

## General Makarov Warns Of Possible Nuclear War

Gen. Nikolai Makarov, the chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, stated on Nov. 17, 2011, “I cannot rule out that, in certain circumstances, local and regional armed conflicts could grow into a large-scale war, possibly even with nuclear weapons.” Addressing the Russian Public Chamber, a Kremlin advisory body which includes numerous policy heavyweights, Makarov stated that “Russia could be involved in a conflict where weapons of mass destruction could be used. . . . The possibility of local armed conflicts virtually along the entire perimeter of the [Russian] border has grown dramatically.”

Makarov was referring specifically to NATO’s expansion eastward since the collapse of the Soviet Union—including efforts to get Ukraine and Georgia to join NATO—as well as the U.S.-led plan to place missile defense systems along the Russian border. But his remarks are also an unmistakable warning in the context of the British-Obama drumbeat for war against Iran and Syria.

Then, on Feb. 15, 2012, Markarov said that Russia has the right to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened. In an interview with the radio station Ekho Moskvyy, he said, “We are certainly not planning to fight against the whole of NATO, but if there is a threat to the integrity of the Russian Federation, we have the right to use nuclear weapons, and we will.”

The general said, according to RIA Novosti, that Russia’s nuclear deterrent is the cornerstone of strategic stability, and serious efforts are being taken by the Russian government to modernize the country’s nuclear triad.



NATO

*Chief of the General Staff Gen. Nikolai Makarov: Russia retains “the right to use nuclear weapons” if there is a threat to its integrity.*