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Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

July 27, the US Congress completed the voting procedure for the new law, which tightens sanctions against Russia. This once again confirms the extreme aggressiveness of the United States in international affairs. Beneath their "exclusiveness", the US arrogantly ignores the positions and interests of other states.

It is well known that the Russian Federation has done and is doing its utmost to normalize bilateral relations, develop ties and cooperation with the US on the most important issues on the international agenda, including, first and foremost, the fight against terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, illegal migration, Cybercrime, etc. We proceeded and proceed from the premise that it is possible to effectively solve world problems only jointly. We are sure that most people on the planet share this approach.

At the same time, under the absolutely far-fetched pretext of Russia's interference in their internal affairs, the United States aggressively pursues rude anti-Russian actions one after another. All this runs counter to the principles of international law, contradicts the provisions of the UN Charter, WTO norms, the elementary standards of civilized international communication.

In the United States, decisions are made on illegal sanctions against the Russian Federation, Russian diplomatic property is seized, drawn up in legally binding bilateral documents, Russian diplomats are expelled from the country. This clearly violates the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the generally recognized diplomatic practice.

The adoption of the new law on sanctions clearly showed that relations with Russia have become hostage to the internal political struggle within the United States itself. In addition, the new law sets the goal, using political instruments, to create unfair competitive advantages for the US in the global economy. Such blackmail, aimed at limiting the interaction of foreign partners with Russia, carries a threat to many countries and international business.

Despite the constant attacks of Washington, we led and behave responsibly and with restraint, still did not respond to explicit provocations. However, recent events indicate that in certain circles of the United States Russophobia and the course of open confrontation with our country have become entrenched.

- In this regard, we offer the American side until September 1 this year. To bring the number of diplomatic and technical personnel working in the US Embassy in Moscow to the consulates in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok in exact correspondence with the number of Russian diplomats and technical personnel in the United States. This means that the total number of personnel employed in US diplomatic and consular offices in the Russian Federation is reduced to 455 people. In the case of new unilateral actions by the US authorities to reduce the number of our diplomats in the United States, this will be followed by a mirror response.

- The Russian side suspends the use by the US Embassy in Russia of all storage facilities on Dorognaya Street in Moscow and the dacha in Serebryany Bor on August 1.

We reserve the right in reciprocity and other measures that may affect the interests of the United States.