

*Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service: U.S. and UK special forces directing attacks on bases in Syria*

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**This file picture shows two Russian bombers at the Russian Hmeimim military base in Latakia province, in the northwest of Syria. (Photo by AFP)**

Moscow, December 29 (RHC)-- Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) says U.S. and British special services are plotting a series of terrorist attacks on Russian military bases in Syria, following the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad's government by militant groups earlier this month.

"British intelligence agencies are working out plots to stage a string of terrorist attacks against Russian military installations in Syria. The schemes seek the recruitment of Daesh Takfiri terrorists, who new authorities in Damascus have set free in the aftermath of Assad's downfall," the press office of the SVR said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement noted that the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden, and the British leadership intend to prevent the establishment of stability and security across Syria. "In a broader sense, they are pursuing the goal of maintaining a state of chaos" in West Asia," the press office stated.

The SVR highlighted that the US and Britain seek to maintain their dominance and achieve their geopolitical objectives in the region "based on the odious concept of a rules-based order."

"However, the fiendish plot is challenged by the presence of Russian forces on the Mediterranean coast of Syria, which still majorly contributes to the preservation of regional stability," the Russian intelligence agency said.

The statement also indicated that the United States plans to continue the occupation of Syria's oil-rich regions east of the Euphrates River under the pretext of fighting Daesh terrorists, emphasizing that Washington has no intention of withdrawing from those areas.

Back on December 13th, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said Moscow had established direct contacts with the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in a bid to maintain its military bases in the Arab country despite the fall of the Syrian government.

Russia hopes to keep its military bases in Syria as they are important in the fight against terrorism, Interfax news agency quoted Bogdanov as saying.

The senior Russian diplomat noted that contacts with HTS were "proceeding in a constructive fashion." Bogdanov said Russia hopes the group will fulfill its pledges to "guard against all excesses," maintain order, and ensure the safety of diplomats and other foreigners.

Press TV's website can also be accessed at the following alternate addresses:

[SOURCE: PRESS TV ]

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