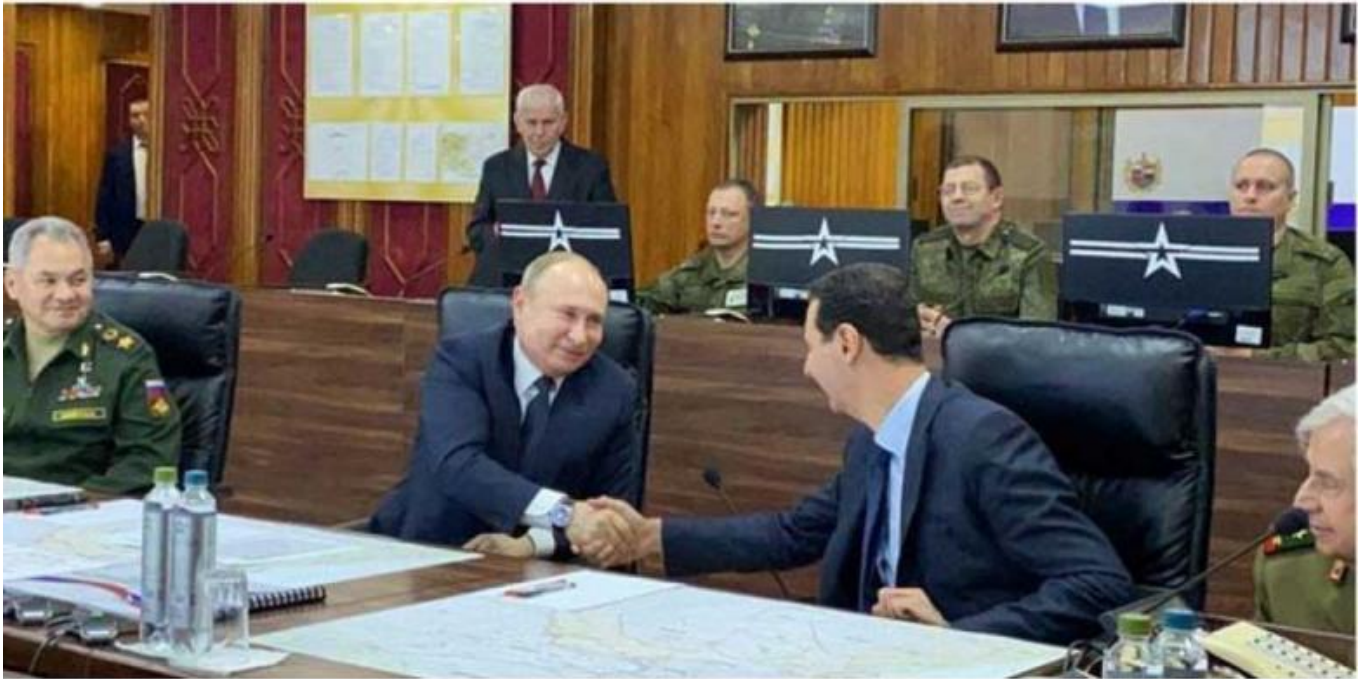

Russian president visits Syria and meets with President al-Assad

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Damascus, Dec 7 (Prensa Latina) Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in this capital on an unannounced visit today, last-minute reports by official Syrian media revealed.

President Bashar al-Assad met with Putin at the headquarters of the Russian forces stationed in Damascus, SANA agency reported.

The visit takes place in the midst of extreme security measures while several helicopters continue to fly over the city of Damascus.
