

Kelly Degnan calls cooperation between government and 'People's Power' party 'confusing', discusses de-oligarchization

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

US ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Kelly Degnan has stated that there is a "confusing message" coming from the Georgian authorities. According to her, on the one hand, the prime minister and others talk about the importance of relations with Georgia's strategic partners, and on the other hand, the ruling party sides with those who are rooting for the partnership between Georgia and the US to fail.

When asked to evaluate the statements of the deputies who left the 'Georgian Dream' and also the cooperation between the government and the 'People's Power', Degnan said that the 'Georgian Dream' is siding with political forces that are undermining the US and Georgia's strategic partnership, calling the action 'confusing'.

"We noted that there is a confusing message coming from the government about the connection with those who undermine the partnership between Georgia and the US, and on the other hand statements from the Prime Minister of Georgia and other persons talk about the importance of the partnership between the US and Georgia and other strategic partners," Degnan said.

"I cannot comment on the current political process in Georgia. I think Georgian people see very well what is happening here.

I prefer to be guided by facts and truth, there is a lot of misinformation and conspiracy theories around. The fact is that for 30 years, the USA faithfully helped Georgia to strengthen its



security, supported its sovereignty. For 30 years, the US has supported Georgia in the development of its economy, in the creation of better jobs.

It can be said that the good economic data that we are seeing in Georgia right now is somewhat related to the support that the US, the European Union and other friends of Georgia have found for it to deal with the consequences of the covid pandemic.

For 30 years, the US has also tried to help Georgia develop democratic institutions so that the Georgian people would have

faith that the country is moving towards a stronger, healthier democracy. Georgian people have been demanding this for decades," said the US Ambassador to Georgia.

Kelly Degnan also discussed the de-oligarchization of Georgia. "The issue of de-oligarchization in any country is how to deal with the improper influence of someone in the political or economic processes of the country, of someone who tries to influence the work of the government and society through excessive money or influence."

"This is an issue that many countries are struggling with, including mine. There are different ways in which countries address undue influence in the political sector, and I think each country should consider this issue and find its own solution. I don't think it's always useful to just borrow from someone else without adapting it to the specifics of your country's situation. There are many good examples that can be discussed and developed into something suitable for Georgia," the Ambassador noted.

According to her, it is neces-

sary to give more time to solve the problem of undue influence.

"It is necessary to spend more time highlighting the problem of undue influence, which affects the political will of the population. For example, instead of having an election that reflects what voters voted for, you have a skewed representation because there was undue influence on the process. The aim of any such law is to ensure that there is transparency, accountability and a level playing field for the voice of the people to be heard," US Ambassador to Georgia said.

Mamuka Mdinardze responds to US Ambassador Kelly Degnan's comments on de-oligarchization bill

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Executive Secretary of "Georgian Dream" Mamuka Mdinardze commented on Kelly Degnan's statement regarding de-oligarchization and called on the US Ambassador to Georgia to be more specific and clarify, so the International community do not think that her opinion matches with that of the opposition's.

"We would like to call on the representative of our strategic partner, friendly country in to be clear with her statements, for example, regarding the issue of de-oligarchization - if there is not much clarification, many people in this country and even outside the country will

have the impression that the message box of the opposition matches the pathos of the ambassador of our partner country," Mdinardze said.

According to Mdinardze, the statement that the law of de-oligarchization should be adapted to the Georgian reality and specifics, at the same time, if it means that it should be adapted to a specific person, i.e Bidzina Ivanishvili, it means that we put the principles of law aside.

"Yesterday Khatia Dekanoidze came out and said that the law should be adapted to Bidzina Ivanishvili, today

CONTINUED ON Page 2

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.8055; Euro - 2.7825; GBP - 3.1887; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.7178; Swiss Franc - 2.8534

Mamuka Mdinardze responds to US Ambassador Kelly Degnan's comments on de-oligarchization bill

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Kelly Degnan came out and said that this law should be drawn up with Georgian specifics. If there is not more clarity here and if there is not more clarification, many people in this country and even outside the country will have the impression that the message box of the opposition coincides with the pathos of the representative of our partner and friend country, the ambassador.

Based on the fact that it fits the Georgian reality and specifics, at the same time, if it means that it fits a specific person whom they want it to fit, i.e. Bidzina Ivanishvili, it means that we put the principles of law and the principles of democracy aside and as in some authoritarian countries, or even worse, the law can directly apply to a particular person. This is against the principles of the law, and therefore more clarification and precision is needed, what is meant behind

this statement", Mdinardze said.

In addition, he asked the journalists if they could name one specific theoretical circumstance, what specific regional specifics could de-oligarchization have, which could be different in Ukraine and different in Georgia," said Mdinardze.

The US ambassador to Georgia Kelly Degnan commented on the de-oligarchization law and said that Georgia should adjust its political specifics with Ukraine's de-oligarchization law and not

just 'borrow' it without changing anything.

"There are different ways in which countries address undue influence in the political sector, and I think each country should consider this issue and find its own solution. I don't think it's always useful to just borrow from someone else without adapting it to the specifics of your country's situation. There are many good examples that can be discussed and developed into something suitable for Georgia," Degnan said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Shalva Papuashvili meets with newly appointed director of USAID John Pennell

Pennell. Shalva Papuashvili expressed his gratitude to the International Development Agency for the support provided to Georgia over the years. He also talked about the priorities of the chairman of

readiness to cooperate with the Parliament.

Shalva Papuashvili wished John Pennell success in his new work.

active work is being done with the private sector for this purpose.

"The opinion of the business association was that today there is not enough workforce, among them there is no qualified workforce. People should not leave the country, on the contrary, there is a shortage of labor here. We are talking about the fact that skills should be increased and how to do this, that is what we are discussing, it should be a matter of cooperation between the private sector and the state. We have constant dialogue and communication with this sector. Our Ministry

formulates a policy in the direction of construction, we have constant communication. Citizens who left Georgia, who acquired qualifications in the same construction sector in different countries, are returning today because salaries in this sector have significantly increased in Georgia. However, we are paying attention to the problems, there are many problems," said Davitashvili.

According to him, a meeting will be held with the representatives of the private sector, where they will talk about the lack of workforce and ways to solve this problem.



Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia Shalva Papuashvili met with the newly appointed director of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Georgia Office, John

the parliament and reviewed the progress of Georgia in relation to the implementation of EU recommendations.

The parties discussed possible directions of further cooperation between the Parliament of Georgia and the US Agency for International Development.

John Pennell introduced the priorities of the new USAID program to the Speaker of the Parliament and expressed his

Minister of Economy says there is shortage of qualified workforce in private sector

According to the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development Levan Davitashvili, according to the assessment of the business association, there is a serious shortage of qualified workforce.

As he told the journalists,



Weather

Thursday, October 6

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 27°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 16°C

Friday, October 7

Day Mostly Cloudy
High: 23°C

Night Few Showers
Low: 16°C

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