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Will Turkey exit NATO to enter into alliance with Russia?

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If NATO loses Turkey, it will happen only because of the mistakes of the alliance, rather than because of Turkey's recent rapprochement with Russia, China and the Middle East, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Chauvshoglu said.

According to *The Daily Express*, Turkey may think of leaving NATO as the country receives no support from the alliance. Instead, Turkey may think of entering a new military alliance with Russia, the newspaper said.

The statement from Cavusoglu appeared due to insufficient assistance from NATO during the recent attempted coup in Turkey.

Yet, one should bear in mind the fact that Turkey is a key member of NATO. The country sits between Europe and Asia and serves as an outpost between the Western and the Islamic worlds, the article says. The NATO administration has already said that Turkey's membership in NATO is not questioned, and Ankara remains an important partner for the alliance.

The NATO administration has repeatedly expressed its commitment and loyalty to the allies since President Erdogan expressed his displeasure with the lack of support from Western institutions, particularly the EU, during the attempted coup in Turkey, *The Daily Express* said.

NATO Secretary General spoke with Turkey's Minister for Foreign Affairs on the night of the attempted coup, and later with President Erdogan. The NATO Secretary General strongly condemned the coup and expressed unequivocal support for democratic institutions in Turkey. He also expressed support and respect for the elected government of Turkey and the Turkish people for their courage, the statement from the North Atlantic Alliance said.

The new assurances of NATO's loyalty to Turkey followed the meeting of [Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#) with his [Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin](#), the newspaper wrote. After the talks, the Turkish side announced the creation of a "reliable mechanism" for finding a solution to the crisis in Syria. Vladimir Putin said that Russia would lift the embargo on products from Turkey and thus make a major step for the normalization of relations between the countries, the article says.

The talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan took place on August 9 in St. Petersburg. This meeting between the two presidents became the first after a serious crisis in the relations between the two countries.

Pravda.Ru asked deputy head of the Center for the Studies of Modern Turkey, Faridun Usmanov, how important the meeting could be for the future of the two countries and whether it could mark a new era of friendly relations between Russia and Turkey.

"This meeting means reconciliation in the first place. The conflict that appeared between the two countries in late November may thus go down in history, and a new stage in bilateral relations may start," the expert told Pravda.Ru.

"The bilateral Russian-Turkish relations have reached a very serious level of development in the last 20 years, but the crisis that has occurred between Russia and Turkey in the recent 7-8 months has not eradicated those achievements completely," the expert concluded.

The United States will have to choose between the democratic Turkey and the organization of the opposition Islamic preacher Fethullah Gülen, Turkish President Recep Erdogan said during a meeting with his supporters in Ankara.

"Sooner or later, America will make a choice between Turkey and FETO (the Gulenist terror organization, as turkish officials call it, - ed.) It's either Fito that orchestrates coups or the democratic Turkey. The USA will have to make a choice," Erdogan said, Anadolu news agency said.

During the attempted coup in Turkey, a total of 265 people were killed, 161 of them are members of the government forces and civilians.

The Turkish authorities believe that the coup instigators were inspired by activities of preacher Fethullah Gülen, who has been living in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999.

On July 16, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan publicly urged the US authorities to deliver Gülen. On July 19, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said that Turkey sent an official request to Washington for the extradition of Gülen. In response, US State Department spokesman John Kirby offered to help Turkey in the investigation of the coup.