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Putin Criticizes NATO Expansion as Alliance Holds London Summit

By Reuters

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Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday criticized NATO's continued expansion, something he suggested was pointless given the absence of a threat from Moscow following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Speaking at a meeting of Russian military leaders in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, Putin said NATO expansion posed a threat to Russia, but said he hoped that a shared interest in common security would prevail.

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Despite tensions, Putin said Russia remained ready to cooperate with the military alliance.

He was speaking as U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at European allies before a NATO

anniversary summit in London, singling out France's Emmanuel Macron for "very nasty" comments on the alliance and Germany for spending too little on defense.

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