The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Navy Ready to Escort Syrian Chemical Weapons, Lavrov Says

By The Moscow Times

December 17, 2013

BRUSSELS — Russia has said its navy is ready to escort ships removing Syria's deadly chemical stockpile, which is due to be destroyed at sea under an international deal.

Syria agreed to relinquish control of deadly toxins that can be used to make sarin, VX gas and other lethal agents in the agreement forged in the wake of an attack on the outskirts of Damascus that killed hundreds last August.

Denmark and Norway are planning to use two cargo vessels to take the chemicals out of the Syrian port city of Latakia, escorted by two frigates from their navies.

"We will be ready to provide Russian navy ships to escort those vessels with toxic agents in order to provide the safety of this operation," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters after meeting his European Union counterparts in Brussels on Monday.

Moscow would also help move the chemicals over land to the Syrian port, Lavrov added.

The chemicals will be destroyed at sea on board a specially adapted U.S. ship because they are too dangerous to import into a country. There is no agreement yet on where the ship will anchor while the work is carried out.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2013/12/17/russian-navy-ready-to-escort-syrian-chemical-weapons-lavrov-says-a30573