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Takeaways from Putin's Q&A session in Kazakhstan: Oreshnik missile, inflation, ruble

The Russian president also spoke about inflation and the ruble exchange rate, noting that the situation is under control



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ASTANA, November 28. /TASS/. The Oreshnik missile system bolsters Russia's military strength, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

That the country came in possession of the advanced and powerful weapon system does not, however, change its approach to the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, according to the president.

Putin also spoke about inflation and the ruble exchange rate, noting that the situation is under control.

TASS has put together key points from the president's statements.

Strikes with Western weapons, Oreshnik missile

Russia has already been attacked twice with ATACMS missiles after it launched an Oreshnik missile recently.

Western weapons striking inside Russia mean the West is directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine.

The country will retaliate for acts of aggression against it.

Russia believes it would not make sense to use hypersonic missiles for striking small targets.

Moscow could use the Oreshnik to strike decision-making centers in Kiev and defense industry sites.

An Oreshnik strike can compare to the impact from a collision with a meteorite, which creates a crater fit for an entire lake.

"We know from history what meteorites fell where, and what the consequences were. Sometimes it was enough to form entire lakes."

Publicity is inappropriate when dealing with new weapons, and that was exactly the case with the Oreshnik missile system.

"We waited until the moment when we conducted the test and, in fact, saw a result. And then we made an announcement."

The Oreshnik strengthens Russia's military position.

Nuclear weapons

Only "irresponsible people" can make statements about the possibility of transferring nuclear weapons to Kiev.

Russia will use all available weapons if Ukraine obtains nuclear weapons.

"We will not allow it."

If someone transferred nuclear weapons to Ukraine, it would be a violation of non-proliferation commitments.

"If someone were to officially transfer something, then it would be a violation of all the non-proliferation commitments in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Ukraine can't make nuclear weapons, except for a dirty bomb.

"But even in this case the response will be absolutely proportionate to the threats to the Russian Federation.

Ukraine conflict

If Russia comes in possession of any advanced and powerful weapons systems, that does not change its approach to the settlement in Ukraine.

Russia remains ready to negotiate with Ukraine, and the conditions have not changed.

Inflation, ruble

The central bank's inflation data is absolutely accurate and easily verified.

"Real inflation is easily verified by independent centers that assess the state of the Russian economy and the credit and financial sector."

There are tools to fight inflation without increasing the key rate, but it is up to the central bank to make decisions.

The ruble exchange rate is driven by many factors.

"As for the ruble exchange rate, it <...> is linked both to payments to the budget and oil prices. There are a lot of seasonal factors."

The exchange rate is under control.

"In general, in my opinion, the situation is under control. And there are certainly no grounds for panic."

Relations with Europe

"It is not our fault that our relations with Europe have deteriorated so much. This is, among other things, a result of the internal state of the European establishment and European politics."

Both Russia and Europe are interested in restoring relations.

Europe is dancing to the Americans tune, even if that damages its own interests.

About Trump

US President-elect Donald Trump could be in danger.

"Absolutely uncivilized means of struggle have been used against Trump - up to and including an assassination attempt, and more than one."

Armenia, CSTO

The Collective Security Treaty Organization is "alive and developing." The countries that take an active part in its work are interested in maintaining communication.

Armenia's current sentiment toward the organization is "dictated by internal political problems" and the consequences of the crisis in

Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia so far has not announced its withdrawal from the CSTO.

"It has stated that it is taking a pause, but at the same time it supports all the documents that are adopted during our meeting today and in the process of negotiations."

The CSTO did not have to get involved in the Karabakh conflict, as Armenia was not suffering from external aggression during that conflict.

Armenia could fully return to work in the CSTO.

"There is a possibility that Armenia will fully return to work in this organization. We will see."

Situation in Georgia

Russia does not meddle in Georgia's internal politics, but the West does.

"When the events in Georgia began, I was, frankly speaking, looking at all that, observing it, with surprise. We have no relations with them, with the Georgian leadership, none. But I just marveled at their courage and the mettle they showed in order to defend their point of view. I won't now give an assessment of that point of view."

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