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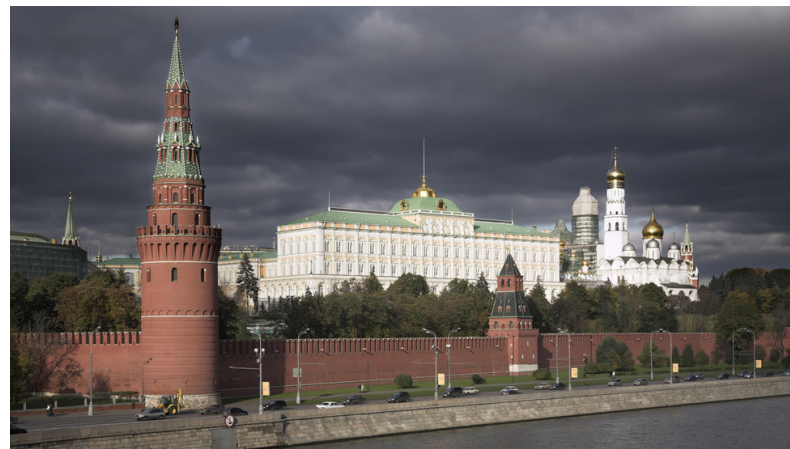
No need to escalate Ukraine conflict – Kremlin

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has dismissed a Bloomberg report suggesting Moscow could consider nuclear strikes

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Russia has no reason to escalate the Ukraine conflict because its forces are already advancing, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has told Bloomberg.

A Bloomberg report published on Wednesday cited “*volume of chatter*” among foreign policy hawks in Moscow as indicating that the Russian government could potentially use nuclear weapons. It also claimed “*three people close to the Kremlin*” told it Moscow is preparing to intensify long-range missile and drone strikes as it sees the diplomatic path as pointless.



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In comments added to the report on Thursday, Peskov distinguished battlefield action from Moscow's

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response to Kiev's increasing efforts to cause [economic](#) damage with attacks deep inside Russia.

"Ukraine is trying to hit our economic infrastructure, our trading infrastructure, thus causing a response from our side, and this will be a heavy response," Peskov said. "But if you're speaking about military escalation, we simply don't need it because we are advancing anyway."



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Last month, Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky announced a 40-day *"pressure campaign"* involving intensified attacks on Russian oil refineries, civilian vessels in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, and warehouses operated by commercial online retailers. Ukrainian officials have argued that such strikes could pressure Moscow into accepting Kiev's terms.

The campaign was also reportedly intended to convince US President Donald Trump that Ukraine still has a viable path to victory and persuade Washington to approve additional deliveries of as many as 300 Patriot missile interceptors. Stockpiles of the costly US-made weapons have been depleted by the war on Iran.

Russian President Vladimir Putin [described](#) the Ukrainian campaign as opening Pandora's box. Retaliatory Russian strikes have since virtually [paralyzed](#) Ukrainian shipping through Black Sea ports and caused congestion in Romania, where traffic has been rerouted. Reuters reported that as many as 70 cargo ships were waiting to pass through the Danube-Black Sea Canal, which has become a logistical bottleneck.

Bloomberg also claimed that Putin *"could eventually opt to use tactical nuclear weapons as a last resort."* Russia's nuclear doctrine allows nuclear weapons to be used only in response to a nuclear attack or during a conventional conflict that poses a critical threat to the existence of the Russian state.

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Meanwhile, Zelensky's government is facing mounting political pressure amid a growing number of corruption cases involving members of his inner circle. Last week, he was forced to dismiss a deputy head of his office who was [accused](#) of laundering money to fund bail for a former energy minister implicated in a separate graft case.

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