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Russia Questions Authenticity of Dutch MH17 Phone Intercepts

By Reuters

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Maria Zakharova **Artyom Geodakyan / TASS**

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the authenticity of phone intercepts which Dutch investigators said show Moscow's influence over pro-Russian rebels accused of downing Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was not confirmed.

MH17 was shot out of the sky on July 17, 2014, over territory held by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine as it flew from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. All 298 passengers and crew died.

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Dutch investigators released the phone intercepts earlier on Thursday.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a news briefing in Moscow that the world was awash with what she called fake news, making it vital to test the authenticity of such recordings.

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