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Putin promises support to Afghanistan after NATO withdrawal

November 7, 2014

The Russian President Vladimir Putin has pledged support to Afghanistan if the security situation got complicated following the withdrawal of the NATO forces from the country by the end this year.

Speaking at a meeting with the members of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), President Putin said the people of the Afghan can count on Russia's support if the situation gets complicated.

"We understand that the withdrawal of the international military contingent will not make the situation easier. But in case of necessity we will be ready to lend our friends in Afghanistan a shoulder to lean on in order to keep the situation in this country stable and with perspectives of development," the TASS news agency quoted Vladimir Putin as saying.

Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia are the members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, while Afghanistan and Serbia hold observer status.

"We wish the people of Afghanistan the best of luck in normalizing the situation in their country," Putin said, adding that the whole World is currently following the development of the situation in Afghanistan, including the nations that fall into the CSTO zone of responsibility.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission is ending on 31st December 2014.

NATO will launch a new non-combat mission – Resolute Support mission to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces as of January 1, 2015.