Active talks with Ukraine may resume after Donbass liberation, say experts According to Dmitry Suslov, the United States and some European countries want to make the conflict in Ukraine drag on as long as possible and do not even conceal that MOSCOW, April 18. /TASS/. Russia is interested in the quickest completion of its special operation in Ukraine but only after the whole of Donbass is liberated and Moscow and Kiev will step up their talks after that, experts polled by TASS said on Monday. The latest face-to-face round of Russian-Ukrainian talks was held in Istanbul on March 29. Moscow positively assessed its results as a whole, primarily because Kiev’s representatives provided for the first time written proposals on settling the situation. However, Russian President RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY 10/26/22, 9:15 PM Active talks with Ukraine may resume after Donbass liberation, say experts - Russian Politics & Diplomacy - TASS https://tass.com/politics/1439325 2/4 Vladimir Putin stated on April 12 that the negotiating process had again come to a deadlock because the Ukrainian side had departed from the agreed positions. "Russia is interested in implementing the tasks that have been set and that is why the military operation will continue in the coming weeks. Russia will seek to inflict maximum military defeat on Ukraine in Donbass, following which the sides, I believe, will return to the negotiating process," Director of the Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies of the Higher School of Economics National Research University, expert of the Valdai International Discussion Club Dmitry Suslov told TASS. Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council Andrey Kortunov believes that this is just one of possible scenarios and the sides can still achieve a breakthrough at the talks. "Either we will achieve some serious progress in the negotiating process already in the immediate future, until the end of the month and then some light will appear at the end of the tunnel. Or this scenario will fail and then the sides will most likely have to go at least through another cycle of escalation and return to the negotiating table already after new clashes, first of all, on Donbass territory," the expert pointed out. In this case, the active negotiating process will resume but already in May, Kortunov said. 10/26/22, 9:15 PM Active talks with Ukraine may resume after Donbass liberation, say experts - Russian Politics & Diplomacy - TASS https://tass.com/politics/1439325 3/4 "And then it will be possible to make forecasts on the completion of the active phase of the conflict," he added. West will attempt to make conflict drag on The United States and some European countries want to make the conflict in Ukraine drag on as long as possible and do not even conceal that, Suslov said. As the expert pointed out, the West "will try to maximally obstruct and slow Russia’s military victory in Donbass." "It is perfectly clear that the West wants to make the conflict linger on as long as possible to inflict maximum damage on Russia," the expert said. Western countries are interested in the exhaustion of Moscow’s military resources and in damage on its economy and also in its political weakening, he explained. This can be seen, in particular, in ramped-up deliveries of armaments, including heavy weapons, to Kiev and in statements that the West "may not recognize the accords that Moscow and Kiev may reach and may not recognize Ukraine’s new borders without Crimea and Donbass," Suslov specified. Other experts also draw attention to the deliveries of Western weapons. In particular, Associate Professor of the Chair of Political Theory at the MGIMO University Kirill Koktysh pointed out that the military operation "will proceed much faster thanks to the elimination of the larger part of the military hardware that Ukraine operated" "but much depends on whether the channels of the delivery of armaments from NATO countries will be cut off.”

Humanitarian corridors from seven Ukrainian cities opened in past day According to Mikhail Mizintsev, during the day, Ukraine opened ten corridors in Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk and Donetsk, none of them to Russia. MOSCOW, April 18. /TASS/. The Russian and Ukrainian sides opened humanitarian corridors in seven cities, Mikhail Mizintsev, chief of Russia’s National Defense Management Center, said on Sunday. "The Russian side opens humanitarian corridors in the Kharkov, Lugansk, Donetsk and Crimean directions to Russia," he said. According to Mizintsev, who also heads the Russian Joint Coordination Headquarters for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine, during the day, Ukraine opened ten corridors in Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk and Donetsk, none of them to Russia. RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY 10/26/22, 9:15 PM Humanitarian corridors from seven Ukrainian cities opened in past day - Military & Defense - TASS https://tass.com/defense/1439415 2/2 "Russia is ready to open humanitarian corridors in other directions and ensure safe evacuation of civilians," he stressed. He also said that the Russian army and forces of the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics strictly observe the ceasefire along all humanitarian corridors, including those opened by Ukraine. Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities continue to hamper evacuation of civilians from blocked cities. "Militants of nationalist battalions cynically continue to open mortar and gun fire at humanitarian corridors, including those opened by the Ukrainian side," he added.

Over 12,000 people evacuated from Ukraine, DPR, LPR to Russia in past day According to Mikhail Mizintsev, 976 private cars crossed the Russian border on Monday and nearly 114,060 since the beginning of the operation MOSCOW, April 18. /TASS/. More than 12,000 people, including more than 1,700 children, were evacuated from dangerous regions in Ukraine, and from the Lugansk and Donetsk People’s Republics to Russia during the day, Mikhail Mizintsev, chief of Russia’s National Defense Management Center, said on Monday. "Despite the difficulties and obstacles created by Kiev, during the day, as many as 12,066 people, including 1,715 children, were evacuated from dangerous zones in various Ukrainian regions, and from the Lugansk RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY 10/26/22, 9:15 PM Over 12,000 people evacuated from Ukraine, DPR, LPR to Russia in past day - Russian Politics & Diplomacy - TASS https://tass.com/politics/1439407 2/2 and Donetsk People’s Republics to Russia," he said. "Since the beginning of the special military operation, more than 863,676 people, including 158,172 children, have been evacuated." According to Mizintsev, who heads the Russian Joint Coordination Headquarters for Humanitarian Response in Ukraine, 976 private cars crossed the Russian border on Monday and nearly 114,060 since the beginning of the operation.

UN is not neutral party in situation around Ukraine - Russia’s deputy UN envoy According to Dmitry Polyansky, "people with Western passports and even Anglo-Saxon ones are dominating in the UN" MOSCOW, April 18./TASS/. The United Nations is not a neutral party in the situation around Ukraine, it has certain sympathies, First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky told the Solovyov Live television channel on Monday. "They have certain sympathies," he said. "It was really very obvious in the situation with Ukraine. We spoke about this openly, also to the secretary-general," Polyansky said. RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY 10/26/22, 9:15 PM UN is not neutral party in situation around Ukraine - Russia’s deputy UN envoy - Russian Politics & Diplomacy - TASS https://tass.com/politics/1439433 2/2 According to him, "people with Western passports and even Anglo-Saxon ones are dominating in the UN". "Probably, this also affects the objectivity of the assessments that the UN often makes in this or that situation," he stressed.