

Polish PM Says Threat of Russian Military Intervention in Ukraine Has Risen

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Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk walks after voting at parliament in Warsaw.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Wednesday that the threat of a direct intervention by Russia's military in Ukraine has risen over the last couple of days.

"We have reasons to suspect — we have been receiving such information in the last several hours — that the risk of a direct intervention [by Russia's military in Ukraine] is for sure higher than it was several days ago," Tusk told a news conference.

Russia has been conducting exercises near the border with Ukraine, raising concerns on the ground and in a number of Western capitals.

Moscow has also called an emergency meeting of the United Nations' Security Council over what it described as a "humanitarian situation" in Ukraine.

"If [it] were to come to a direct intervention of Russian forces in Ukraine than this would

obviously be a qualitatively new situation and in my opinion nobody has a good, unequivocal answer today how the Western community should react to that," Tusk said.

Tusk also said sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia would be costly for Europe's economy, but a lack of reaction to Russia's actions during the Ukraine crisis would have the most "catastrophic" consequences.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his government to prepare retaliatory measures against the latest round of Western sanctions.

See also:

Russia to Stage Military Exercises Near Ukraine Border

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