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Russia Demands U.S. Withdraw ‘Soldiers and Equipment’ From Ukraine

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U.S. Ambassador to Russia Lynne Tracy leaving the Russian Foreign Ministry. **Vyacheslav Prokofyev / TASS**

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. ambassador on Tuesday over what it called “Washington’s expanding involvement” in the war in Ukraine, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Foreign Ministry served a notice to the U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Lynne Tracy, accusing Washington of supplying weapons to the Armed Forces of Ukraine as well as sharing information on Russia’s military and civilian infrastructure with Kyiv.

“In this regard, the ambassador has been informed of the counter-productivity of the current aggressive U.S. course,” a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The ministry also demanded the U.S. withdraw "soldiers and equipment" from Ukraine — a reference to Western military assistance to the country.

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"It was noted in particular that in order to de-escalate the situation, Washington should take steps to ensure the withdrawal of U.S.-NATO soldiers and equipment and also stop its anti-Russian activities," the ministry added.

The move comes just a day after U.S. President Joe Biden made a trip to Kyiv, promising $500 million in fresh arms deliveries to Ukraine ahead of the first anniversary of the Russian invasion.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed on Tuesday to press on with Russia's military campaign in the country and said that further Western arms deliveries to Ukraine would provoke a Russian response.

"The more long-range Western systems are delivered into Ukraine, the further we'll have to push the threat from our borders," Putin said in an address to both houses of parliament in Moscow.

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