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U.S. Curbs Intelligence Sharing With Ukraine – WP

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U.S. Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines speaks with DIA Director Lt. General Scott Berrier during a Senate Armed Services hearing to examine worldwide threats, May 10. **AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana/TASS**

The United States has placed limitations on intelligence sharing with Ukraine to avoid heightening tensions with Russia, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Two new prohibitions include information that would help Ukraine kill senior Russian military officers and any information that would help Ukraine attack Russian targets outside its borders.

The U.S also has a rule against providing "targeting information" on the location of a particular Russian general, The Washington Post reported, citing unnamed U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

Legal experts told the WP that the distinction between intelligence-sharing and "targeting information" can help the U.S demonstrate it is not a party to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

“If the U.S. were providing targeting information to a foreign party… we’re directing those forces and they’re acting as a proxy for us,” former State Department official Scott Anderson told the WP.

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“That might be seen as getting close to the line of actually attacking Russia, at which point Russia could arguably respond reciprocally,” said Anderson.

The WP report follows U.S. media reporting last week that said U.S. intelligence had helped Ukraine identify and target the Russia's Moskva missile cruiser and Russian generals on the battlefield.

Russia’s top general Valery Gerasimov, who reportedly narrowly escaped a Ukrainian strike while visiting troops near the front line, would be off-limits under the self-imposed limitations.

The U.S has provided $3.8 billion in arms and equipment to Ukraine since Russia invaded.

The U.S. House of Representatives this week voted for an additional $39.8 billion military and security package for Ukraine, which the Senate is expected to approve and send to President Joe Biden to sign.

Moscow has accused the U.S. of fighting a “proxy war” by supplying Ukraine with military assistance.

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