

Publication: Jnl Final Edition 8/2005-today; Date: Aug 22, 2008; Section: News; Page: A3



Russia Ends Military Cooperation With NATO

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Russia has halted all military cooperation with NATO, the Western alliance said Thursday, in the latest sign of East-West tension over the invasion of Georgia.

Alliance spokeswoman Carmen Romero said NATO had received notification through military channels that Russia's Defense Ministry had taken a decision "to halt international military cooperation events between Russia and NATO countries until further instructions."

The United States immediately played down the significance of the Russian decision, saying NATO had already effectively frozen cooperation in protest of Russia's continued military presence in much of Georgia.

"For all practical purposes, military-to-military cooperation had really already been ended with the Russians," said U.S. National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe, with vacationing President Bush in Crawford, Texas.

"I can't imagine a circumstance right now that we would engage in military cooperation with the Russians until the situation in Georgia is resolved."