

Russia withdraws from key European arms control treaty; NATO suspends participation

Putin blames United States and NATO for Moscow's exit

Nov. 7 (UPI) — Russia finalized its withdrawal from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe on Tuesday, declaring the Cold War-era agreement null and void nearly two decades after Moscow suspended the armistice.

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement overnight, saying the historic peace accord ratified in 1990 between NATO and Warsaw Pact alliance countries, including the former Soviet Union, “has finally become history for Russia.”

In a related move, the Kremlin also revoked two other longstanding agreements, including the Budapest Agreement of Nov. 3, 1990, and the Flank Document of May 31, 1996 — which were designed to address issues related to arms control and disarmament that had persisted in the years after World War II.

In response to Russia's decision, NATO said it intends to suspend operation of the treaty “for as long as necessary.”

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