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Intrigues of “his own people” against Ilyumzhinov damage the foreign political authority of the country

By Yuri Dan

“US democracy is really degrading. There is only a wish to secure global hegemony of the US by any means, including pressing of the countries, who are independent from the NATO allies of Washington, and who have their own voices”. This was a reply of the Russian Foreign Ministry to a package of US sanctions against our citizens and companies. This is what K. Ilyumzhinov has been trying to tell to the world for nearly 3 years, who got under groundless and illegal US sanctions at the end of October 2015. Have they finally accepted his position in the Russian Foreign Ministry? But then they would have to notice that the pressure on Russia is taking place not only on international arena and in economy, but in sports also. Groundless accusations in mass doping, unending efforts if not to cancel but to boycott the World Soccer Cup – all these actions – are by all means, are inspired by our geopolitical opponents, with the same aim as other means of pressurizing.

One has to note that in sports sphere they manage to succeed more impressively than in other fronts. The Russian team having to perform under a shameful white flag in Seoul will not be forgotten very soon. Late events show that the anti-Russian hysteria is escalating, and pressure will only be increasing. One of the directions for attacks is FIDE, led by our compatriot K. Ilyumzhinov for more than 20 years.

Let's remind that Russian lead only two international sports federations: FIDE and International Fencing Federation, led by A. Usmanov. FIDE is one of the largest sports organisations with 188 countries.

The weight and authority of FIDE, multiplied great energy of K. Ilyumzhinov allow him not only to promote chess, but to push ideas of peaceful settlements of conflicts, mutual understanding and cooperation. In last decades there has not been any single hot spot where Ilyumzhinov guided by his motto “Chess is peace” and “Chess is beyond politics”.

Active peace-making activity of FIDE President is objectively reinforcing Russia's authority to fully corresponding the positions of the leadership of the country. And the same position is terribly bothering to our opponents, who are sure that peace and democracy can be established only with the help of “humanitarian” bombings. Therefore for a decade, there are efforts to misplace Ilyumzhinov from the position of the FIDE President. And as this was not possible to do in fair competition even for the ex-chess king G. Kasparov, they use dirty methods. No wonder that in this dirty game the enemies of Russia are using Ilyumzhinov's ill-wishers in the chess world itself, e.g. **Kasparov who still nurtures the wish to lead FIDE or FIDE Vice President G. Makropoulos who is mired in corruption.**

It was at his instance that the rumours about “voluntary” resignation of Ilyumzhinov were disseminated, and he was trying to persuade the Executive Board to “forbid” the incumbent President to participate in the forthcoming elections in Batumi.

It is a surprise that the enemies of Russia and Ilyumzhinov find their supporters in our country. More surprising – among the leadership of the Russian CF! Its President A. Filatov

back in winter expressed an opinion that the Federation might support a non-Russian at the elections, hinting that it might be G. Makropoulos.

Behaviour of Mr. Filatov is a cause of bewilderment. The RCF President for 4 years has not been noticing the Crimea chess players, the Federation does not use the potential of the peninsula to organize Federal and international events. Inside the RCF there are irregularities, they are treating their Statutes very freely and he seems to be working for the breakdown of the organization.

According to the statement of the former President of the Bulgarian CF S. Danailov, last May there were negotiations about the inclusion of Filatov into Makropoulos team. If it is true, then the RCF President's destructive policy is understandable.

Somebody has probably explained to Filatov that an open support **to Makropoulos, who is totally unpopular among chess players, corrupted and russophobic, is too much.** During the recent RCF Congress, the RCF, despite direct calls to announce its support to Ilyumzhinov, the Filatov's team managed to push through an unprecedented decision: officially the Congress expressed "moral support" to the incumbent FIDE President and a potential candidate A. Karpov.

In May the RCF will officially support a FIDE Presidential candidate. And Karpov is most likely to become one.

The problem is that this move will result in Russia's defeat at the international arena. **With all respect to Mr. Karpov, he has no substantial resources, no authority among foreign chess players to win the fight for this position. And this will mean that one of the largest international sports organisations will go under the control of Makropoulos team. If you call a spade a spade – under G. Kasparov's control. Makropoulos, whose health is not great at all, is more concerned about his profit-seeking and entertainment, rather than chess issues.**

At the same time G. Makropoulos is succeeding in his line. At the PB meeting in Minsk, he has spent at least one hour to his speculations about the necessity of Kirsan's impeachment. Again he used his favourite argument: "Kirsan is using Russia and Putin too many times in his speech. This is not for FIDE's benefit". To end the story, the Vice-President by his will liquidated the FIDE Rep office in Moscow.

. А в этот раз, вероятно, аплодировал. Had the RCF had a clear position regarding Ilyumzhinov's support and his policy, such would have not been possible. However, when the FIDE Executive Board tried to organize a resignation of Ilyumzhinov or to bid him to run – Filatov was just silent. **And this time he must have been applauding.**

Current actions by the RCF leadership cannot be called anything else but a deliberate and comprehended sabotage. **Filatov clearly realizes that Russia cannot propose anybody stronger than Ilyumzhinov. And we assume he does realise that the loss of FIDE will damage seriously the authority and foreign political possibilities of our country.**

Nevertheless he is acting without thinking about Russian interests and Putin's position who supported Ilyumzhinov as FIDE Presidential candidate last summer.

However, Western partners seem to like the actions of Filatov. At least he is not yet included into the sanctions list. Besides, the American compilers of the lists who are acting under the pretext of fighting the corruption, should have noticed the Brightree holding Ltd, an offshore company, owed by Filatov. And how this unknown company has become a member of a consortium in managing an Uzbek gas field "25 years of independence".

The Russian Foreign ministry statement, quoted earlier, continues: "we of course will never leave the current and new anti-Russian attack without a severe reply". On his side, the Duma Speaker V. Volodin called to support the Russians under sanctions. This is a completely correct position, maybe a bit belated.

And within this framework it would be reasonable to support Ilyumzhinov both in his fight for the FIDE Presidential position, and his counteractions with the US State Dept in the case for illegal sanctions.

Also, the Russian entrepreneurs under sanctions, should unite around Ilyumzhinov, supporting him morally and financially. And this would be a very pragmatic step: a legal fight with the State Dept and media and private individuals, who disseminate defamatory things, requires substantial expenses. But after Kirsan's victory people who suffered from the damaging actions of the US departments, can use this experience and to fully reimburse their losses.

But first of all, it is necessary to bring the leadership of the Russian CF to their senses. Maybe Filatov thinks that his anti-Russian activities will stay unnoticed. But the Board of Trustees includes D. Peskov, Putin's press-secretary, Vice-Premier A. Dvorkovich and S. Shoigu, Minister of Defence. Don't they on the eve of the inauguration of Putin in May, and possible changes in the Russian Government, care about Filatov's compradorship?

Under the conditions of the escalation of the growing external pressure it is not possible to ignore those who support anti-Russian policy. Ok sanctions from outside- we cannot silence all who are speaking. But we cannot tolerate in our country those who support the people who are dreaming to kneel Russia – it means to lose the authority and power which the country's leadership has been accumulating for nearly 20 years.