Medvedev Addresses
Global War Threat

Russian former President Dmitri Medvedev gave a televised address to the nation on Nov. 23, 2011, conveying the stark reality that the Russian leadership anticipates the outbreak of global nuclear war, and is determined both to defend Russia under those circumstances and, by warning of this, to try to deter it.

Medvedev threatened to deploy the Iskander missile system in Russia’s westernmost district of Kaliningrad (located between Poland and Lithuania), in response to the U.S./NATO emplacement of anti-ballistic-missile systems in Europe. He also reported on other actions already underway.

The President underscored that Russia has continued to offer cooperation with the United States and NATO on anti-missile defense. But, expressing regret over the lack of a positive response to Russia’s proposals, he continued: “We will not agree to take part in a program that in a short while, in some five, six, or eight years’ time, could weaken our nuclear deterrent capability. The European missile defense program is already underway, and work on it is, regrettably, moving rapidly in Poland, Turkey, Romania, and Spain. We find ourselves facing a fait accompli.”

Medvedev then announced the following orders, which he had already issued:

“First, I am instructing the Defense Ministry to immediately put the missile attack early warning radar station in Kaliningrad on combat alert.

“Second, protective coverage of Russia’s strategic nuclear weapons will be reinforced as a priority measure under the program to develop our air and space defenses.

“Third, the new strategic ballistic missiles commissioned by the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy will be equipped with advanced missile defense penetration systems and new, highly effective warheads.

“Fourth, I have instructed the Armed Forces to draw up measures for disabling missile defense system data and guidance systems if need be. These measures will be adequate, effective, and low-cost.

“Fifth, if the above measures prove insufficient, the Russian Federation will deploy modern offensive weapon systems in the west and south of the country, ensuring our ability to take out any part of the U.S. missile defense system in Europe. One step in this process will be to deploy Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad Region.”

Medvedev concluded: “We are open to a dialogue and we hope for a reasonable and constructive approach from our Western partners.”

We May ‘Deploy Main Attack Force’

Then on Nov. 29, 2011, Medvedev discussed the matter further with the leadership of the Russian Armed Forces. Reviewing his recent actions and relevant plans, he continued:

“The standard statements that the new system of the adaptive and phased transition to a European missile defense system is not directed against Russia can no longer satisfy us. These statements are made orally and unfortunately do not guarantee the protection of our interests. If other steps are made, naturally we will be ready to listen to them. However, it is not enough to issue oral statements. So when they tell us that the system is not directed against us, I would like to reply as follows: Friends, the early warning radar station that was put on combat duty today is not directed against you either; on the contrary, it can work for you and towards achieving the aims we have set for ourselves.
“With regard to further actions, it is entirely up to those who make the relevant decisions today. If our signal is not heard, then, as I said on Nov. 23, we will deploy other defense means, including the adoption of tough countermeasures and deployment of the main attack force.

“The station has been put on combat duty, which means that it has begun to work as a finished facility, although a number of parameters are still to be built up over time. . . .”

General Makarov Warns Of Possible Nuclear War

Gen. Nikolai Makarov, the chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, stated on Nov. 17, 2011, “I cannot rule out that, in certain circumstances, local and regional armed conflicts could grow into a large-scale war, possibly even with nuclear weapons.” Addressing the Russian Public Chamber, a Kremlin advisory body which includes numerous policy heavyweights, Makarov stated that “Russia could be involved in a conflict where weapons of mass destruction could be used. . . . The possibility of local armed conflicts virtually along the entire perimeter of the [Russian] border has grown dramatically.”

Makarov was referring specifically to NATO’s expansion eastward since the collapse of the Soviet Union—including efforts to get Ukraine and Georgia to join NATO—as well as the U.S.-led plan to place missile defense systems along the Russian border. But his remarks are also an unmistakeable warning in the context of the British-Obama drumbeat for war against Iran and Syria.

Then, on Feb. 15, 2012, Markarov said that Russia has the right to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened. In an interview with the radio station Ekho Moskvy, he said, “We are certainly not planning to fight against the whole of NATO, but if there is a threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation, we have the right to use nuclear weapons, and we will.”

The general said, according to RIA Novosti, that Russia’s nuclear deterrent is the cornerstone of strategic stability, and serious efforts are being taken by the Russian government to modernize the country’s nuclear triad.

Dr. Theodore Postol: BMD Threatens Russia

In 2007, the George W. Bush Administration turned down Russian President Vladimir Putin’s offer of cooperation on a radar system to protect against missile threats—as a substitute for Bush’s planned deployment of a ballistic missile defense (BMD) system in Poland and the Czech Republic, which Russia saw as a strategic threat. The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) claimed that Bush’s plan was no threat to Russia, because the BMD system was too limited in scope.

President Putin and Russian Chief of Staff Gen. Col. Yuri Baluyevsky strongly disagreed, and promised an “asymmetric response” if the U.S. BMD deployment in Europe went ahead. It turns out, a top U.S. official also disagrees.