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NATO and Ukraine to Discuss Russia's Hypersonic Missile Strike

By AFP

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NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte meets with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky. **NATO / flickr**

NATO and Ukraine will hold talks in Brussels next week following Russia's test-firing of an experimental hypersonic intermediate-range missile, diplomats said Friday.

Ambassadors from NATO and Ukraine will convene on Tuesday in the NATO-Ukraine Council to address the missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro, officials told AFP.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that the new-generation missile, which Moscow tested in the strike, is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. He described the attack as a response to Ukraine's use of U.S. and U.K.-supplied long-range weapons against targets inside Russian territory.

Putin also issued a warning to Western nations, claiming Russia is "entitled" to target

military facilities in countries that allow Ukraine to use their weapons against Russia.

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A NATO spokesperson dismissed the significance of the missile test, stating: “Deploying this capability will neither change the course of the conflict nor deter NATO allies from supporting Ukraine.”

The United States, a leading NATO member, accused Russia of “escalating at every turn” in its war against Ukraine, now approaching its third year.

Ukraine this week fired Western-supplied long-range missiles into Russian territory for the first time.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Russia had notified Washington of its hypersonic missile launch via an automatic nuclear de-escalation hotline, providing 30 minutes of advance warning.

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