

Russia Rejects 'Nonsense' U.S. Claim of False Flag Plot to Attack Ukraine

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Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov. [Valery Sharifulin / TASS](#)

Russia rejected on Friday the United States' claims that it is plotting a false flag operation to justify an attack on Ukraine.

The Pentagon and the State Department on Thursday [accused](#) Russia of planning to stage a “fake attack” by Ukrainian forces on Russian-speaking people accompanied by “a very graphic propaganda video.” When pressed for evidence, State Department spokesman Ned Price said it was “[confident](#)” in its intelligence but provided no other proof.

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“I’d recommend not to take anyone’s word for it, especially the State Department, when it comes to these issues,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov [told](#) reporters.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called the U.S. claims “[nonsense](#).”

“The delusional nature of such fabrications — and there are more and more of them every day — is obvious to any more or less experienced political scientist,” he said in televised remarks.

Meanwhile, pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine [accused](#) U.S., British and Estonian media outlets of preparing fake stories to “demonstrate Russian aggression to the Western community,” the Russian state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported.

The U.S. and its Western allies have warned that Russia is planning an invasion of Ukraine, its pro-Western neighbor that has been at war since pro-Moscow separatists since 2014.

Russia denies planning to attack, saying the massing of 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders is its right and accusing the U.S. and NATO of heightening tensions.

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