

Russia to stick to its decision on bases in S.Ossetia, Abkhazia

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Russia's decision to create military bases in Abkhazia and South Ossetia will not be reviewed, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Sunday.

"Russia's decisions to recognize the independence of those two states and create small military bases there to prevent a new attempt of the use of military force by Georgia will not be reviewed," Ivanov said after his talks with U.S. Vice President Joe Biden at a security conference in Munich.

Russia recognized Georgia's breakaway republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states on August 26 last year, two weeks after the end of a five-day conflict sparked by a Georgian military attack on South Ossetia.

Friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance treaties with Abkhazia and South Ossetia were signed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev last November.

Under the pacts, Russia has pledged to help the republics protect their borders, and the signatories have granted each other the right to set up military bases in their respective territories.

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