

Belarusian leader warns he's prepared to use Russian nuclear weapon to repel attack

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko will not hesitate to use the Russian nuclear weapons set to be deployed to his country next month, he said on Tuesday.

Last week, Vladimir Putin said Russia would deploy nuclear weapons to Belarus on July 7-8, when the requisite facilities are ready, during a conversation with his Belarusian ally. Putin initially announced the plan in March.

"God forbid that I have to make a decision to use these weapons. But there will be no hesitation in the event of an aggression against us," Lukashenko said, according to the state news agency BelTA. "We have prepared everything, and are implementing the program we have outlined with the president of Russia. ... I think hardly anyone will want to fight with a country that has such weapons. It's a deterrent weapon."

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