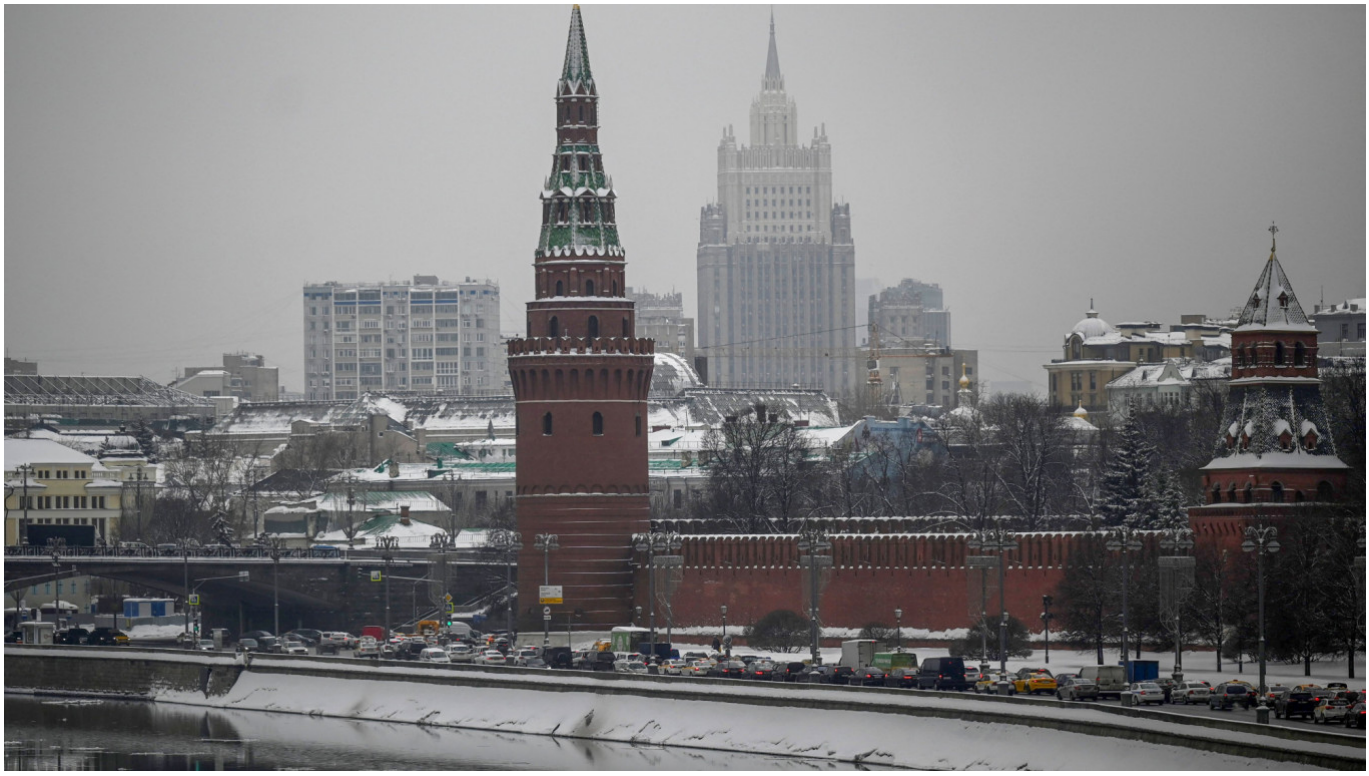
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Says Summoned Canadian Diplomat to Reject Sabotage Accusations

By AFP

November 09, 2024



Natalia KOLESNIKOVA / AFP

Moscow summoned a Canadian diplomat on Friday to rebut Western allegations that Russia's secret services had orchestrated a campaign to mail explosive packages to addresses in NATO countries, including Canada.

After a series of fires at DHL depots in Britain and Germany this summer, Russia was accused of being behind a brazen plot to ship explosive parcels via commercial airliners.

Ottawa expressed its concern earlier this week to Russian officials after Poland and Lithuania announced several arrests as a result of a probe into attempts to send parcels packaged with explosives on cargo flights to the United States and Canada.

“The deputy head of the Canadian diplomatic mission in Moscow was summoned and handed

an official note in connection with the false accusations of alleged planned 'Russian sabotage' against NATO countries," Russia's foreign ministry said.

Moscow said the Canadian diplomat "was told that these speculations" were being spread in a "coordinated manner, in the context of the hybrid war" being waged against Russia by the West.

Russia blasted the allegations as "false," "unacceptable" and part of a "provocation" being led by the United States.

Related article: Moscow Behind Incendiary Packages Sent Across Europe, Lithuanian Official Says

Canada's public safety ministry said Ottawa is "aware of and deeply concerned with Russia's intensifying campaign, from cyber incidents and disinformation operations to sabotage activities."

It confirmed the Canadian government had "expressed this concern directly to Russian officials and unequivocally stated that any threat to the safety and security of Canadians is unacceptable."

The ministry added there was "no imminent threat" to the public but said Canada "will continue to monitor the situation very closely."

Canada's Transport Minister Anita Anand told reporters on Wednesday that she required "more information" on the alleged plot but would take "additional steps" to ensure the safety of passengers and packages, without providing details.

The reported plot, involving civilian airlines, comes amid growing concern in the West at what it sees as Russia's increasingly reckless espionage and sabotage operations inside NATO countries.

"Russian intelligence services have gone a bit feral, frankly," Richard Moore, head of Britain's MI6 secret intelligence service said in September in rare public remarks.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/11/09/russia-says-summoned-canadian-diplomat-to-reject-sabotage-accusations-a86960