

Putin signs military treaty suspension

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a measure Friday that suspended Moscow's role in a treaty limiting military forces in Europe. The bill passed by the Russian parliament earlier this month pertains to the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which placed limits on the number and deployment of conventional troops along the dividing line between NATO and the old Warsaw Pact. The Itar-Tass news agency said that the breakup of the Soviet Union threw a wrench into the works. The change in boundaries, Itar-Tass said, left the Russian Federation unable to deploy its new army in a way that reflected new political and military realities. Russia can resume its participation in the treaty, which was overhauled in 1999, at the discretion of the Russian president.

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