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Cyprus Expels Russian Diplomats Suspected of Espionage, Reports Say

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The Russian Embassy in Cyprus. **cyprus.mid.ru/**

Cyprus has expelled two Russian diplomats on suspicion of working undercover for Russian intelligence services, media outlets reported over the weekend.

The two diplomats were ordered to leave the Mediterranean island early last week following an operation by the Cyprus Intelligence Service (KYP), the broadcaster Ant1 Live reported Friday.

The Insider, an exiled Russian news outlet, later identified the two embassy employees as Alexander Shevtsov and Nikita Sergeyev, whose names disappeared from the diplomatic mission roster of Cyprus sometime between October and November.

Shevtsov is reportedly an officer with Russia's GRU military intelligence agency assigned to a unit at its Moscow headquarters. According to The Insider, he previously served at another GRU unit which specializes in satellite communications and traveled to Ukraine several times between 2018 and 2019.

Sergeyev was reportedly born in Crimea in 1999, a decade and a half before Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula. The Insider reported that Sergeyev was spotted outside the Russian Embassy in Nicosia filming Russian nationals at an anti-Putin rally during the March 2024 presidential election.

Russia's Embassy in Nicosia and the Russian Foreign Ministry have not publicly commented on the reported diplomatic expulsions.

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Two senior Cypriot government officials confirmed the expulsions to Politico Europe on Sunday. They said local intelligence services uncovered a Russian network that was searching for classified national security information about Cyprus and the European Union, as well as access to technology that the EU has banned from being transferred to Russia.

Ant1 Live reported that the KYP placed the two diplomats under surveillance and dismantled a network involving contacts with Cypriot citizens whose official duties provided them access to confidential information.

The alleged espionage reportedly took place during a sensitive period that included Cyprus' six-month presidency of the Council of the EU from January to June 2026.

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