The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Trump Ad Supporting U.S. Troops Shows Russian Fighter Jets, Rifles

September 15, 2020



The MiG-29 was first fielded in the 1970s to counter U.S. fighter jets such as the F-15 and F-16. **Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency**

A campaign fundraising ad for U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at rallying support for the country's troops actually displays Russian-made military equipment, Politico reported Monday.

The digital "Support Our Troops" campaign that ran between Sept. 8-12 shows the silhouettes of three soldiers as fighter jets fly overhead.

Embed:

> Support our Troops while Russian MiG-29 fighter jets fly over their heads! pic.twitter.com/BfenJ7v2vJ
>
> — NOVA🇺🇸 (@SuCoFo1) September 15, 2020

“That’s definitely a [Russian] MiG-29,” defense analyst Pierre Sprey, who assisted the U.S. Air Force with fighter aircraft design, told Politico. “I’m glad to see it’s supporting our troops.”

Ruslan Pukhov, director of the Moscow Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, confirmed to Politico that the jets are MiG-29s, adding that one of the soldiers in the photo is carrying an AK-47 assault rifle.

The ad, produced by Trump Make America Great Again Committee, uses a stock photo from Shutterstock.com, where it was uploaded by an Andorra-based user, Politico noted.

The image’s creator, Arthur Zakirov, later told Politico that his creation shows a 3D model of a MiG-29 and that the soldiers were Russian models.

“Today you hear about the Kremlin’s hand in U.S. politics. Tomorrow you are this hand,” Zakirov joked.

The Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee, which both operate the Trump Make America Great Again Committee, did not comment on Politico’s report.

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