

The Kremlin's Credibility Is At Stake

By [Dr. Paul Craig Roberts](#)

Global Research, December 21, 2021

[Paul Craig Roberts](#)

Region: [Russia and FSU, USA](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

The CIA and British intelligence are feeding the public through their media assets the story that Russia's security concern is really a cloak behind which hides Moscow's plan to create a new Russian sphere of influence over eastern Europe.

Of course, Washington has a sphere of influence over eastern Europe called NATO, but it would be the end of the world for Russia to have any influence with countries that border it.

Another part of the CIA disinformation is that the White House is willing to discuss part of the Russian security demand but not the parts the White House disagrees with. This, of course, is nonsensical as the Kremlin made it clear that its demand for a halt to NATO expansion is not divisible. Expansion stops. Period. Or there will be "dire consequences."

Western orientated Russian intellectuals at the Russian International Affairs Council are already at work undermining the Kremlin's position on the non-expansion of NATO. The mission of the Council is to facilitate Russia's peaceful integration into the global community, something that can only happen on Washington's terms.

The Council's director, **Andrei Kortunov**, quickly undermined the Kremlin's position by describing the Kremlin's ultimatum as "a bargaining position." Washington already doesn't take the Kremlin seriously, and Kortunov's idiotic statement makes it certain Washington will dismiss the ultimatum as well. Indeed, as I reported, NATO's Stoltenberg, the White House press spokesperson, and Biden's national security adviser have already dismissed the Kremlin's demand.

To make certain that the Kremlin understands that its demand is rejected, **General Tod Wolters** wants an even more aggressive response to the Kremlin. He is calling for NATO/US troops to be deployed in Romania and Bulgaria. Called **Enhanced Forward Presence it amounts to the US military occupation of Eastern Europe-the exact opposite of the response demanded by Russia.**

Perhaps the Kremlin is learning, belatedly, that years of sweet-talking the West created the expectation that Russian complaints never have to be taken seriously. As I warned, the Kremlin's behavior encouraged more provocations, which eventually would go too far and force the Kremlin to put a foot down.

With the CIA misrepresenting the Kremlin's expression of a non-negotiable security concern as a plot to rebuild the Soviet Empire and the Russian International Affairs Council describing the Kremlin's red line as just a bargaining position, we will see if the foot stays down or whether the Kremlin blows forever its credibility.

The original source of this article is [Paul Craig Roberts](#)
Copyright © [Dr. Paul Craig Roberts](#), [Paul Craig Roberts](#), 2021

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Dr. Paul Craig Roberts](#)

About the author:

Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury and Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal, has held numerous university appointments. He is a frequent contributor to Global Research. Dr. Roberts can be reached at <http://paulcraigroberts.org>

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.
For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca