

Czech General Warns NATO 'Is Currently on a Course' for War with Russia

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The commander of the Czech Republic's armed forces said the North Atlantic alliance and Russia are on the path to a direct war. The general described the potential war as the "worst-case scenario" but emphasized that it remains a distinct possibility.

General Karel Rehka, the chief of the Czech armed forces general staff, [told his country's parliament](#) on Monday about the potentiality of a war between NATO and Russia.

"No one wants it at all, but it is not impossible. It is necessary to stop saying that this is not possible, because it is simply possible. It can happen and it is necessary to prepare for it in the long run," he said.

"We view war between Russia and the North Atlantic Alliance as the worst-case scenario, but it is not impossible," Rehka continued. "It is possible... [Russia] is currently on a course towards a conflict with the Alliance."

Tensions between Moscow and the West have spiraled in recent weeks. At a Group of Seven (G7) meeting earlier this month, Washington and its allies announced a plan to transfer F-16s to Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov [said](#) giving advanced fighter jets to Kiev is an "unacceptable escalation" and warned the West is "playing with fire."

Additionally, Kiev has carried out a series of attacks inside of Russia. On May 3, two drones were fired at the Kremlin in an attempt to [assassinate](#) Russian President Vladimir Putin. Last week, a [neo-Nazi militia](#) allied with Kiev used American weapons to launch a cross-border raid against Moscow. Then, on Tuesday, Kiev [attacked Moscow](#) with several drones.

Rehka claimed that both Moscow and Brussels would like to avoid a direct conflict.

“But that doesn’t mean that Russia wants it or that it plans it,” Rehka said. “Certainly not now, just like we don’t want it. Everyone knows it would be a tragedy.”

While high-ranking officials in NATO nations say they hope to avoid a direct conflict with Russia, those nations continue to cross redlines set by Moscow. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan recently asserted that Kiev could use arms it receives from Washington to [attack](#) the Crimean Peninsula. Secretary of State Antony Blinken previously [acknowledged](#) that targeting Crimea was a “red line” for the Kremlin.

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Featured image: General Karel Rehka (Source: TLI)

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