
THE LATEST: FRANCE SAYS NO TRACE OF RUSSIAN HACKING MACRON

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The head of the French governments cyber security agency, which investigated leaks from President Emmanuel Macrons election campaign, says they found no trace of a notorious Russian hacking group behind the attack.

In an interview in his office Thursday with The Associated Press, Guillaume Poupard said the Macron campaign hack was so generic and simple that it could have been practically anyone.

He said they found no trace that the Russian hacking group known as APT28, blamed for other attacks including on the U.S. presidential campaign, was responsible.

Poupard is director general of the government cyber-defense agency known in France by its acronym, ANSSI. Its experts were immediately dispatched when documents stolen from the Macron campaign leaked online on May 5 in the closing hours of the presidential race.

Poupard says the attacks simplicity means that we can imagine that it was a person who did this alone. They could be in any country.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed President Donald Trump as a straightforward person with a fresh vision.

Speaking at Thursdays meeting with senior editors of the worlds leading news agencies, Putin said Russia had been encouraged by Trumps campaign statements in which he lamented Russia-U.S. ties being at a historical low and promised to improve them.

Moscows hopes for a rapprochement with the U.S. have been dashed by congressional and FBI investigations into Trump campaign ties with Russia, but Putin emphasized that Moscow still hopes to forge a constructive dialogue with the Trump administration.

He praised Trump as a straightforward person, a frank person. Putin added that while some see Trumps lack of political experience as a disadvantage, he sees it as beneficial because he has a fresh set of eyes.

President Vladimir Putin has expressed regret that anti-Russian sentiments in the U.S. have prevented cooperation on fighting terrorism.

Meeting with international journalists on Thursday, Putin said there are certain dimensions we can pursue more actively in fighting terror □ but Russo-phobic hysteria in the U.S. has made such cooperation all but impossible.

Asked if he could offer any advice to Trump, Putin said it would be counterproductive to give advice to a political counterpart and added that a person like President Trump doesn't need any advice, especially if it comes to political issues.

He concluded by saying that my wish is to forge a constructive dialogue underpinned by national interests, and I believe it's possible with the current U.S. president.

President Vladimir Putin says Moscow will wait until current anti-Russian sentiments in the U.S. abate before trying to forge ties with President Donald Trump.

Speaking at Thursday's meeting with senior editors of leading international news agencies, Putin said the current atmosphere makes it somewhat inconvenient to work with one another or even to talk, but some day this will have to stop.

The Kremlin's aspirations for better ties with Washington have withered amid Congressional and FBI investigations into Trump campaign ties with Russia.

Putin said the Russo-phobic hysteria in the U.S. is aimed against the current president of the U.S. to prevent him from working normally, but predicted this will end, sooner or later. He added that we are patient, we know how to wait and we will wait.

President Vladimir Putin says that Russia's military deployments on a group of Pacific islands also claimed by Japan have been caused by concerns about the U.S. military buildup in the region.

The four islands, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the southern Kurils in Russia, were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of the World War II, preventing the two countries from signing a peace treaty.

Speaking at a meeting with senior editors of international news agencies Thursday, Putin said the U.S. will likely continue to build up its missile shield in the region even if North Korea agrees to curb its nuclear and missile programs.

President Vladimir Putin has warned that attempts to contain Russia won't succeed.

Without naming any particular country, Putin said that Russia has faced attempts to hurt its legitimate interests.

Russia's relations with the West have been at post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis. The U.S. and the EU have slapped Moscow with sanctions over its annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and support for pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Speaking at a meeting with senior editors of leading international news agencies Thursday, Putin said that economic restrictions against Russia have had zero effect.

He predicted that the current strain in relations will ease, because it's counterproductive and harmful.

Kaynak/Source: