre, said that she could not see a police presence on the security camera system. Bertin said she had been “literally harassed the entire time” that she wrote the report.

“I was asked to change things,” she told a news conference, adding that she was ordered “to put in the specific positions of the national police, which I had not seen on the screen.” Bertin is a strong supporter of opposition Republicans regional leader Christian Estrosi and has fiercely criticized the Socialist government through social media networks, Le Parisien newspaper reported.

ISIL claims second German attack in a week

AFP, 26.07.2016



A Syrian asylum seeker who blew himself up outside a German music festival had made a video pledging allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), authorities said, in the second attack claimed by the jihadists in Germany in a week.

The 27-year-old assailant wounded 15 people, four of them seriously, near a cafe in the southern city of Ansbach when he set off a bomb in his rucksack, killing himself. “A video made by the assailant was found on his mobile phone in which he threatened an attack,” Bavarian state interior minister Joachim Herrmann told reporters.

“After that he announced in the name of Allah that he pledged allegiance to [ISIL chief] Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the well-known Islamist leader, and announced an act of revenge against Germans because they were standing in the way of Islam.”

ISIL later said via the jihadist-linked Amaq news agency that the attacker “was a soldier of the Islamic State [ISIL]” who had acted “in response to calls to target nations in the coalition fighting” the extremists. Europe’s economic powerhouse was already reeling after four passengers and a passer-by were wounded in an axe attack on a train in Würzburg on July 18 which ISIL also claimed.

Then, nine people were killed in a shopping center shooting spree in Munich by a German-Iranian teenager with a history of psychological problems but no apparent links to Islamists. Already steeped in grief and shock, Germans were further rattled by news that a Syrian refugee had killed a 45-year-old Polish woman with a large kebab knife at a snack bar in the southwestern city of Reutlingen. Police, who had initially said the murder weapon was a machete, concluded that the incident in which three others were injured was likely a “crime of passion.”

PM: Greece to school migrant children from September

Hurriyet Daily News, 28.07.2016



Greece will hire hundreds of extra teachers to help thousands of migrant children join its public schools in the autumn, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said.

“The inclusion of all refugee children in the public school system will begin in September,” Tsipras said. “Around 800 backup teachers will be hired to meet the additional needs” of the new academic year, he said. Authorities have not given precise figures on how many refugee and migrant children are expected to enroll. But out of over 57,000 people trapped in Greece by the closure of borders further north before spring, around a third are estimated to be minors.

At a meeting with Education Minister Nikos Filis, Athens Mayor Yiorgos Kaminis put the number of eligible minors at 22,000. Filis said his services were “prepared to enroll thousands of refugee children.” The children will be taught Greek and another language of their choice, he said. Another government source said mathematics will also be on the curriculum. “This is an introductory year,” the source said.

Filis noted that refugee and migrant children will initially be schooled separately as the integration process will take time. “Initially [separate] reception classes will be set up at many schools, and gradually, it will be possible to fully integrate the children,” Filis said. “We will try to soon have Greek and refugee children together in schools,” he said.

Children too distant from cities will be schooled inside their migrant camps, the minister said. According to the NGO Save the Children, which has warned of the risk of a lost generation, the refugee children stuck in camps in Greece on average have not been in school for a year and a half. And more than a fifth of school-age children have never set foot in a classroom. The refugee population in Greece is very mixed and still very unsettled, and the country’s education system is underfunded after six years of budget austerity.

China says to hold drills with Russia in South China Sea

Reuters, 28.07.2016



China and Russia will hold “routine” naval exercises in the South China Sea in September, Chinese Defense Ministry said, adding that the drills were aimed at strengthening their cooperation and were not aimed at any other country.

The exercises come at a time of heightened tension in the contested waters after an arbitration court ruled that China did not have historic rights to the South China Sea. China rejected the ruling and refused to participate in the case. “This is a routine exercise, aimed at strengthening the developing China-Russia strategic cooperative partnership,” Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman was quoted by Reuters.

“The exercise is not directed against third parties.” Yang did not disclose the specific location, according to the Associated Press, and some areas of the South China Sea are not disputed. China and Russia are veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, and have held similar views on many major issues such as the crisis in Syria, putting them at odds with the United States and Western Europe.

Last year, they held joint military drills in the Sea of Japan and the Mediterranean. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have rival claims.

China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stoking tension in the region through its military patrols, and of taking sides in the dispute. The United States has sought to assert its right to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea with its patrols and denies taking sides in the territorial disputes. “These drills deepen mutual trust and expand cooperation, raise the ability to jointly deal with security threats, and benefit the maintenance of regional and global peace and stability,” Yang said.

Kerry says North Korea should learn from Iran, end nuclear arms

Reuters, 26.07.2016



North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons - when the world is trying to rid itself of them - is "very provocative deeply concerning," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said and warned that there will be consequences if it does not stop.

Kerry, who is in the Laotian capital to attend an Asia-Pacific security conference that includes North Korea, said its actions present a very serious threat not just to this region but also to international peace and security. He said North Korea should learn from Iran, also a bitter enemy but with whom the United States and other countries made a deal to end its nuclear program.

"Iran, a powerful and well developed country with a long history of thousands of years," has decided it would not pursue nuclear weapons in order to have economic sanctions lifted, Kerry said, according to the Associated Press.

"So countries can do this. But North Korea alone ... the only country in the world defying the international movement towards responsibility, continues to develop its own weapon, continues to develop its missiles, continues the provocative actions," he said.

"North Korea in January did another nuclear test. In February, March, April, May, continually they have done missile tests. So together we are determined, all of us assembled here - perhaps with one exception assembled here - to make absolutely certain the DPRK understands that there are real consequences for these actions," he said.

North Korea says it needs nuclear weapons to cope with what it sees as U.S. military threats. The United States stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea and regularly holds joint military drills with South Korea. Pyongyang has long demanded Washington withdraw its troops from South Korea and stop the joint drills that it calls an invasion rehearsal.

‘Anything’s possible:’ Obama points to Russia on DNC hack

AP, 27.07.2016



Russia may have been behind the leak of hacked Democratic National Committee documents, U.S. President Barack Obama said in his first public comments on the breach, while the Kremlin has denied the claims.

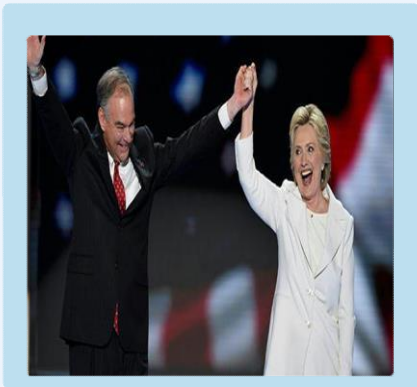
Asked whether Moscow was trying to influence the presidential election, Obama said, “Anything’s possible.” Obama, who traditionally avoids commenting on active FBI investigations, broke with that protocol and noted that outside experts have blamed Russia for the leak. He leaned heavily into the notion that Russian President Vladimir Putin may have reason to facilitate the attack.

“What the motives were in terms of the leaks, all that - I can’t say directly,” Obama told NBC News. “What I do know is that Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed admiration for Vladimir Putin.” The Kremlin returned Obama’s claims by denying that Moscow was interfering in the U.S. election campaign to sway the vote in favor of Trump.

“President Putin has repeatedly said that Russia has never interfered and does not interfere in internal affairs, especially in the electoral processes of other countries,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters as he denied Russia was involved in a hack of Democratic National Committee emails. “Moscow has carefully avoided any actions, any words that could be interpreted as direct or indirect influence on the electoral process,” AFP quoted Peskov as saying.

Accepting the nomination, Clinton casts herself as clear-eyed leader

Reuters, 29.07.2016



U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton cast herself as the steady leader at a “moment of reckoning” for America, contrasting her character with what she described as a dangerous and volatile Donald Trump.

In the biggest speech of her quarter century in politics, Clinton accepted the Democratic presidential nomination for the Nov. 8 election with a promise to make the United States a country that worked for everyone. “We are clear-eyed about what our country is up against. But we are not afraid,” she said.

She presented a sharply more upbeat view of the country than her rival Trump offered when Republicans nominated him last week, and even turned one of Republican hero Ronald Reagan’s signature phrases against the New York real-estate developer. “He’s taken the Republican Party a long way, from ‘Morning in America’ to ‘Midnight in America,’” Clinton said. “He wants to divide us - from the rest of the world, and from each other.”

Clinton portrayed Trump as a threat to the country, saying “a man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons.” Vying to be the first woman elected U.S. president, Clinton called her nomination “a milestone.” “When any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone. That’s why when there are no ceilings, the sky’s the limit,” the 68-year-old Clinton said.

While her speech was not as electrifying as those given by U.S. President Barack Obama and some other prominent Democrats at the Philadelphia convention, Clinton was authoritative and self-assured in her pitch to the American public.

She acknowledged some people still do not know her well. “I get it that some people just don’t know what to make of me. So let me tell you. The family I’m from, well no one had their name on big buildings,” Clinton said in a reference to Trump, whose name is plastered across his properties.

She said her family built a better life and a better future for their children, using whatever tools they had and “whatever God gave them.” The speech capped a four-day nominating convention that opened in discord after a leak of hacked Democratic National Committee emails showed party officials favored Clinton over primary rival Bernie Sanders, a U.S. senator from Vermont. Even though DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Clinton ally, resigned, angry Sanders supporters throughout the week disrupted the convention and undermined efforts by Clinton and Sanders to present a united front.



Announcements & Reports

► *Will TTIP survive Brexit?*

Source : Bruegel
Weblink : <http://bruegel.org/2016/07/will-ttip-survive-brexit/>

► *The Uncertain Trends and Metrics of Terrorism in 2016*

Source : CSIS
Weblink : <https://www.csis.org/analysis/uncertain-trends-and-metrics-terrorism-2016>

► *Realizing TTIP's Strategic Potential*

Source : Chatham House
Weblink : <https://www.chathamhouse.org/publication/realizing-ttips-strategic-potential>

Upcoming Events

► *The Search for Europe*

Date : 30 July 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://bruegel.org/events/the-search-for-europe/>

► *The UK and the EU: Managing the Euro and the Single Market*

Date : 01 August 2016
Place : London - UK
Website : <https://www.chathamhouse.org/event/uk-and-eu-managing-euro-and-single-market>

► *Competitive Gains in the Economic and Monetary Union*

Date : 03 August 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/534-competitive-gains-in-the-economic-and-monetary-union/>

► *The Future of Capitalist Democracy: UK-Japan Perspectives*

Date : 04 August 2016
Place : London - UK
Website : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/future-capitalist-democracy-uk-japan-perspectives>



► *Emerging Markets and Europe: Time for Different Relationships?*

Date : 05 August 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/524-emerging-markets-and-europe-time-for-different-relationships/>

► *What future for Europe's Social Models?*

Date : 08 August 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/526-what-future-for-europes-social-models/>

► *Challenges for Growth in Europe*

Date : 08 August 2016
Place : Brussels - Belgium
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/521-challenges-for-growth-in-europe/>

► *Global Governance of Public Goods: Asian and European Perspectives*

Date : 10 August 2016
Place : Paris - France
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/529-global-governance-of-public-goods-asian-and-european-perspectives/>

► *The Future of the Welfare State*

Date : 11 August 2016
Place : Berlin - Germany
Website : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>