

Russian aggression in 2008 against Georgia was a right decision, Dmitry Medvedev thinks

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev in an interview with the propaganda agency Tass, states that the decision made in 2008 of Russia's invasion of Georgia was correct and he would not change this decision.

Medvedev also said that "Georgia started the war and opened fire on the peaceful population, including Russian peacekeepers due to which Moscow was forced to respond."

"The attack on Tskhinvali and other settlements of the republic started suddenly and disgustingly, of course, we were obliged to respond. We could not just wipe our tears and bow our heads before the bloody fool and let them tear people apart," he said regarding the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia.

According to him, the governments of Georgia and Ukraine left Russia with no other choice and it carried out military intervention.

"If there is a possibility to solve the problem peacefully, at the negotiating table, it should be done, but when there is no solution, you have to respond with force." Unfortunately, both in Georgia and Ukraine, the authorities of these countries left no choice to Russia, thereby disrupting the processes of political settlement of these conflicts, and we carried out military intervention."



He continuously repeated the Kremlin narrative in an interview, saying that America was fighting Russia with the help of Georgia, and now it is doing the same in Ukraine. According to him, the goal of all conflicts is the destruction of the Russian Federation:

"The attack on Tskhinvali and other settlements of the republic started suddenly and disgustingly. The puppet regime controlled by Washington decided to apply its own understanding of "democracy" and "hu-

manism" to South Ossetia and return it to Georgia by force at the cost of destroying the entire nation. Of course, we were obliged to answer. We couldn't just wipe away our tears and bow our heads to the bloody fool and leave those people to be torn apart.

Russia could not intervene in this conflict. It was about protecting the citizens of our country who live in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. To protect them from Saakashvili's aggression, we got the main thing - peace,"

Medvedev said.

He also discussed Georgia and Ukraine's NATO integration and stated that he thinks Georgia and Ukraine will never become NATO member states. In addition, the former President of Russia notes that Abkhazia and South Ossetia are independent states, and the current government of Georgia understands this well.

To the question if there is still a danger that Georgia will ever try to return Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, Medvedev answered

as follows:

"As for the new possible aggression of Georgia against the territories separated from it, this is impossible. For us, today Abkhazia and South Ossetia are independent states with which we have established friendly relations and where our military bases are located. This is well understood by the current government of Georgia. They will not try their luck once again and will not enter into a conflict with such a power as Russia," Medvedev said.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Badri Japaridze of 'Lelo' elaborates on their Visa policy initiative responding to Gov't

Badri Japaridze of "Lelo" party made a statement regarding the party's initiative of tightening the Visa policy for Russians, accusing the Georgian Dream party of 'shamelessly lying' as according to him, the "Lelo" initiative does not serve the restriction for tourism in Georgia:

"The initiative talks about el-



ementary regulation. When they say that someone wants to restrict tourists or create an obstacle, this is demagoguery and a shameless lie," leader Badri Japaridze said.

Lelo MP also said that it's not a news that 'Georgian government responds inadequately to completely rational proposal'

"There is no question of restricting the flow of tourists. Tourists should be able to enter the country without hindrance, explore it, and for this there should be a simplified visa regime, which means that it is very easy to get a visa at the border.

The "Lelo" initiative talks

about people who want to stay in our country for a long time, and today the regime we have with the Russian Federation means staying in the country for 360 days without any restrictions. The Russian Federation has a very strict visa regime for our country, and those citizens of Georgia who want to travel to Russia have to pay quite a lot of money. On the other hand, a bloody war is going on in the region, which is being waged by Russia. At this time, when the number of visitors from the aggressor country is increasing,

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.7141; Euro - 2.7662; GBP - 3.2835; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.5071; Swiss Franc - 2.8343

The president Zourabichvili was guided by 'political motives' when selecting the chairman and membership candidates, CEC statement says

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

According to the statement of the Central Election Commission, the clarification made by the President regarding the selection competition for the Chairman and members of the Central Election Commission indicates that she was guided by political motives when making the decision.

The administration publishes a statement about this, where it is noted that the election administration is an independent institution and it is unfortunate that the evaluation of the activities of this institution and its representatives is not based on objective criteria, but on political motives.

"The decision made by the President of Georgia regarding the competition for the selection of the chairman and members of the CEC became the cause of political insinuations. In particular, from the side of politically interested persons, opinions are heard that the reason for the President's decision may be the political bias of the acting members of the CEC or emphasizing the flawed conduct of the 2021 elections. This harms not only the professional dignity of specific persons participating in the competition, but also the reputation of the election administration as an independent and impartial arbiter.

The clarification made by the president regarding the selection competition for the chairman and members of the CEC indicates that she was guided by political motives when making the decision. The president does not question the professionalism of the active chairman of the CEC, she also appreciates his experience and activities, however, at the same time, she notes that the purpose of his decision, both in the case of the chairman and the members of the CEC, was to reveal candidates selected

by a broader political consensus for competitive positions. And this is quite difficult to achieve in the current political situation, when candidates are discredited by completely baseless accusations. All the more so if we take into account that among the candidates presented by the president to the parliament there are still representatives of the election administration. We wish success to our colleagues in the next stage of the competition. We think that submitting their candidacies is another recognition of the election administration and proof that there is no problem

with the credibility of the agency. We would like to emphasize that the election administration is an independent institution that works in compliance with democratic principles, with a high professional standard, transparently, and it is unfortunate that the evaluation of the activities of this institution and its representatives is not based on objective criteria, but on political motives. Here we would like to explain to the public that regardless of the decision made by the President regarding the competition, the election administration and

its chairman, in accordance with the law, will continue to work as usual. The current chairman, as well as 2 members of the CEC, will perform their duties until their replacements are elected in accordance with the law," the election administration statement reads.

The active chairman of the CEC, Giorgi Kalandarishvili, was not among the candidates presented to the parliament by the president. The President submitted the candidacies of Tamar Alfidze and Revaz Egadze to the Georgian Parliament for the position of CEC Chairman.

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CEC

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OF GEORGIA

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there is talk of elementary regulation, and when they talk about As if someone wants to restrict tourists or create obstacles, these are demagoguery and shameless lies. We are talking about the elementary visa regime."

Japaridze also added that this

Weather

Tuesday, August 9

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 31°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 22°C

Wednesday, August 10

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 33°C

Night Clear
Low: 22°C

is an absolutely normal request and is based on the country's security goals.

International Ombudsman Institute revokes Russia's membership of the Human Rights Commissioner

The governing board of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) revoked the membership of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation for violating the principle of professional ethics and

impartiality.

The decision was based on the Russia's Commissioner's statements after Russia's invasion of Ukraine who justified the illegal invasion.

"The commissioner's membership has been terminated because he does not meet our by-laws, which require our members to adhere to the generally recognized professional ethics of the Ombudsman Institute and to be impartial," said International Ombudsman Institute President Chris Field.

The Public Defender of Georgia also supported this decision.



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