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Russia Warns U.K. Over G20 Presidency After London Says Putin Won't Come to Its Summit

By Reuters

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the G20 summit in Bali in 2022. **Russian Foreign Ministry Press Office / TASS**

Russia on Monday warned Britain it would face "serious consequences" if its tries to curtail Moscow's rights when London assumes the G20 presidency for 2027.

Moscow issued the warning less than two weeks after The Economist newspaper cited British Prime Minister Andy Burnham as saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not travel to a G20 summit in Manchester in November next year because of U.K. sanctions against him related to Ukraine.

"We shall see how London actually behaves. One thing is clear: any infringement of Russia's rights will not go unnoticed. Any missteps in this regard will have serious consequences," Marat Berdyev, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Ambassador-at-Large for G20 and APEC affairs, told the state-run RIA Novosti news agency in an interview.

Berdyev, who said he hoped a negative scenario could be avoided, was cited as saying that the country which holds the rotating G20 presidency does not have the right to dictate terms or decide who participates in the forum's work.

Russia remains a member of the G20 despite Western efforts to isolate it over its war in Ukraine.

Leaders of host nations traditionally invite all members of the bloc to attend its annual summit. The U.S. — the current G20 president — has invited Putin to attend a G20 summit it is hosting in Miami in December. The Kremlin has not yet said whether Putin will attend or send someone else in his stead.

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