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Georgia is a bridgehead for U.S. offensive against the Russian Caucasus

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Russian foreign minister and his Georgian counterpart somehow reached an agreement stipulating the withdrawal of Russian military installations from Georgia. The pullout is to be completed by 2008. The agreement was signed despite last week's remarks on the issue by Russian president Putin who commented on the demands of the Georgian side by saying that he saw "nothing special that would require an urgent removal of the Russian troops" from the Russian military bases in Batumi and Akhalkalaki. Russian president expected that issues relating to the pullout of Russian troops from Georgia should be settled on a basis of partnership in line with neutral diplomatic relations between the allies of the Soviet bloc. But the Georgian authorities apparently cannot do anything these days without getting instructions from their new official sponsor. The sponsor urges them to take more radical steps.



The U.S. aims to build up tension in the Caucasus. Georgia is becoming America's most important tool for achieving the objective. Washington does not care about consequences that Georgia will have to take sooner or later. The future of its vassal states normally does not concern the Americans. They are simply going to dispatch yet another republic of the former Soviet Union into a post-Soviet fire that is designed to clear away territory for the New World Order in Eurasia. The Russian military bases have been the only force that prevented Georgia from falling apart and sliding into chaos.

Today's America is an indisputable leader in mapping out the post-Soviet territory. No state leader can feel safe without securing support of the United States government.

Mr. Saakashvili has such support. Besides, we should not overestimate the problems faced by him at the moment. He has to deal with a regular set of problems pertinent to the post-Soviet states including a lack of social justice, large-scale corruption, and population's inactivity. Georgia's situation is the worst one, people out there still believe they are capable of statehood and national comeback. To a certain extent, the morale is currently high and can make up for daily setbacks and difficulties. The American support is a significant factor too. Mr. Saakashvili is winning. There are no reasons whatsoever to poke fun at him. Besides, Mr. Saakashvili has considerable support from George W. Bush himself. Raising living standards and modernizing Georgia would be a real cakewalk for Mr. Bush because the country's economy and its state budget would be similar to that of a small-sized U.S. con-

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In view of the above, last month's state visit of Mr. Bush to Georgia quite carefully planned and logical. President Bush did not simply visit Georgia to pledge his support to Mr. Saakashvili. Prior to his taking the May 9th commemorations in Moscow, President Bush paid a visit to Latvia and met with Latvian President Vike-Freiberga who is notorious for her anti-Russian sentiments. After visiting Moscow, U.S. president visited Georgia and met with President Saakashvili who is an outspoken critic of Russia too. Mr. Bush intended to humiliate Russia by choosing a "sandwich route" for his journey. Mr. Bush's plan apparently worked. Though the Russian public in general are more than happy about the relations between Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin, the West has a totally different point of view.

Mr. Bush's visits to Riga and Tbilisi were interpreted as a public humiliation of Russia. Therefore, it seems quite natural that now they are considering kicking out our military personnel from Georgia. It is only history repeating itself. We saw it before in Afghanistan, East Germany, and Ukraine.

Georgia is also a bridgehead for mounting offensive against the Caucasus. We are talking about ways of exporting "rose revolutions" to the Northern Caucasus. This is the issue we should focus on now. The process is already under way e.g. the Pankisi Gorge in Chechnya. Mr. Saakashvili will be soon stirring up trouble in the Northern Ossetia when he starts demanding a hard bargain in the Southern Ossetia.

Despite being a figure whose real political standing is next to nothing, Saakashvili managed to come under the auspices of the extremely powerful global force. As a result, we are dealing with that force every time we have to deal with Mr. Saakashvili. This is the rule of the gangsters. We want to obey the rule and show him "some respect" no matter how petty it may be.

There is still a slim chance for strengthening our positions in the Northern Caucasuses before the coming storm. But it is highly unlikely that the authorities will take any real steps to change the situation.

On the photo: Mikhail Saakashvili (on the left), George Bush (on the right)

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