The US Senate has confirmed the nomination of diplomat Christopher Hill as the new US ambassador, in the last step in the process of his appointment as new US ambassador to Serbia, the Voice of America (VOA) has reported on Friday.
Hill testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in mid-December 2021, in the regular procedure of confirming the nomination, saying he was worried that Belgrade was turning to Russia for certain purchases for the army and China regarding infrastructure needs.

Hill began his diplomatic career in Belgrade. He participated in the process leading to the Dayton Agreement, and was the special envoy for Kosovo from 1998 to 1999.

Prior to retiring from diplomacy in 2010, Hill served as ambassador to Iraq, Poland and then-Macedonia.

He was also Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and led the US delegation during negotiations with North Korean representatives on nuclear disarmament in 2003.

After an active diplomatic career, Hill was the Dean of the Denver University and an advisor to the Albright-Stonebridge Group.

President Joseph Biden suggested Hill as the next US ambassador to Serbia.

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Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Friday said he had had no personal contacts with Russian officials since the beginning of the attack on Ukraine and noted that he had nothing to distance himself from since Serbia's position on Ukraine was clear.

At a joint press conference with German FM Annalena Baerbock, Vucic was responding to a DPA question for Baerbock whether she had received signals from him that he would be willing to distance himself from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"As far as personal contacts are concerned, I have had no contacts with Russian officials since the beginning of the attack on Ukraine, so I do not know what to distance myself from," Vucic said.

Serbia has nothing to do with the conflict in Ukraine and has a very clear and defined position on Ukraine, he said.

"We are not talking about individuals and, for us, this is not about love and hate, but about respect of international public law and norms. Just like Ukraine has respected them as regards Serbia and Serbia's territorial integrity. So, we respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and have never voted against it. Also in the UN General Assembly, we backed (a resolution saying that) attacks and threats to the territorial integrity of Ukraine are unacceptable - not because we like someone or not, but because those are the norms of international public law," he said.
Vucic: I have nothing to distance myself from