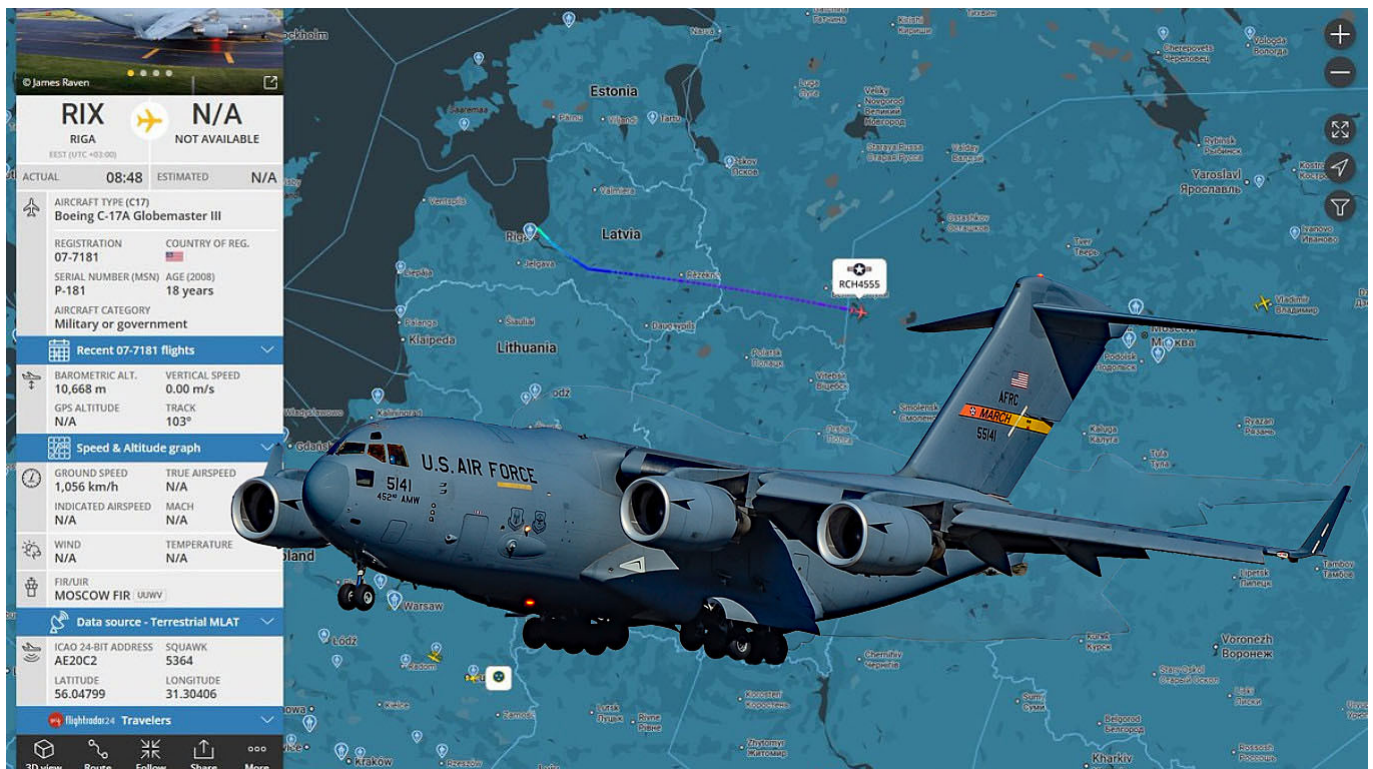


CIA Director Arrives in Moscow for 'Meetings,' Reports Say

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Tomás Del Coro (CC BY-SA 4.0)

CIA Director John Ratcliffe arrived in Moscow on Tuesday aboard a U.S. military transport plane, [Axios](#) and [CBS News](#) reported, with sources familiar with the trip saying that the intelligence chief is slated to hold a series of “meetings” in the Russian capital.

News of the visit broke just hours after the Kremlin [told](#) journalists it had no information about a Boeing C-17 Globemaster landing at Moscow’s Vnukovo Airport.

Flight-tracking data from Flightradar24 showed the large U.S. military transport plane flew from Joint Base Andrews near Washington, D.C., stopping in Riga, Latvia, on Aug. 23 before continuing to Moscow on Tuesday.

Russian and U.S. officials have not officially confirmed the visit. The Moscow Times contacted the U.S. Embassy in Moscow for comment.

An anonymous source [told](#) The Kyiv Independent that the U.S. asked Ukraine to halt its strikes

on Moscow and St. Petersburg ahead of Ratcliffe's trip. The source said Ukraine would be briefed on the American intelligence chief's meetings in Russia.

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The last time a CIA director visited Russia was in November 2021, just months before President Vladimir Putin ordered the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. At that meeting, former Director William Burns [met](#) with Nikolai Patrushev, who was then serving as secretary of Russia's Security Council.

Since his appointment in January 2025, Ratcliffe has maintained [regular contact](#) with his Russian counterpart, SVR chief Sergei Naryshkin.

Ratcliffe's visit, if confirmed, would mark the first known trip to Russia by a senior American official since U.S. special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with President Vladimir Putin in January to discuss Ukraine peace negotiations.

U.S. President Donald Trump has vowed to broker an end to Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. However, the American president has struggled to bring Moscow and Kyiv toward a compromise, as both sides ramp up airstrikes deep inside each other's territory this summer.

In July, sources [told](#) Politico that FBI Director Kash Patel was planning a trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg in October.

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