

Putin says Russia would use all weapons at its disposal if Ukraine got nuclear weapons

By Reuters

November 29, 2024 3:14 AM GMT+13 Updated 6 hours ago



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a press conference following the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, November 28, 2024. Sputnik/Ramil Sitdikov/Kremlin via REUTERS

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ASTANA, Nov 28 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia would use all weapons at its disposal against Ukraine if Kyiv were to acquire nuclear arms.

The New York Times reported last week that some unidentified Western officials had suggested U.S. President Joe Biden could give Ukraine nuclear weapons before he leaves office.

"If the country which we are essentially at war with now becomes a nuclear power, what do we do? In this case, we will use all, I want to emphasize this, precisely all means of destruction available to Russia. Everything: we will not allow it. We'll be watching their every move", Putin said during a press conference in Astana, Kazakhstan.

"If officially someone were to transfer something, then that would mean a violation of all the non-proliferation commitments they have made," Putin said.

Putin also said it was practically impossible for Ukraine to produce a nuclear weapon, but that it might be able to make some kind of "dirty bomb", a conventional bomb laced with radioactive material in order to spread contamination. In that case, Russia would respond appropriately, he said.

Russia has repeatedly said, without providing evidence, that Ukraine might use such a device.

Ukraine inherited nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union after its 1991 collapse, but gave them up under a 1994 agreement, the Budapest Memorandum, in return for security assurances from Russia, the United States and Britain.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has repeatedly complained that the move left his country without security, citing this as a reason it should be admitted to NATO - something Moscow strongly opposes.

Russia's Medvedev warns West over discussing nuclear weapons for Ukraine

By Reuters

November 26, 2024 9:06 PM GMT+13 Updated an hour ago



Russia's Deputy head of the Security Council Dmitry Medvedev takes part in a wreath laying ceremony marking Defender of the Fatherland Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall in Moscow, Russia, February 23, 2024. Sputnik/Yekaterina Shtukina/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#), [opens new tab](#)

MOSCOW, Nov 26 (Reuters) - Senior Russian security official Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday that if the West supplied nuclear weapons to Ukraine then Moscow could consider such a transfer to be tantamount to an attack on Russia, providing grounds for a nuclear response.

The New York Times reported last week that some unidentified Western officials had suggested that U.S. President Joe Biden could give Ukraine nuclear weapons, though there were fears such a step would have serious implications.

"American politicians and journalists are seriously discussing the consequences of the transfer of nuclear weapons to Kyiv," Medvedev, who served as Russia's president from 2008 to 2012, said on Telegram.

Medvedev said that even the threat of such a transfer of nuclear weapons could be considered as preparation for a nuclear war against Russia.

"The actual transfer of such weapons can be equated to the fait accompli of an attack on our country," under Russia's newly updated nuclear doctrine, he said.