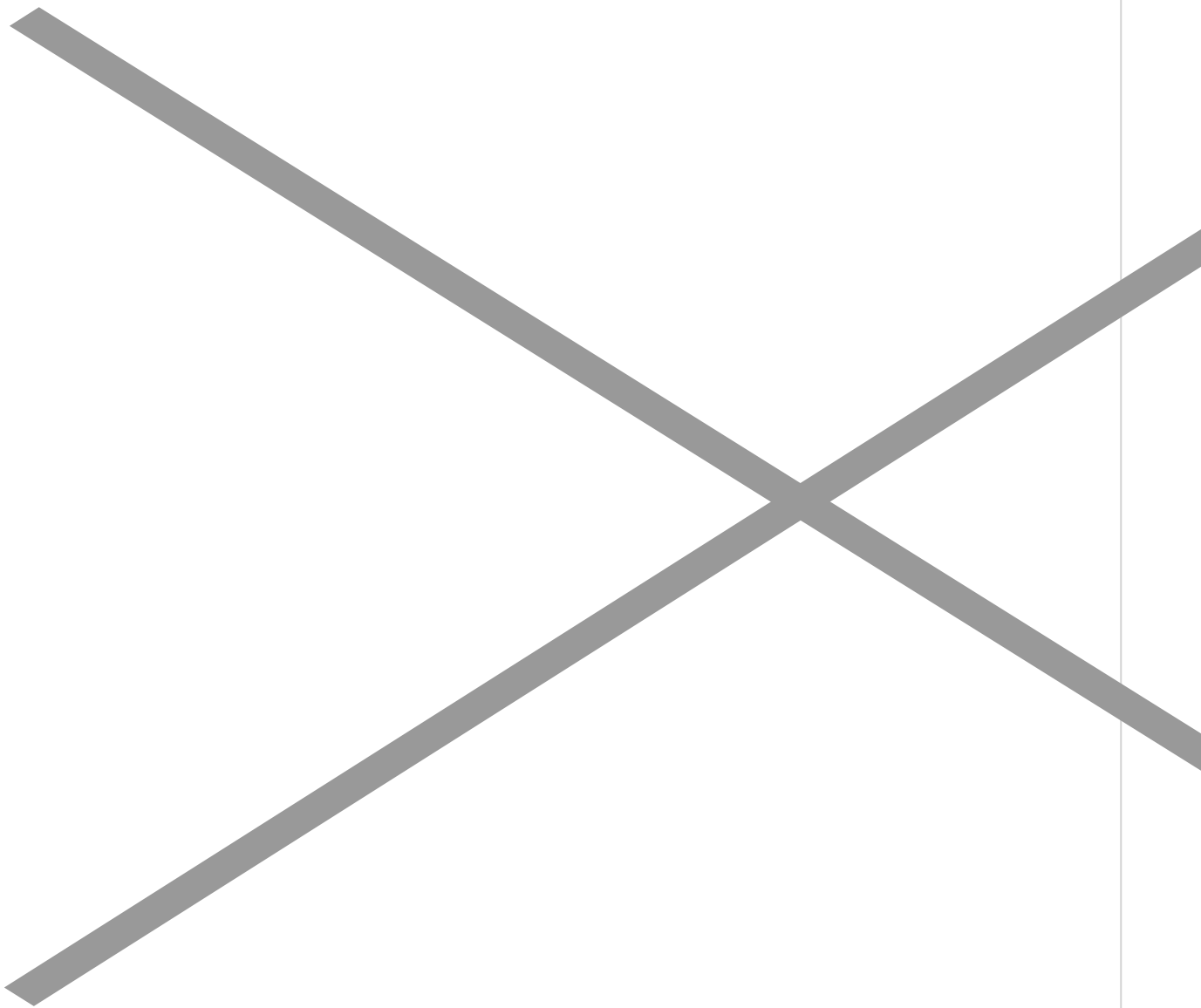


US ambassador declined invitation from Russian parliament

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Havana, April 17 (RHC) - US ambassador to Russia Lynn Tracy on Monday rejected an invitation to a meeting of the commission in the Russian State Duma (Lower House of Parliament) to investigate Washington's biological laboratories in Ukraine.

"During the meeting scheduled for April 18, the deputies will discuss issues of state control regarding compliance with the legislation on foreign agents, as well as the regulation of the activities of foreign non-governmental organizations on Russian territory," the commission's press service stated.

Last week, the Russian Federation Council (Upper House of Parliament) unanimously approved the report of the parliamentary commission denouncing the activities of US biological laboratories in Ukraine.

According to the co-chairman of the commission, Konstantin Kosachev, at least 30 laboratories work in the neighboring country. "The deployment of these facilities points to possible plans by the United States to use the army against Russia," added the senator.

The spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wangairs Wenbin, clarified that the government of his country demands explanations from the United States about the biological-military program abroad. (Source: Prensa Latina)

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