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Russia and China warn Washington of launching attack on Venezuela

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Moscow, January 25 (RHC)-- Moscow and Beijing have issued statements in support of Venezuela against U.S. meddling with the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic through military interference, which includes a planned coup d'état.

The Russian Foreign Ministry says "only Venezuelans have the right to determine their future," and that "destructive external intervention is unacceptable," citing a catastrophic outcome, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia indicated that the United States' intention to interfere with Venezuela was unsurprising, further noting that "the swearing in of a 'president in charge of Venezuela' opposition, and its immediate recognition in that capacity by the U.S. and several regional states, aims to increase the division in Venezuela, incite violence and essentially seeks to destabilize the internal political situation and further escalate conflict."

Russia made the remarks following President of the National Assembly Juan Guaidó -- with the support of the United States, Canada and some Latin American neighbors -- unconstitutionally declaring himself president of the state of Venezuela on Wednesday. Within minutes, the U.S. formally recognized the

illegal, parallel government.

The Russian Foreign Ministry stated that the "duality of powers, intentional and, obviously, well thought out" in the Latin American country "is a direct path to chaos and the destruction of the foundations of the Venezuelan State."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has promised to fight against the push of U.S. and its allies, aiming to preserve the Bolivarian Republic even severing diplomatic and political relations with Washington.

Meanwhile, China also declared full support for the Venezuelan government, sternly rejecting the "intrusion in internal affairs" of the country by the United States, which backs illegitimate self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaido.

"China supports the efforts of the Government of Venezuela to maintain its sovereignty, independence and stability," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying remarked in a press conference.

The Chinese official expressed opposition to all external interference and recommends a peaceful resolution within the framework of Venezuela's Constitution. "We hope that all parties will oppose any external interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela, the complication of the situation will not contribute to the maintenance of stability," Hua said to TASS.

"We always follow the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, we oppose foreign interference in the internal affairs of Venezuela and we hope that the international community will also follow this principle."

Edited by Ed Newman

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