

Western Intelligence Accused of Preparing for Russia's Breakup

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Andrei Pronin / Interpress / TASS

A top Russian official has accused Western intelligence agencies of preparing for the possibility of civil war and the breakup of the country into separate regions.

In 2017, U.S.-funded media <u>reported</u> on a movie about a Siberian secessionist movement spearheaded by billionaire philanthropist George Soros and the State Department. Soros and the U.S. are routinely accused of interfering in Russia's domestic affairs and backing prodemocracy "color revolutions" in countries bordering Russia in the post-Soviet period.

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Russia's Deputy Interior Minister Igor Zubov said Monday that Western intelligence agencies had "prepared scenarios" for civil unrest in Russia, local media outlets reported.

"The[ir] materials spell out Povolzhye as one of the regions of future civil military unrest," Zubov said, referring to the Volga Federal District, according to Tatarstan's Business Online news portal.

"There are corresponding plans," Russia's state-run RIA Novosti news agency quoted Zubov as <u>saying</u>.

The district comprises 14 regions and republics along the Volga River basin, including Tatarstan, and has the second-largest <u>population</u> of any Russian region — 29.3 million as of preliminary 2019 figures.

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