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Russia Rebuffs Japan's Military Expansion Warning

By Reuters

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Sergei Lavrov **Russian Foreign Ministry**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday that Russia was only operating on its own territory after Japan accused Moscow of a military buildup on a chain of islands in the Pacific, the state-run RIA news agency reported.

Russia has held the islands — known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia — since World War II and they are a reason the two countries have not formally ended hostilities since the war.

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Speaking in Tokyo at talks with the Japanese foreign and defense ministers, Lavrov was quoted as saying that Moscow was concerned by U.S. missile deployment plans in Japan.

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