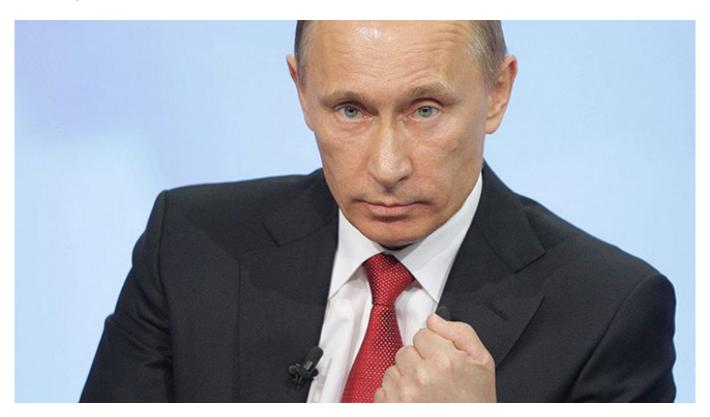


Putin Orders Russian Forces to Withdraw From Syria

By The Moscow Times

March 14, 2016



President Vladimir Putin has ordered the withdrawal of "the main part" of Russia's forces in Syria, the TASS news agency reported Monday.

The pullout will begin on Tuesday, Putin told a meeting with Defense Minister Sergei Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, according to the report.

Putin was cited as saying that the withdrawal was a result of the "completion" of the Defense Ministry's objectives in the war-torn country.

Russia in September last year launched a military operation in Syria in the name of fighting Islamic terrorism there.

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