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NATO a direct threat to Russia – Lavrov

Moscow sought security guarantees from the West before the Ukraine conflict, but was rebuffed, the foreign minister has said



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. © Sputnik/Maxim Blinov

NATO's push to turn Ukraine into a foothold against Russia amounts to a direct threat to national security, and left Moscow with no choice other than to start its military operation against Kiev in 2022, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.

In an interview with the Hungarian newspaper Magyar Nemzet published on Monday,

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Lavrov insisted that NATO has long ceased to be a defensive bloc, citing its interventions in Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya. *“From whom were NATO countries defending themselves there? Who attacked them?”* he said.

The US-led military bloc has also been expanding towards Russia’s borders for years while seeking to turn Ukraine into a *“military foothold”* to contain Russia. *“The appearance of NATO bases in Ukraine and its involvement in the military alliance represents an immediate threat to our national security. Such a state of affairs would be unacceptable for us,”* Lavrov stressed.

In 2021, weeks prior to the escalation of the Ukraine conflict, Russia sought to address its concerns by requesting security guarantees from the US and NATO, hoping to preserve Ukraine’s non-aligned status. *“Our initiative was rejected,”* Lavrov said, adding that the West instead continued to *“pump Ukraine with weapons to forcibly resolve the issues of Donbass and Crimea.”*

In the end, we were left with no alternative but to launch the special military operation. I am sure that any self-respecting country would have done exactly the same in that situation.

Lavrov singled out what he called Kiev’s crackdown on the Russian minority as another reason for the conflict. In the wake of the Western-backed coup in Kiev in 2014, Ukraine was *“persecuting and killing Russians,”* he said, pointing to the Odessa massacre that

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year in which dozens of anti-government activists were burned alive in the Trade Union House.

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Lavrov also accused Kiev of waging war on the Russian language and culture, saying it has pursued forced Ukrainization, which has harmed other ethnic minorities as well, including Hungarians, Romanians, Poles, Bulgarians, Armenians, Belarusians, and Greeks.

The Russian foreign minister stressed that a durable settlement is impossible without addressing the root causes of the conflict, including rejecting Kiev's NATO ambitions, ensuring the status of human rights in Ukraine, and international recognition of the *“new territorial realities.”*

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 **dantankun** 7/8/2025 at 5:45 PM 0

Since 2010, Russia has been requesting, negotiating, asking, communicating and presenting openly and officially to the USA, EU and NATO regarding respecting and recognizing Russia's national security concern regarding NATO's continue expansion sadly, NATO, USA and EU just refused to listen, respect, recognize or accept Russia's concern and instead have use Ukraine as a battle field with no sign of ending it in a negotiated peace treaty. All this a de ja vu dating back to the 16th all the way to 1900's with the Empire of Russia vs Swedish empire, Ottoman empire, French empire, Hapsburg Empire and I guess we can also say against Nazi Germany the Reich.

[Reply](#)

 **Umesh राई** 7/7/2025 at 4:49 PM 6

He is right.
Russia was left with no other option but to act before it's too late. If Ukraine was included in NATO, Russia would have gone because Moscow would be just 5 minutes away from Ukraine. And west will dictate its terms on Russia. Russia gave enough time to the west. So Russia did good job by acting on time.


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A Alex Wolf 7/7/2025 at 5:32 PM 

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heeh-heeh, ha-ha-ha.


[Reply](#)

Paula McMinn 7/8/2025 at 1:45 AM 

2

Russia asked to join NATO. Bill Clinton refused him.


[Reply](#)

A Alex Wolf 7/8/2025 at 5:29 PM 

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Yes.

[Reply](#)

FW190 7/8/2025 at 2:50 AM 

2

Put some Russian missiles on Cuba or in Mexico and see how you go. Did you come down in the last shower ?

[Reply](#)

Georg Nikolousky 7/8/2025 at 1:34 PM 

0

How bout putting them in Cuba and Mexico Both see how the USA likes that? Plus give the houthis, Yemen. That should even put the playing field.

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J Joshuahn Jackstonburg 7/8/2025 at 12:15 PM

0

The depraved west can never ever be trusted again – for millennia to come.

[Reply](#)

G GeorgeBMac 7/8/2025 at 11:35 AM

0

The problem is: the NeoCons & their Dem allies along with the Christian Zionists are determined to expand western hegemony over all the land and subduing any and all recalcitrants. They know that Lavrov speaks truly — but simply don't care. Meanwhile most people in the west want peace and prosperity rather than war. But western media will not let them hear these truths. They are thoroughly brainwashed with Biden's lie that this was a «Completely Unprovoked Attack».

The war will end when Russia is able to get the truth to the people of the west — that it is THEIR leaders who provoked and are perpetuating this war on Russia.

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M Melons1054 7/8/2025 at 10:24 AM

1

They complained that the Baltics were colonized by Russia, hence a Russian population. They don't complain that the Balkans we're colonized by the Ottomans and hence the Muslim population. Keep building those nukes because NATO deserves them.

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J Juan Pacillas 7/8/2025 at 9:45 AM

2

Well maybe Mr Putin and Co do understand the reality of the activities of the Zionists criminals and the UK monarchy against the Russian people.. the Russians must to be ready to defend themselves ASAP and the government must to supply any kinda of weapons for at list 14 million of Russian citizens.. RPG granade launchers Modifications for targeting 5, 10 miles range.. drones invisible and soundless with capacity for traveling 40 hours.. electromagnetic weapons for disabled enemy airplanes submarines and ocean ships.. and or nobody else can't do anything else about it.

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 **Роберт Гриффин** 7/7/2025 at 8:49 PM

2

I 100% agree. And I agreed from 2021. Lavrov is absolutely right

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