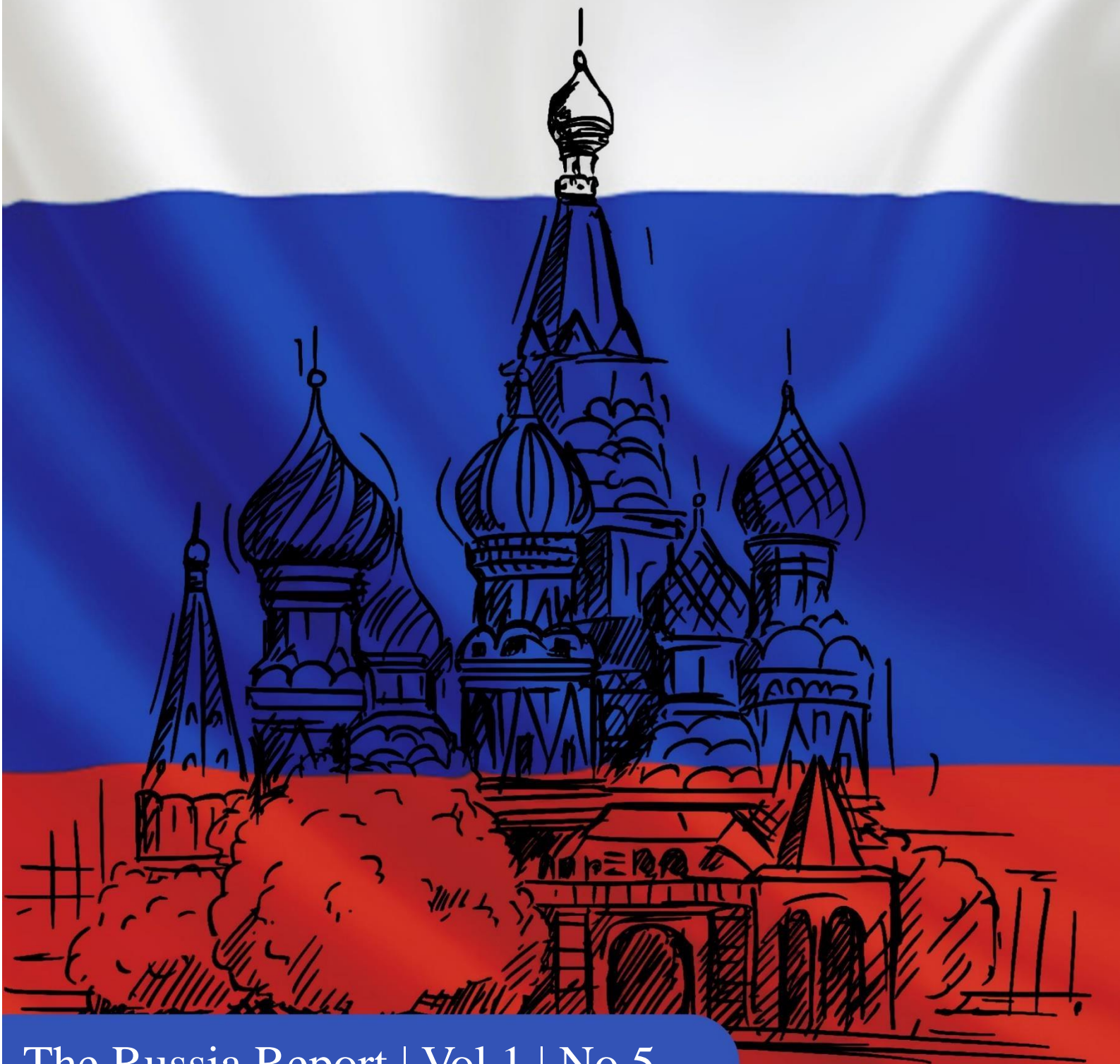


# CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anusua Ganguly

## **From Moscow**

### **Telephone Conversation with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

President of Russia, May 1, 2025

President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The leaders expressed their satisfaction with the current state of Russia–UAE relations, which are characterised as a strategic partnership and continue to develop successfully across political, trade, economic, and humanitarian areas. This close cooperation allows for ongoing dialogue, even on the most sensitive international matters.

President Putin commended the UAE's role in facilitating prisoner exchanges between Russia and Ukraine. Notably, through the efforts of the Emirati side, 246 Russian military personnel were able to return home on the eve of Easter, 19 April.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan extended his congratulations to President Putin and the Russian people on the forthcoming 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

### **Telephone Conversation with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev**

President of Russia, May 3, 2025

President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The two leaders discussed current bilateral matters, including practical steps aimed at enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and the economy. Particular emphasis was placed on the successful staging of the 5th INNOPROM. Central Asia International Industrial Trade Fair, which took place in Tashkent from 28 to 30 April, organised jointly with the Russian side.

In view of the upcoming celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, the leaders noted the special significance this occasion holds for the peoples of both nations. President Mirziyoyev confirmed his intention to attend the anniversary events scheduled to take place in Moscow.

## **Telephone Conversation with President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian**

President of Russia, May 6, 2025

President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian.

Vladimir Putin once again extended his sincere condolences over the loss of life caused by the deadly explosion at the Port of Shahid Rajaei on 26 April 2025. In response, President Pezeshkian expressed gratitude to the Russian side for the prompt emergency assistance provided following the incident, and praised the high level of professionalism demonstrated by specialists from the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations.

President Pezeshkian also conveyed warm greetings to Vladimir Putin and the people of Russia on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the further development of Russian–Iranian cooperation, in line with the bilateral Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed during the Iranian President’s official visit to Russia on 17 January. Particular emphasis was placed on expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in trade and the economy, including the implementation of major joint projects in the fields of transport and energy.

The presidents also exchanged views on key international and regional issues, including the status of Iran–US negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme, which are being conducted with Oman's mediation. The Russian side reaffirmed its readiness to support this dialogue in the interest of reaching a fair agreement based on the principles of international law.

The leaders agreed to intensify joint efforts to comprehensively strengthen practical cooperation and foreign policy coordination between Russia and Iran.

## **Russian–Venezuelan Talks**

President of Russia, May 7, 2025

President Vladimir Putin held official talks with President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, during his visit to Moscow for the 80th anniversary celebrations of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The discussions began in a restricted format and continued over an official breakfast attended by members of both delegations. The leaders reviewed the current status and future prospects of Russian–Venezuelan cooperation across political, economic, financial, scientific, cultural, and humanitarian sectors. They also exchanged views on key international and regional issues.

Following the talks, the two Presidents signed a Treaty on Strategic Partnership and Cooperation, reinforcing a relationship that marks its 80th anniversary this year.

President Putin noted the positive momentum in bilateral trade, which grew by 64% last year, and highlighted promising areas of collaboration including energy, pharmaceuticals, logistics, and healthcare. He expressed appreciation for President Maduro’s personal commitment to strengthening ties.

President Maduro paid tribute to the Soviet people’s role in the defeat of fascism and emphasised the historical and symbolic significance of this year’s dual anniversaries. He reaffirmed Venezuela’s dedication to deepening cooperation with Russia, inspired by the legacy of Hugo Chavez and the shared values of sovereignty and mutual respect.

### **Xi Jinping’s Visit to Russia**

- **Kremlin: Putin and Xi to Discuss Ukraine and US Ties in Private Meeting**

[TASS](#), May 6, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to hold informal one-on-one talks on 8 May to discuss key international issues, including the conflict in Ukraine and relations with the United States, Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov has confirmed.

Speaking at a press briefing, Ushakov said the two leaders will meet privately over tea, a tradition maintained during recent Russia–China summits. “Putin and Xi will meet in private to discuss the issues they deem necessary to discuss,” Ushakov stated. “I believe that the most important issues will be considered during the conversation, including Ukraine and, if you wish, Russian–US relations.”



He added that the informal setting provides space for open and candid discussion. “Everything that can be imagined,” Ushakov remarked cryptically, suggesting a wide-ranging conversation.

This private exchange will follow formal Russian-Chinese talks and Xi’s participation in Moscow’s Victory Day celebrations, marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The private session underscores the close personal rapport between the two leaders, who have consistently emphasised their shared vision for a multipolar global order and deeper bilateral strategic cooperation.

- **Media Statements by Presidents Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping**

President of Russia, May 8, 2025

Following official Russian–Chinese talks in Moscow, Presidents Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping addressed the media, underscoring the strength of the comprehensive strategic partnership between Russia and China.

President Putin welcomed President Xi’s visit, timed to coincide with the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. He praised the historically high level of bilateral relations, grounded in mutual respect, equality, and shared history, and confirmed their commitment to countering the falsification of historical memory.

A substantial package of agreements was signed, including a Joint Statement outlining ambitious goals for trade and investment by 2030. Notable projects include expansion of gas exports, increased use of national currencies, development in nuclear energy, high-tech cooperation, and cultural exchanges. Trade between the two nations reached a record \$245 billion in 2024.

President Xi highlighted the enduring friendship forged in wartime sacrifice and reiterated China’s commitment to deepen ties across all sectors. He stressed the importance of maintaining a just global order based on international law and UN principles.

Both leaders affirmed their countries' close alignment on international affairs, emphasising cooperation within BRICS, the SCO, and the UN, and a shared vision for a multipolar, equitable world.

- **Russia Recognises Taiwan as Part of PRC**

[TASS](#), May 8, 2025

In a joint statement issued to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany and to further strengthen bilateral ties, Russia reiterated its unwavering adherence to the China principle. The statement emphasised that Taiwan is an integral part of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to supporting China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

“The Russian side reaffirms its commitment to the principle of 'One China.' It recognizes that there is only one China in the world, with Taiwan being an inalienable part of its territory. The government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate authority representing all of China,” the statement reads.

Russia expressed firm opposition to any form of Taiwanese independence and voiced its continued support for China's efforts to safeguard its sovereignty. This position aligns with Russia's broader diplomatic stance on territorial integrity and national unification, emphasizing the importance of upholding the “One China” principle in international relations.

The statement reflects growing cooperation between Russia and China, both of whom have maintained a strong partnership on global political issues. Russia's support for China's territorial claims over Taiwan further solidifies the two countries' alignment on key geopolitical issues.

## **Shoigu: Russia Strengthens Defence Amid Western Hybrid Warfare**

[TASS](#), [Pravda](#), May 6, 2025

Russia is bolstering its national defence capabilities in response to what it views as a hybrid war waged by the West, according to Secretary of the Russian Security Council Sergey Shoigu.

Writing in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, Shoigu said, “In the context of the hybrid war unleashed by the West against our great Motherland, national and public security, the defence of the country’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity are of critical importance.”

He noted that lessons from the Great Patriotic War continue to guide Russia’s military strategy, which he described as fundamentally opposed to warfare targeting civilians. “The experience gained in that historic victory is a lasting source of guidance for key military and political decisions,” Shoigu wrote.

To prevent future conflict, Shoigu stressed the urgent need to protect Russia from both external and internal threats. He underscored the importance of maintaining a robust national defence system designed to deter regional and global wars, ensure strategic stability, and preserve peace.

Shoigu’s comments come amid heightened tensions with NATO and continued Russian emphasis on internal security and strategic deterrence in the face of perceived Western hostility.

### **Ceasefire Alone Not Enough for Ukraine Settlement, Says Lavrov**

[TASS](#), [Sputnik](#), May 7, 2025

A lasting peace in Ukraine cannot be achieved through a mere ceasefire or temporary pause in hostilities, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has asserted, highlighting what he views as deeper security concerns stemming from NATO's actions.

Writing in an article for *The International Affairs* magazine, Lavrov expressed appreciation for Vietnam’s “balanced position” on the Ukraine crisis, but cautioned that halting combat along the front lines would not address the root of the conflict.

“A ceasefire or a pause on hostilities along the line of engagement only cannot bring a lasting solution to this problem,” Lavrov wrote in the article titled *Russia and Vietnam: 75 years of friendship, trust and mutual assistance*. “For a lasting peace, the root causes of the conflict should be removed.”

According to Lavrov, the key driver behind the crisis is NATO's eastward expansion and what he described as efforts to draw Ukraine into the military alliance — developments which Moscow views as direct threats to its national security.

He also pointed to what he claimed were human rights abuses in Ukrainian government-controlled areas, arguing that since the 2014 change of power in Kyiv, authorities have sought to eliminate Russian cultural and linguistic identity.

Lavrov called for the protection of Russian language, culture, and Orthodox religious traditions in these regions, stating: "It is no less important to achieve full respect for human rights in the territories remaining under the control of the Kiev regime."

### **Kremlin: Russia Demands Recognition of National Interests in Ukraine Talks**

[TASS](#), May 8, 2025

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov emphasised that Russia's national interests must be taken into account in any discussions regarding Ukraine. His remarks came in response to comments made by U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance, who suggested that Russia was "asking for too much" in the ongoing negotiation process.

Peskov stated that the core of Russia's demands in the negotiations is ensuring that the root causes of the conflict are addressed. He made it clear that these issues are directly tied to Russia's national security interests, and therefore must be part of any potential resolution. "We want our national interests to be taken into account. This is very important because it is directly related to our national security," Peskov said.

He also expressed hope that Washington recognizes the gravity of the situation for Russia and understands the importance of the Ukrainian conflict to its national security. Peskov highlighted that Russia continues to communicate its position to the United States through various diplomatic channels, ensuring that its stance is clearly understood by American officials.

The exchange comes as discussions about potential peace talks intensify, with both sides continuing to hold firm positions. While U.S. officials have suggested that Russia's demands are excessive, Moscow remains insistent that its security concerns be fully addressed in any



agreement, underscoring the deep divisions that still exist in the approach to ending the conflict.

### **Kremlin Stresses Arms Supplies Must Halt During Ceasefire**

[TASS](#), [Reuters](#), [Pravda](#), [ABC News](#), May 10, 2025

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasised that any temporary ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine must be accompanied by an immediate halt in arms supplies to Ukraine. In an interview with ABC News, Peskov expressed concern that continued shipments of weapons from the United States and European countries would provide Ukraine with an unfair advantage during a truce.

“If we speak about ceasefire, what are you going to do with shipments of weapons coming every day from the United States and European countries?” Peskov asked, underscoring that halting the flow of arms is a crucial component of any meaningful ceasefire agreement.

He further elaborated that without such a halt, Ukraine would gain significant advantages in terms of mobilisation, troop training, and replenishment of its forces. “Ukraine will continue their total mobilization, bringing new troops to the frontline,” Peskov said. “They will use this period to train new military personnel and to give a rest to their existing ones.”

Peskov questioned why Russia should allow Ukraine to gain such advantages while a temporary truce is in effect, suggesting that the continuation of arms supplies would undermine the balance of any ceasefire agreement.

The Kremlin's position reflects a broader concern that a truce could merely provide Ukraine with an opportunity to regroup and reinforce its military efforts, thereby prolonging the conflict.

### **Putin on May Ceasefire Extension: Dependent on Kiev's Reaction**

[TASS](#), May 11, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that the extension of the three-day ceasefire declared for Victory Day could have been possible, but it was contingent on the response from the Ukrainian government. Speaking to reporters at the Kremlin, Putin clarified that the

extension would have been considered after assessing Kiev's reaction during the initial ceasefire period.

“On this holy day for us, we declared a ceasefire for the third time. We told our colleagues in the West... that we do not rule out the possibility of extending it. But, of course, this would have been done after we had analysed what happened over these three days, depending on how the Kiev regime reacts,” Putin said.

Victory Day, observed on May 9, is a significant occasion for Russia, commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War. Putin emphasised that the day holds immense importance for the country, having cost 27 million Soviet lives. The ceasefire, which lasted from May 8 to May 11, was declared on humanitarian grounds but expired without an extension, as the situation on the ground evolved.

### **Russia's Call for Direct Ukraine Negotiations: Kremlin's Position on Ceasefire**

[Sky News](#), May 11, 2025; [TASS](#), May 12, 2025

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasised the necessity of direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to establish a ceasefire. Speaking to Sky News, Peskov asserted that simplistic approaches to the conflict were inadequate and that direct dialogue was crucial to finding a viable path to ceasefire.

Peskov's comments followed a proposal from Western leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, and Polish Premier Donald Tusk, who visited Kiev on May 10. The European leaders suggested a 30-day ceasefire beginning May 12 in their talks with the Ukrainian government.

However, President Vladimir Putin, in a conversation with reporters on May 11, proposed a return to direct negotiations, which were suspended by Kiev in late 2022. He suggested restarting the talks in Istanbul on May 15, underlining that any peace process must be founded on negotiations rather than unilateral decisions. Putin also pointed out that Russia had previously announced several ceasefires, which were breached by Ukraine, including the recent three-day truce for Victory Day commemorations.

The Kremlin's stance remains firm on the need for substantial discussions, as Russia insists that its security concerns and territorial integrity must be addressed in any lasting peace

agreement. The proposals indicate that despite ongoing hostilities, there is a possibility for diplomatic engagement if both sides are willing to return to the negotiation table.

## **Russia and the World**

### **Dominican President Hosts Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**

[TASS](#), May 1, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited the Dominican Republic for the first time, meeting with President Luis Abinader and his Dominican counterpart, Roberto Alvarez. The visit marked a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations between Russia and the Dominican Republic.

During the meeting, Lavrov and Abinader discussed enhancing direct business connections between the two countries, with both sides expressing interest in facilitating collaboration. Lavrov highlighted the Dominican Republic's initiatives, particularly those from the country's Ambassador to Russia, which include organizing a business forum to showcase the Dominican Republic's capabilities. The forum, in collaboration with the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is intended to engage Russian regions in economic exchanges.

Lavrov's visit also coincided with the opening of the Russian embassy in Santo Domingo, marking a new chapter in diplomatic ties. Lavrov emphasised that both nations are keen on furthering their economic and diplomatic cooperation, including through expanding trade and business partnerships.

### **Legal Talks Ongoing Over Closure of Russian House in Azerbaijan**

[TASS](#), May 2, 2025

Talks are ongoing between Moscow and Baku regarding the legal status of the Russian House in Azerbaijan, following its suspension earlier this year. Rossotrudnichestvo, Russia's federal agency for cultural cooperation, remains hopeful for a positive outcome, according to its head, Yevgeny Primakov.

“Contacts between the Russian Embassy and the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry are continuing,” Primakov told *TASS*. “This is a matter for legal professionals and foreign policy experts. It falls outside our remit, but we are optimistic that the issue will be resolved satisfactorily for all parties.”

In February, Rossotrudnichestvo announced that it had been compelled to halt the Russian House’s activities in Baku and begin vacating the premises, following a formal request from the Azerbaijani authorities. The lack of legal status under local legislation was cited as the reason for the suspension.

The Russian House is a cultural institution responsible for promoting Russian language, culture, and education abroad.

### **MFA: Zelensky’s Truce Refusal Poses Threat to Visiting Leaders**

[TASS](#), [The Moscow Times](#), May 3, 2025

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has stated that Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky’s refusal to consider a truce during the 80th anniversary celebrations of Victory in the Great Patriotic War constitute a direct threat to foreign leaders attending events in Moscow.

Speaking to *TASS*, Zakharova said Zelensky “unambiguously threatened world leaders” by suggesting he could not guarantee security in Russia on 9 May. “Given that Kiev regularly claims responsibility for terrorist acts on Russian soil, this comment must be seen as a direct threat,” she asserted.

Zakharova further claimed that such statements underscore the “neo-Nazi and terrorist” character of the current Ukrainian administration, adding, “The Kiev regime, its security services, and Zelensky himself openly boast about these acts, which they threaten to continue.”

The Russian Foreign Ministry views these developments as further evidence of the radicalisation of the Ukrainian leadership and has raised concerns over the safety of international guests during the commemorative events.

## Russia on the Pahalgam Terror Attack

- **Lavrov and Indian Foreign Minister Discuss India–Pakistan Tensions in Phone Call**

[TASS](#), [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation](#), May 3, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a phone conversation with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, to discuss the recent escalation between India and Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the two ministers addressed key aspects of Russian–Indian cooperation and exchanged views on the deterioration in India–Pakistan relations after the 22 April attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 people dead, including one Nepalese national. Indian intelligence has reportedly linked the assault to the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba, allegedly with support from Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Lavrov reiterated Russia’s support for resolving Indo-Pakistani disputes through political and diplomatic means, in line with the 1972 Simla Agreement and the 1999 Lahore Declaration.

The ministers also reviewed the schedule of forthcoming high-level contacts and summit meetings between the two countries.

In the wake of the attack, New Delhi has taken several retaliatory steps, including reducing its diplomatic presence in Pakistan, suspending bilateral water-sharing agreements, and halting visa issuance for Pakistani nationals.

- **Russia Offers to Assist in Easing India–Pakistan Tensions**

[TASS](#), [Reuters](#), May 4, 2025; [Sputnik India](#), May 5, 2025

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has reaffirmed Moscow’s willingness to assist in easing the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, following a deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April.



During a phone conversation with Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Lavrov stated that Russia is prepared to contribute to a political resolution of the crisis, should both New Delhi and Islamabad express mutual interest. The Russian Foreign Ministry noted that the call took place at Pakistan's request and also covered aspects of Russian–Pakistani cooperation.

The attack in the tourist town of Pahalgam claimed at least 26 lives, including one Nepalese national. India has accused the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba, with alleged support from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), of carrying out the assault — accusations that Islamabad denies.

In the days following the attack, India recorded repeated ceasefire violations along the Line of Control. Diplomatic tensions have surged, with both nations taking retaliatory measures, including border trade suspensions, diplomatic expulsions, and flight restrictions.

The Kashmir region remains a longstanding flashpoint between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, having been the source of wars, unrest, and repeated crises.

- **Putin and Modi Reaffirm Commitment to Combating Terrorism**

[TASS](#), [RIA News](#), May 5, 2025

In a phone conversation on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed their shared commitment to an uncompromising fight against terrorism, according to a statement released by the Kremlin.

The call follows the 22 April terrorist attack in the Indian town of Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which left 26 people dead, including one Nepalese national. President Putin once again conveyed his deepest condolences to the victims' families and the Indian people.

The Kremlin noted that both leaders stressed the importance of confronting terrorism in all its forms, underlining the need for decisive international action.

The attack, reportedly carried out by the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba group (banned in Russia), has significantly strained India–Pakistan relations. Indian authorities have

accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of involvement—claims Islamabad denies. In response, India has reduced diplomatic staff in Pakistan, suspended a water-sharing agreement, halted visa services for Pakistanis, and declared several Pakistani military attachés persona non grata.

The phone call underscored the continuing strategic partnership between Moscow and New Delhi amid heightened regional tensions.

### **Shoigu: NATO Membership for Ukraine Still a Goal of Western Elites**

[TASS](#), May 6, 2025

The prospect of Ukraine joining NATO has faded into the background since Donald Trump's rise to power, but remains a priority for Western liberal elites, according to Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu.

In an article published by *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, Shoigu asserted that the idea of Ukraine's accession to NATO "has not been rejected by the globalist, left-liberal elites of the West." He linked this objective to historical forces he claimed once supported Nazi Germany, suggesting they are now seeking "revenge" by backing Ukraine's integration into the alliance.

Shoigu accused Western political elites, particularly in former Soviet states, of suffering from a "deficient memory" of history, stating that fascist ideology has been "openly and cynically reborn" in Ukraine and is also re-emerging in the Baltic States.

He further reflected on the post-Soviet era, describing it as a period marked by a "profound crisis of national identity" in Russian society.

The remarks come amid ongoing tensions between Russia and NATO, as Moscow continues to view Ukraine's potential membership as a direct security threat.

### **Russian Envoy: Madrid Urges Seizure of Russian Assets to Fund EU Defence**

[TASS](#), May 6, 2025

Spain is advocating the confiscation of frozen Russian sovereign assets to finance military spending across the European Union, in an attempt to avoid unpopular domestic measures, according to Moscow's Ambassador to Madrid, Yury Klimentko.

Speaking to *TASS*, Klimentko said that Spanish officials had begun "speaking freely" about using the blocked assets of the Russian Federation to bolster European defence capabilities. He described this as a marked shift from Spain's historically more balanced stance within the EU.

"I was surprised at such a radicalisation in Madrid's position," Klimentko said. "Unlike its more outspokenly anti-Russian allies, Spain previously sought a more moderate approach."

The ambassador criticised what he called a "pseudo-democratic camp" within NATO, accusing its members of blindly following bloc directives. He argued that, in an effort to meet Brussels' pressure for increased defence budgets, Spain was searching for alternatives to politically difficult decisions such as raising taxes or cutting social spending.

"To this end, Madrid is even prepared to call openly for the violation of international law and the seizure of Russian assets — hoping it won't be held accountable if the funds are 'frozen' in other jurisdictions," Klimentko added.

Spain has reportedly called on EU partners to establish a new joint financial mechanism, potentially involving non-EU countries, to subsidise large-scale defence projects. According to Spain's *EFE* news agency, the plan includes the possible use of Russia's frozen assets.

Following the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, Western nations — including the EU, US, Canada, and Japan — froze approximately \$300 billion in Russian assets. The bulk of these, about \$210 billion, are held at Euroclear in Belgium. Russia has repeatedly warned that any transfer of these funds or their proceeds to Ukraine would trigger severe retaliatory measures.

### **Russia and Venezuela Sign Treaty on Arms Control and Terrorism Cooperation**

[TASS](#), May 7, 2025

Russia and Venezuela have signed a landmark treaty aimed at strengthening their cooperation on arms control and combatting international terrorism. The bilateral agreement, signed by

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, reflects the two nations' shared commitment to promoting global security and non-proliferation.

One of the key provisions of the treaty is the pledge to work together to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the development, production, and stockpiling of chemical, biological, and toxin weapons. Both countries also agreed to enhance the efficacy of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensure biological security, in line with international treaties and norms.

Additionally, Russia and Venezuela committed to preventing an arms race in space, underscoring their mutual concern over the militarization of outer space. This collaboration comes at a time of growing global interest in space security, as both nations seek to ensure that space remains a peaceful domain.

Beyond arms control, the treaty also focuses on international terrorism. Russia and Venezuela have agreed to intensify efforts in the fight against terrorism and extremism, stressing that no act of terrorism can be justified, regardless of its motive or location. The two countries will also cooperate in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The strategic partnership between Russia and Venezuela marks a significant step in deepening their ties, particularly in areas of global security, and reflects their shared priorities in addressing the challenges posed by weapons proliferation and terrorism.

### **Russian Defense Minister Discusses Military Cooperation with Kyrgyzstan**

[TASS](#), May 10, 2025

Russian Defense Minister Andrey Belousov held a bilateral meeting with Kyrgyz Defense Minister Baktybek Bekbolotov, focusing on enhancing military and technical cooperation between the two countries. The meeting underscored the historical ties between Russia and Kyrgyzstan, with Belousov highlighting the shared legacy of the Soviet Union in defeating Fascism.

“I am very happy to hold this meeting with you. Yesterday, you put it right by saying that we are all the children of one family called the Soviet people. And that family broke Fascism’s spine,” Belousov said during the talks, emphasizing the deep historical connections that bind the two nations.

The Russian Defense Ministry noted that the discussions revolved around strengthening bilateral military and technical collaboration. Both sides expressed a commitment to further deepening their cooperation in these areas, ensuring mutual security and stability in the region.

### **Russia and Ukraine to Resume Direct Talks in Istanbul After Three-Year Hiatus**

[TASS](#), May 15, 2025

In a potential diplomatic breakthrough, delegations from Russia and Ukraine are set to meet in Istanbul on Thursday for the first time since peace talks collapsed in March 2022. The high-stakes meeting, initiated by Russian President Vladimir Putin, has drawn global attention, with representatives from the United States and other international stakeholders expected to be in attendance.

Russia's delegation will once again be led by Kremlin aide Vladimir Medinsky, joined by senior officials from the Defense and Foreign Ministries. Ukraine's delegation will be headed by President Volodymyr Zelensky's team, following his conditional acceptance of Putin's offer to resume negotiations.

The meeting, which comes amid renewed tensions and sanctions, may serve as a litmus test for both sides' willingness to explore a political resolution. Although the agenda remains undisclosed, Russian officials have hinted that core issues such as territorial control and ceasefire conditions will likely dominate the talks.

President Putin has offered to restart dialogue without preconditions, emphasizing that Ukraine withdrew from the original 2022 negotiations. In response, Zelensky has insisted that Moscow first demonstrate a commitment to a "full, lasting and reliable" ceasefire, beginning May 12.

Interestingly, Zelensky also clarified that although Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council officially bars direct talks with Putin—a ban enacted in 2022—he personally does not consider it applicable to himself.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoys Steve Witkoff and Keith Kellogg are expected in Istanbul, with President Trump even suggesting he might attend if it benefits the



process. The United States' presence underlines the broader international stakes of the meeting.

While hopes are cautiously rising, diplomats are warning against premature optimism. “It is too early to make forecasts,” said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, noting that much hinges on the stance of Western powers backing Ukraine.

As the world watches closely, Thursday’s meeting in Istanbul may determine whether diplomacy can once again find a foothold amid one of Europe’s most protracted conflicts in recent history.

### **Putin Confirms Russian Delegation for Istanbul Talks with Ukraine**

[TASS](#), [Pravda](#), [The Kyiv Independent](#), May 15, 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin has officially announced the members of the Russian delegation that will participate in the upcoming talks with Ukraine in Turkey. The delegation will be led by Kremlin Aide Vladimir Medinsky, who also headed the Russian side during negotiations in 2022. Other key members include Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin, Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin, and Igor Kostyukov, the head of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces. In addition, Putin has appointed several experts to assist with the negotiations. These include Alexander Zorin, first deputy head of the information department at the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces; Yelena Podobreyevskaya, deputy head of the Presidential Directorate for State Policy in the Humanitarian Area; Alexey Polishchuk, director of the Second Department of CIS countries at the Russian Foreign Ministry; and Viktor Shevtsov, deputy head of the Main Directorate for International Military Cooperation at the Defense Ministry.

According to Kremlin Aide Yury Ushakov, the talks set for May 15 in Istanbul will resume the process that was previously suspended in 2022, allegedly at the suggestion of then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The Russian delegation plans to address both political and technical matters. During the earlier round of negotiations, which began in Belarus, Russia was represented not only by Medinsky and Defense Minister Fomin but also by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, and Leonid Slutsky, head of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee. The Russian ambassador to Belarus, Boris Gryzlov, also took part in those meetings.

President Putin made a new offer to Kiev on May 11, proposing to restart direct Russian-Ukrainian negotiations without any preconditions. This move has been seen as a renewed attempt by Moscow to seek a diplomatic resolution to the ongoing conflict.



## About the Author

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