

RUSSIA WARNS U.K. OVER DRONE ATTACKS AT ITS BLACK SEA FLEET

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

Deborah Bronnert SHAMIL ZHUMATOV

Russia on Thursday summoned the U.K. Ambassador and warned London of “dangerous consequences” after accusing Britain of helping Kyiv carry out an attack on Moscow’s Black Sea fleet in Crimea last week.

“Such confrontational actions of the English carry a threat of escalation of the situation and could lead to unpredictable and dangerous consequences,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Moscow said it had delivered a “strong protest” to U.K. Ambassador Deborah Bronnert. It claimed British forces were training Ukrainian special services, including for “sabotage operations at sea”.

On Saturday, Russia accused the U.K. of helping Kyiv orchestrate a drone attack on its ships in the port of Sevastopol in Moscow-annexed Crimea.

‘Concrete facts’

Bronnert arrived at Moscow’s towering Soviet-era Foreign Ministry building, with a line of people chanting ‘Britain is a terrorist state’, state media showed. The Foreign Ministry said it had handed “concrete facts” of London’s “hostile provocations” to her.

“A demand was put forward to stop them immediately,” it said.

Moscow claimed U.K. military specialists were training Ukrainian special forces in the southern city of Ochakiv, “including training for underwater saboteurs for operations in the waters of the Black and Azov seas”.

Russia last week also accused the U.K. of being implicated in explosions on the Nord Stream pipelines in September.

The U.K. says these are “false claims on an epic scale”. Relations between London and Moscow have been degrading for years. Russia considers the U.K., one of Ukraine's strongest backers, as one of the most unfriendly Western countries.

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