

## Kobakhidze Says Insulting Answer Given to "Colleague" Regarding US Ambassador's Response



By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

In an open letter to U.S. Ambassador Kelly Degnan, MP Mikheil Kavelashvili claimed that no Russian soft power could harm America's reputation in Georgia more than Degnan's words or silence, "which people may perceive as an attempt to restore the National Movement to power."

Mikheil Kavelashvili says that rather than looking for evidence in FSB manuals, one should focus on the statements made by individuals connected to or supported by Degnan and the Ambassador's failure to disassociate herself from them.

Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, states that US Ambassador Kelly Degnan insulted Mikheil Kavelashvili while replying to his letter.

According to Kobakhidze, Kavelashvili was a parliamen-

tarian elected by the people, and the form and content of the ambassador's response to Kavelashvili's letter are "sad and regrettable." The chairman of the party says that he cannot comment on the correctness of Kavelashvili's letter to the ambassador, because Kavelashvili is an independent deputy and he has the right to ask questions.

"Here I have to focus on the answer, this also contains some inconvenience for me, because I still have to enter public controversy, but Misha Kavelashvili, leaving aside the fact that he has been a member of the Georgian Dream team for years, is a parliamentarian elected by the people and our colleague, and this form of an answer, and not only the form, but also the content, it was very sad and regrettable for me, I can tell you openly."

Irakli Kobakhidze said that he is not going to discuss the content of the comment and letter,

however, Mikheil Kavelashvili being an exceptionally decent, honorable, and honest man" does not deserve the 'insult'.

"It was full of lies, conspiracy theories, couldn't read it to the end," Kelly Degnan on Kavelashvili's letter

US Ambassador Kelly Degnan responds to the letter of Mikheil Kavelashvili, the MP who has left the Georgian dream, where Kavelashvili says that it would be good if "in order to protect the image of America, the ambassador would publicly disassociate himself from the provocations carried out by the National Movement".

According to Degnan, the MP's letter was full of lies and conspiracy theories, which is why he could not read it completely. As Degnan noted, it is strange that the narrative of former members of the Georgian Dream coincides with the words of some leaders of the ruling

party.

"I couldn't even read the letter, which was full of lies and conspiracy theories. He really doesn't understand that the United States of America works and supports not a specific political party, but the Georgian people, supports the independent institutions of the country, which are created according to the constitution. For example, such as the Office of the Public Defender and they have a constitutional mandate to protect the rights of all Georgian citizens. It is dangerous for any democracy when independent institutions are undermined in this way."

As Degnan noted, it is strange that the narrative of former members of the Georgian Dream coincides with the words of some leaders of the ruling party.

I will repeat once again a matter that has already been said many times to be a lie. The United States and Europe do not

want to involve Georgia in Russia's war against Ukraine. We are doing everything we can to prevent this war from expanding and ending it. States work for peace and are ready to cooperate with all who are willing to work and make efforts for peace," says the US ambassador.

MP Mikheil Kavelashvili, who has left the Georgian dream, addressed a letter to the US ambassador, Kelly Degnan, and said that it would be good, "in order to protect the image of America, the ambassador would publicly disassociate himself from the provocations carried out by the National Movement".

As Kavelashvili noted in the letter, "no Russian soft power can shake the US reputation in Georgia as much as the ambassador's statements or silence", which according to him, people can perceive as an attempt to return the "National Movement" to power.

# 12 Demands of European Union to Georgian Political Spectrum

BY MALKHAZ MATSABERIDZE

Today, the main topic of Georgian politics is discussing the fulfillment of the 12 demands presented by the European Union. Georgian Dream claims that these requirements will be fulfilled by the end of the year, while the opposition suspects that the government will not actually do anything and will leave the country without the status of an EU membership candidate. How to prevent such a development of events has not yet been established.

The main events of the last couple of months are the mass rallies of June 20 and 24 and July 3 with the protest rally of June 20 being particularly crowded. The opposition parties took distance from these rallies, neither participated in their organization nor spoke out. The actions were led by civil activists.

The rallies showed that there is a lot of potential ready among civil society and integrating with the European Union is desired by the vast majority of the country's population. These people may be temporarily misled, but in the end, they will not forgive anyone for hindering

Georgia's western integration.

The three protest participants also showed that its organizers did not have a real action plan. GD took the ultimatum for Gharibashvili's resignation and the demand for the formation of a technical government as a joke. To them, the appearance of tens of thousands of people at protest rallies does not mean much.

Georgian Dream isn't saying they won't meet the 12 EU requirements. On the contrary, they assure that it will create working groups for this purpose and receive thanks from the West for such statements. Some caution of the Georgian Dream is understandable, firstly, the leaders of the party are well aware that integration with the West is the desire of the vast majority of people and they do not want to be blamed for not accepting the status of a candidate for EU membership. Moreover, the fate of the Russia-Ukraine war is unclear. GD is also afraid of possible sanctions from the West against Bidzina Ivanishvili and his closest entourage.

But in reality, the Georgian Dream does not want to fulfill the requirements of the Euro-

pean Union, because their realization means the dismantling of the current system. It is also clear that distance from the West and a critical tone toward the West is becoming Russia's hope.

Today, in the Russia-Ukraine war, Russian troops continue to attack and achieve certain successes. Western sanctions or military aid have not yet brought a change in favor of Ukraine. Putin's military defeat would probably make the Georgian Dream much more attentive to the West.

The Georgian Dream is engaged in intense and open anti-Western propaganda when its leaders say one after the other that the West is trying to drag Georgia into the war and that Georgia would have already received the status of a member of the European Union if it were involved in the war against Russia. The 12 points are just fiction, the main thing is to open a second front against Russia - this is the essence of this propaganda. It is clear that this is an excuse for the time when 6 months will pass and Georgia will not become a candidate for EU membership. In addition, it aims to discredit the West and

the opposition. "We don't need such a Europe," some people have already voiced this phrase.

The government is offering the opposition to start a dialogue in order to fulfill the 12 points of the European Union, although it is clear from their own comments that they're not planning much. That is why the opposition claims that the Georgian Dream only wants to waste time and will not do anything.

Deoligarchization? But it is already known that the bill prepared by them will not affect Bidzina Ivanishvili and Mikheil Saakashvili, her mother, leaders of 'Lelo' will fall under it. These people have already been nominated, additional candidates will be sought from the opposition circles. Depolarization? This means the recognition of the election results by the opposition, the cessation of criticism of the government, etc. Parliamentary opposition parties are trying to get an extraordinary parliamentary session called to begin discussions on meeting the EU's demands. For example, the constitutional amendments, which have already been adopted in the first reading and provide for the reduction of the electoral thresh-

old, could be adopted soon if there is political will, and this would be an important step to reduce depolarization.

The opposition is going to ask the president to convene an extraordinary session, although it is difficult to say how effective this request will be. This is probably the only thing that the government is afraid of year 'Revolution', although at the same time it is an accusation against the opposition that they are "preparing for a revolution." The opposition denies such accusations and focuses on peaceful methods of fighting.

The opposition believes that it will be necessary to put pressure on the Georgian Dream inside the country through peaceful protests. However, it is also clear that it will be difficult to organize such actions in the summer. Outside the country, they consider imposing sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili and her entourage as effective support. The reason is known to everyone, they have been repeatedly accused of secret cooperation with Russia and facilitating the violation of Western sanctions. However, it is difficult to say whether it will lead to sanctions.

## Strategy Builder Responds to GD's Comments on US Ambassador Degnan

BY MESSENGER STAFF

Strategy Builder responded to Georgian Dream's comments on US ambassador Kelly Degnan.

In a statement, the party claimed that the Georgian Dream's anti-American rhetoric had become frightening.

"Georgia-n Dream's anti-Western and, more specifically, anti-American propaganda has reached an alarming point. A clear proof of this is the direct attacks against our strategic partner, the US ambassador, Mrs. Kelly Degnan.

These statements of Georgia-n Dream propagandists are formally published under the names and surnames of different people, but we must know that this has one name and surname, its author is oligarch Ivanishvili, who is partially under Western sanctions and is trying to solve his own problems at the expense of damaging the interests of Georgia and its citizens.

We call on Ivanishvili and the leaders of Georgia-n Dream to come to their senses in time and stop the harmful actions against Georgia, and the betrayal of the national interest of Georgia.

We, the Strategy-Builder team, warned our citizens about the goals and tasks of the anti-Western, anti-American campaign in recent days, that this is not happening by chance, it is being organized and purposefully

carried out by FSB curators in Georgia through Georgian messengers (disseminators of information). It's not significant which Georgia-n Dream leader signs the letters.

The latest proof of this is the slanderous statement on behalf of Kavelashvili against the American Ambassador. We all

know very well that Kavelashvili cannot write a single paragraph of this statement on his own.

We, Strategy-Builder, once again appeal to the citizens of Georgia to be very vigilant, along with the chance of European integration of Georgia, there is a very big risk that Georgia-n Dream and Ivanishvili will

make Georgia and its citizens lose this opportunity.

Let's not follow misinformation, because we should know that in reality, the state of Georgia, its freedom, does not have a friend and supporter state like the USA.

God bless Georgia! God bless America!" read the statement.

### Weather

Monday, July 11

Day Clear  
High: 35°C

Night Clear  
Low: 21°C

Tuesday, July 12

Day Clear  
High: 35°C

Night Clear  
Low: 21°C

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