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## **RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WARNS SWEDEN OFF NATO**

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Russia will take the necessary military-technical action at its northernmost borders if Sweden joins Nato, Russias foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the Dagens Nyheter daily.

Lavrov said Russia would feel compelled to take action if Natos military infrastructure stretched to Sweden.

Its every countrys right to decide what form its security should take, but one must understand that if military infrastructure approaches Russia's borders, we would of course have to take the necessary military-technical action. Theres nothing personal in it; its just business, Lavrov told Dagens Nyheter (DN).

When asked what measures Russia was likely to put in place, he said:

Thats not my job. Its up to the military, the defence ministry, and the Russian general staff. When they see what potential there is at the other side of the border - right at our border or a little further from our border, then they know what capacity exists there and what can be expected if Nato suddenly decides to stop us in a hot way.

Lavrov also blamed Sweden for a cooling off in relations between the countries after the revolution in Kiev that dislodged Ukraines pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, and Russias subsequent annexation of Crimea.

He spoke of the solid trade relations and political dialogue that had prevailed before the Ukraine crisis, adding that Russia had always viewed Sweden as a good neighbour.

But all of that was stopped by our Swedish colleagues; it didnt happen on our initiative, Lavrov told DN.

From Stockholm we got the message that contacts would be frozen and that Sweden was adhering to the EUs sanctions. This was a result of Brussels for some reason taking offence at our reaction to the armed coup in Kiev, he said, repeating Moscow's line on the events of February 2014 that left dozens of Ukrainians dead.

Relations between Sweden and Russia have been tense in recent years.

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Kaynak/Source: