

Russian lawmaker: No force against Iran

by UPI

MOSCOW - Two leading Russian officials say military action against Iran should be ruled out.

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee, met Friday to discuss Iran with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak, Novosti reported.

"We have seen that our Foreign Ministry and other bodies of the executive branch have thoroughly analyzed various action plans under different scenarios with respect to Iran," Kosachev said after the meeting. "The only scenario that should be completely ruled out is the military one, the use of force against Iran."

Russia is one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, giving it the power to veto any initiative by the international group.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Monday Iran is prepared to begin enriching uranium on an industrial scale, although many experts doubt it has the capacity.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.