

George Kent: The Security Service of Ukraine should not investigate economic and corruption-related crimes

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George Kent, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, in his comment to Hromadske stated that the Security Service (SBU), as the intelligence service, should not investigate economic and corruption-related crimes.

“The SBU was formed from the KGB (Soviet Union’s Committee for State Security). There is the legitimate function of the Security Service, which is intelligence. Being the descendant of previous era, the SBU also has functions that intelligence services should not have, namely fighting against corruption and economic crimes”, said Kent.

According to him, the SBU is not focused on its core functions, and performs tasks of the law enforcement agencies.

“If you ask Ukrainian businessmen about their biggest fear - I had a talk with the person who spoke with 2,000 Ukrainian businessmen over past six months. He said that the most terrible problem is that the SBU puts pressure on Ukrainian business. This is not the purpose of the intelligence service in the democratic state. The SBU should focus on its core functions and stop performing tasks of the law enforcement agencies”, said Kent.