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Trends. Psychotherapy and Foreign Policy

Editor

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According to at least one Russian international relations analyst, inviting Russia into the Paris Club, making it a veritable equal at the G-7 (now the Summit of 8), and pressing for its admittance into the World Trade Organization is "part of the West's psychotherapy for Russia." A senior American official implied, "If massaging Russia requires a degree of fakery and disingenuousness, it is a small price to pay." What is being communicated here? That Russia is being lied to and is lying back to enjoy it? That psychotherapy is the art and science of lying on a couch and being lied to? Perhaps a new version of that old Soviet adage--"they pretend to pay us, we pretend to work"? Now it's "they pretend they'll respect us in the morning, we pretend we'll love them tonight, and we'll both mimic erotic bilateral asphyxiation." Now where's that rope Lenin was talking about? (See Erlanger, S. (June 22, 1997.) Russia sits with 'Big 8' party crasher no more. The New York Times, p.6.)