

Damascus Confirms President Assad Requested Russia's Military Aid in Fighting Terrorists



Damascus, October 1 (RHC)-- The Syrian government has confirmed that President Bashar al-Assad requested military assistance from Russia, as Moscow gets the parliamentary approval for military presence in Syria.

Assad's office said in a statement on Wednesday that the Syrian president had sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, asking for the military support. "The Russian air force was dispatched to Syria after a request from the Syrian state via a letter by President Assad to President Putin that includes an invitation to send the Russian air force as part of President Putin's initiative to fight terrorism," the statement said.

A post on the Facebook page of the Syrian president also noted that Russia's military support "came upon a request from the Syrian state." The comments came hours after legislators at Russia's upper house of

parliament unanimously approved a plan to allow President Putin to send Russian forces to Syria. The Kremlin, however, said the military presence will only be confined to the dispatch of air force to the country.

The Kremlin's chief of staff, Sergei Ivanov, said Assad had "appealed to the leadership of our country with a request for military aid."

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