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# Current Intelligence Report Circular

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**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

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## Deputy dead of Sudanese Sovereign Council to travel to Moscow this week to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin

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The deputy head of Sudan's Sovereign Council and commander of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Lieutenant-General Mohamed Hamdan Daglo "Hemedti," received an invitation to visit Russia and will travel to Moscow at the end of this week. Hemedti will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss bilateral issues. On 20 FEB, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ambassador Khalid Farah confirmed that this meeting is a part of the efforts of both countries to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields through communication and visits between senior officials. Farah also stressed that Russia has acknowledged Sudan's importance and strategic role in the region and has helped Sudan in international forums in the past. Russia has supported the military junta and wants to establish a navy base in eastern Sudan on the Red Sea. Farah explained that Sudan's relations with Russia would not be at the expense of any other parties, and Sudan desires to create balanced foreign relations. END.

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### CMCD Note

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Russian-Sudanese relations date back to the late 1990s and early 2000s when Vladimir Putin was elected President of Russia. In November 2019, Putin and al-Burhan met after the fall of the al-Bashir regime in Sudan. During the al-Bashir rule, Russia openly supported the authoritarian rule in Sudan, as it provided more security for Russian projects in the region. In 2019, as the al-Bashir regime was being ousted, Russia provided military training and support for the al-Bashir forces to try and maintain his rule of Sudan. During the power-sharing agreement and creation of the Sovereign Council post-al-Bashir, Russia supported this agreement, but still believed the Sudanese army were the "kingmakers that will guarantee the country's long-term stability." After al-Burhan overthrew the Hamdok government, Moscow viewed the coup as deleterious to their security partnership. Moscow feared the instability would affect their Port Sudan construction project and future plans of constructing a naval base on the Red Sea. Al-Burhan has stated his commitment to Russia's Port Sudan, but has expressed his desire to make some adjustments with Moscow on their current and future projects.

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### Sources

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