

## Rumblings in Russia of U.S. strike on Iran

*by UPI*

MOSCOW - A Russian official denied Russian media rumors that the United States planned airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities Friday.

"Our contacts with the U.S. side give no grounds for such expectations," Alexander Losyukov, a deputy foreign minister, told RIA Novosti.

RIA Novosti said the United State has not ruled out a military response to Iran's refusal to halt the enrichment of uranium for its nuclear program.

A Russian security official said last week that Russian intelligence determined that the United States was preparing for a possible strike against Iran in early April.

RIA Novosti said Russian officials have been promoting a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear standoff.

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