

Russia Considers Reopening Military Bases in Cuba and Vietnam

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As both Russia and the United States appear to fall back on an increasingly Cold-War-style footing, Deputy Defense Minister Nikolai Pankov said Friday that Moscow is studying the question of reopening military bases in former Soviet-aligned states Cuba and Vietnam.

“The question is very appropriate. In fact, there is now a very quiet rethinking of decisions once made,” Pankov said in apparent reference to the Kremlin's 2002 decision to withdraw its military from positions in Cuba and Vietnam.

Until 2002, Russian ships were deployed to Cam Ranh, Vietnam and a Russian electronic surveillance outpost was maintained in Lourdes, Cuba.

As relations between Russia and the West have collapsed over the past two and half years, the Kremlin has been rolling back on post-Cold War agreements with the United States. Most recently, the Kremlin announced it was ending various cooperative efforts in

the nuclear security realm.

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