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NTN24 Interview (rough translation) on Russian Cyber and Election Operations and Sanctions
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Is this a gesture of good faith, President Putin's decision not to expel US diplomats?

I think it's an investment in his relationship with Donald Trump.

What can Donald Trump do when he gets to the oval office, having on the table these sanctions imposed by President Obama?

A President has broad powers, but what I hope is that President Trump listens to, pays attention to, his intelligence advisors to see precisely what Putin is doing to destabilize Western institutions.

Destabilizing Western institutions -- behind Putin's strategy, is there only intelligence, or is there something more?

He has crossed a line between intelligence and sabotage. It is not just a matter of gaining intelligence as to what is going on in the United States, but rather of damaging or destabilizing the democratic process. And that is what I think President Obama is doing – he is reacting to the crossing of that line.

What are his goals, in destabilizing these institutions?

Putin views the United States, the West, the European Union, and in particular, NATO as challenges. He wants to destabilize and weaken those institutions, with the means available to him.

Is it disproportionate this action of President Obama, of expelling an unprecedented 35 diplomats and their families?

Well, it does not seem disproportionate to me. What those professionals have been doing are intelligence activities incompatible with their status. So I do not think it is disproportionate.

When Donald Trump now says that it is time to turn the page on the Russian intervention in the US elections, and forget about the problem, is he right?

Look, we have to remember that there are going to be elections in Germany, and in France -- and this is not the end-point of this Russian strategy and these tactics, so it is essential to react now, to try to prevent it being repeated.

A link to the interview is at: <http://www.ntn24.com/video/rusia-no-expulsara-ningun-diplomatico-de-ee-uu-entrevista-128112>