
President Putin's Response To Obama's New Sanctions

By Stephen Lendman, 31 December 2016

It is clear enough who is the real leader of the world. That person is not in the White House.

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Both leaders are polar opposites – a mensch in Moscow on the right side of history compared to a US menace in Washington waging war on humanity. [Mensch means a person of dignity and honor. See: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mensch>]

In response to Obama's new sanctions, a same day article quoted Sergey Lavrov, saying Russia "cannot leave unanswered insults of the kind, reciprocity is the law of diplomacy and foreign relations."

He recommended Putin respond tit for tat while blasting Obama's deplorable action. It seemed certain, but didn't happen. Putin took the high ground, in stark contrast to his disgraceful US counterpart, issuing a statement, saying:

"We regard the recent unfriendly steps taken by the outgoing US administration as provocative and aimed at further weakening the Russia-US relationship."

"This runs contrary to the fundamental interests of both the Russian and American people. Considering the global security responsibilities of Russia and the United States, this is also damaging to international relations as a whole."

"As it proceeds from international practice, Russia has reasons to respond in kind. Although we have the right to retaliate, we will not resort to irresponsible 'kitchen' diplomacy but will plan our further steps to restore Russian-US relations based on the policies of the Trump Administration."

"The diplomats who are returning to Russia will spend the New Year's holidays with their families and friends. We will not create any problems for US diplomats."

"We will not expel anyone. We will not prevent their families and children from using their traditional leisure sites during the New Year's holidays."

"Moreover, I invite all children of US diplomats accredited in Russia to the New Year and Christmas children's parties in the Kremlin." [The Russian Orthodox Church uses the old Julian calendar for religious holidays, which puts Christmas on January 7.]

"It is regrettable that the Obama Administration is ending its term in this manner. Nevertheless, I offer my New Year greetings to President Obama and his family."

"My season's greetings also to President-elect Donald Trump and the American people."

“I wish all of you happiness and prosperity.”

Judge for yourself. Who’s the mensch and who’s the menace? Which way will Trump go?

My personal yearend greetings and thanks to President Putin for for doing the right thing consistently on major geopolitical issues. I proudly support his preeminent world leadership.

A Final Comment

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova explained that Obama’s expulsion order disrupts the lives of 96 Russian nationals – 35 diplomats and family members.

Some targeted diplomats only arrived in America two months ago. “It is not clear how they could have participated in (alleged) activities that, according to the secret services, took place in the spring of 2016,” Zakharova explained.

The have until January 1 to leave – Obama’s happy new year greeting.

There might be more to Obama’s provocation than meets the eye. See my column:<http://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2016/12/30/what-is-the-obama-regime-up-to-paul-craig-roberts/>