

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Gatjanis, Gregory](#); (b)(6); [Manfull, Alexandre](#); [Gacki, Andrea](#); (b)(6);  
[Baheri, Leila](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AK47 to be made in America?  
**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 3:23:09 PM

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This is making the rounds! I sent it to ENF earlier, who was already aware of it and looking into it.

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**From:** Gatjanis, Gregory  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 3:22 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Manfull, Alexandre; Gacki, Andrea; (b)(6);  
Baheri, Leila  
**Subject:** FW: AK47 to be made in America?

(b)(5)

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**From:** Nilsson, Brian H. [[mailto:](#) (b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:54 PM  
**To:** Gatjanis, Gregory  
**Subject:** FW: AK47 to be made in America?

Hi Greg, hope this finds you doing well – (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

Regards,  
  
Brian

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**From:** Hafner, Betsy  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 1:47 PM  
**To:** Nilsson, Brian H.  
**Subject:** FW: AK47 to be made in America?

Wouldn't this transaction between RWC and Kalashnikov be problematic?

Betsy Hafner  
Deputy Asst. USTR for Russia and Eurasia  
(202) 395-9124

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 12:10 PM  
**To:** Hafner, Betsy  
**Subject:** AK47 to be made in America?

Flagging this. (b)(5)

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Russian weapons manufacturer Kalashnikov welcomed plans announced by U.S.-based Russian Weapons Company (RWC) to launch a domestic production line under the Russian brand. (TASS)

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**From:** Koenig, Robert L [mailto: State (b)(6)]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 08:03 AM

**To:** Koenig, Robert L State (b)(6)

**Subject:** Moscow Media Message 01/22/15

## Moscow Media Message

Major stories in the Russian media on January 22: [Violence worsens in SE Ukraine despite Berlin talks](#); [Donetsk bus stop shelling kills as many as 13](#); Rosatom says [Russia will continue nuclear energy security cooperation with the U.S.](#); Russian [reaction to President Obama's SOTU speech](#). Also, [breaking wire stories](#).

### Violence continues in SE Ukraine despite Foreign Minister talks

- Foreign ministers of the "Normandy Quartet" agreed in a statement to support the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the line of contact in SE Ukraine, FM Lavrov said. (TASS)
- Participants in the Normandy Quartet's negotiations in Berlin agreed that the heads of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk "republics" would take part in talks on withdrawing heavy weapons from the contact line, says the Ukrainian foreign minister. (Interfax)
- There is no need to publish confidential appendices to the Minsk agreements on the Ukrainian conflict, FM Lavrov said, "because parties to the ongoing negotiations are well aware of the unpublished appendices." (Interfax)
- German Chancellor Merkel hopes for a favorable outcome to the "extremely complicated" Ukraine talks, suggesting that "it would be good to hold a meeting of representatives of the four countries in Astana." (Interfax)
- The head of the EU delegation to Russia, Usackas, hopes that the agreements reached at the "Normandy format" meeting in Berlin will be implemented and play a part in efforts to lift Russia-EU sanctions. (Interfax)
- The separatist Luhansk "republic's" chief negotiator says he is ready to discuss issues related to the ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons during the next meeting of the trilateral Contact Group in Minsk. (Interfax)
- The Ukrainian government's draft resolution to label the Donetsk (DPR) and Luhansk (LPR) "republics" as terrorist organizations has been submitted to the Verkhovna Rada. (Interfax)
- The U.S. played a destructive role in the Ukrainian crisis and destabilized situation in the Middle East, Russian UN Rep. Churkin said: "During the whole Ukrainian crisis the U.S. has been playing a destructive role ... they've been provocative." (Sputnik)
- Russia has urged the international community to compel Ukrainian authorities into abandoning armed methods of resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, Churkin said. (Interfax)
- The Belarus Foreign Ministry confirmed its readiness to host a meeting of the trilateral

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contact group for settling the crisis in SE Ukraine in any format on which its participants agree. (Interfax)

### **Donetsk bus-stop shelling kills as many as 13; investigations begin**

- As many as 13 people were killed and up to 20 were injured as a result of shelling of a bus and tram stop in Donetsk. (Interfax)
- FM Lavrov alleged that the bus stop shelling in Donetsk is an attempt to undermine the efforts aimed at peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. (Sputnik)
- The Russian Investigative Committee has opened a criminal inquiry into civilian casualties as a result of mortar strikes in Donetsk. (Interfax)
- A sabotage group accused of shelling the transport stop has been detained, a spokesman for DPR "defense ministry" said at one point. (Interfax)
- DPR head Zakharchenko claimed the bus stop was shelled by Ukrainian artillery fired from the direction of Avdiivka: "It was not saboteurs who did it." (Interfax)
- Kyiv authorities denied involvement in the trolleybus shelling incident in Donetsk. (TASS)
- OSCE monitors will try to get to the Donetsk airport to provide impartial and clear information on the situation there. (Interfax)
- Zakharchenko said the DPR will advance its front line further away from Donetsk to avoid shelling by Kyiv forces. (Sputnik)
- DPR negotiator Pushilin accused Ukrainian government forces of shelling the transport stop in Donetsk and said it "will only serve to complicate the negotiating process ... Kyiv is doing everything it can to derail this negotiating process." (Interfax)
- Ten Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and 16 others wounded in the military operation area in eastern Ukraine over the past 24 hours, a Ukrainian army spokesman said. (Interfax)
- The separatist DPR "defense ministry" claims to have rescued 17 Ukrainian servicemen, "ex-cyborgs", trapped under Donetsk airport debris. (Interfax)
- The Debaltseve sector has turned into an epicenter of Donbas hostilities, the Ukrainian General Staff said. (Interfax)
- OSCE observers said in a report Thursday that no military equipment movement was observed at two Russian-Ukrainian border checkpoints (Donetsk and Gukovo) from Jan. 14-21. (TASS)

### **Rosatom: Russia to continue nuclear energy security cooperation with U.S.**

- Russia is not giving up nuclear energy security cooperation with the U.S., the Russian civilian nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom, said Thursday. (TASS)
- Rosatom denied a *Boston Globe* report that Moscow had allegedly refused to continue cooperation in nuclear energy security. "Cooperation between Russia and the U.S. in this field will continue," Rosatom said in a statement. (TASS)
- A Rosatom spokesman said: "Russia and the U.S. bear special responsibility for ensuring the security and safety of nuclear materials, preventing them from falling into the hands of terrorists, as well as reliable physical protection." (TASS)
- As part of cooperation under the Nunn-Lugar program, highly-enriched-uranium fresh and spent nuclear fuel has returned to Russia from the research reactors of 14 countries: a total of 2.136 kg of HEU nuclear fuel since 2002, capable of producing about 85 nuclear warheads.

- “This cooperation will be continued: Russia plans to return highly-enriched fresh and spent fuel from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Poland,” Rosatom said. (TASS)
- Rosatom said that, as of Thursday, Russia is the only country to have diluted 500 metric tons of highly enriched uranium into low-enriched uranium, a program that has greatly reduced the amount of weapons-grade material on a global scale. (Interfax)
- Interfax: A working group on nuclear power and nuclear safety, set up under the auspices of a Russian-American presidential commission, oversaw these partnership programs. But in March 2014, the U.S. suspended its involvement in the framework of this mechanism: signed contracts are being fulfilled, but working groups no longer meet and new contracts are not being signed.
- "We're firmly convinced that the use of nuclear energy is a strategic field with very long life cycles. It cannot and must not depend on situational changes in the political environment. We will be ready to resume cooperation when the American side is ready for this, of course strictly on the basis of equal rights, mutual benefit and mutual respect," Rosatom said. (Interfax)

### **Russian reaction to President Obama’s State of the Union address**

- *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* quotes Ruslan Grinberg, director of the Institute of Economics: “Thank God – Obama was wrong speaking of the Russian economy being in tatters. Still, Russia has suffered a very strong blow. The U.S. sanctions and our countersanctions have had a serious negative effect, and the crisis will continue.”
- Obama’s claims that Russia is isolated and its economy is in tatters are wrong, economists told TASS: Russia’s unemployment is low, the agri-industrial sector is OK, major industries keep working and the country is looking for new markets and sources of borrowing elsewhere. (TASS)
- Frants Klintsevich, head of the United Russia faction in the State Duma, tells centrist *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*: “In speaking about the collapse of the Russian economy, the U.S. president very frankly expressed the desire of his country’s ruling circles. This is the kind of Russia they would like to see.”
- Independent *Kommersant* quotes Fedor Voitilovskiy of the World Economy and International Relations Institute: “Rather than looking like a success, Barack Obama’s desire to consolidate allies in the struggle against Russia conceals the White House’s fiasco. The current state of Russian-American relations conflicts with the initial aims declared and pushed by the Obama team that pursued the ‘reset’ policy.”
- Business-oriented *Vedomosti* editorializes: “Because of Putin’s Ukraine policy, Russia has found itself in isolation economically and in near-isolation politically. The G-7 no longer wants to see Russia among its members, and Western leaders do not feel like meeting with the Russian leader. Nor do they believe his promises.”

### **Breaking wire stories**

- The refusal of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (NCSROF) to join Syrian opposition consultations in Moscow is not a tragedy, as the level of the opposition's representation will be good enough, a Russian diplomat said. (Interfax)
- China will build a high-speed railway connecting Beijing and Moscow, estimated to cost 1.5 trillion yuan (\$242 billion), Beijing's municipal government announced. (Sputnik)

- Latvia is concerned about Russian planes with disabled identification signals flying close to its borders, the Latvian Ambassador to Moscow, Astra Kurme, said. (Interfax)
- Russian UN Rep. Churkin admonished Poland's foreign minister for "rewriting history" in alleging that the Auschwitz death camp was liberated by "Ukrainian troops." Churkin said Soviet Army soldiers (including Ukrainians and other nationalities) had liberated the camp. (Sputnik)
- The Russian Education and Science Ministry is ready for humanitarian cooperation with the EU but is opposed to possible propaganda on students. (Interfax)
- Russian specialists have begun an engineering survey for the construction of the second and third nuclear reactors Iran's Bushehr-2 power plant. (Sputnik)
- The lifting of sanctions against Iran by the EU and the U.S. should lead to a growth in trade between Moscow and Tehran, Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhagaryan said. (Sputnik)
- Russian weapons manufacturer Kalashnikov welcomed plans announced by U.S.-based Russian Weapons Company (RWC) to launch a domestic production line under the Russian brand. (TASS)
- Russia will raise the issue of its membership of the Council of Europe if PACE does not reinstate the Russian delegation's credentials this year, State Duma Chairman Naryshkin said. (Interfax)
- Moscow's statements on its possible withdrawal from the Council of Europe are not conducive to maintaining a dialogue between Russia and the EU, says the head of the EU's Delegation to Russia, Vygaudas Usackas. (Interfax)
- Russia has not provided the EU with detailed information on its plans to build a gas storage hub at the Turkish-Greek border, says the EU Delegation to Russia. (Interfax)
- The water level in Lake Baikal has dropped a record 40 cm in the last 12 months to a 60-year low — just shy of the critical mark of 456 meters. Some experts blame this on the local energy companies, but officials and biologists attribute the drop to last year's drought. (Sputnik)
- The population of Moscow detention centers tops their capacity by almost 25 percent, says an official at the Federal Penitentiary Service. (Interfax)
- The EU will introduce a biometric procedure for Russians applying for the Schengen visas within six months. (TASS)
- Germany stands for peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azeri conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and wants to make a contribution to that process, Chancellor Merkel said. (Interfax)

Robert L. Koenig • Press Office • U.S. Embassy Moscow • <http://moscow.usembassy.gov>

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