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## **RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO KAZAKHSTAN SAYS US-NATO STEPPE EAGLE EXERCISE WILL 'NO LONGER FLY'**

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The Diplomat (11 February 2022)

By Catherine Putz

In a wide-ranging interview with Russian newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta this week, the Russian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Alexey Borodavkin suggested that the Steppe Eagle exercise, an annual multilateral military exercise hosted by Kazakhstan with U.S., NATO, and regional forces, would no longer fly in Kazakhstan.

Borodavkin was answering a question regarding Russian-Kazakh allied relations and pivoted immediately to their security relationship, which he said was especially important given developments on Russia's western border – a reference to the tense situation on the border with Ukraine. Borodavkin said Russia did not have to raise the issue of security guarantees with its southern border with Kazakhstan and dismissed the existence of any territorial issues on the Kazakh border. (That's now how all Kazakhs see it.)

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