

Russia denies military moves in Venezuela a threat

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CARACAS — The head of Russian security says nearby nations have nothing to fear from a naval squadron visiting Venezuela next month.

Nikolai Patrushev says the military exercises planned in Caribbean waters are "not directed against the interests of any other country." Patrushev is head of Russia's KGB successor, the Federal Security Service.

The deployment of warships and planes is expected to represent the largest Russian naval maneuvers in the Caribbean since the Cold War.

Venezuela has strengthened ties with Russia under President Hugo Chávez, buying more than \$4 billion in weapons since 2005.

Patrushev said Friday that Russian President Dmitri Medvedev plans to visit Venezuela soon, though he didn't give a date.

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