



# RUSSIA'S ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA

## February 2021

The following is a summary of open-source media reporting on Russia's presence and activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in February 2021. This is not a complete list of media reports on Russia's activities in Latin America but are some of the most relevant articles and reports selected by SFS researchers and fellows. The monitor does source a limited amount of media reports from state-owned or -controlled media outlets, which are carefully selected and solely intended to report on news that is not reported on by other media and is relevant for understanding VRIC influence in the region. This report is produced as part of our VRIC Monitor published monthly by the Center for a Secure Free Society (SFS), a non-profit, national security think tank based in Washington D.C.

# RUSSIA

- The first 100,000 doses of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine arrived in Venezuela on February 13, 2021. - [Reuters on 13-FEB](#)
- State media reports a delegation of experts from the Russian company Geropharm arrived in the Venezuelan capital, where it plans to analyze the possibilities of cooperation for the production of insulin from the local company Espromed Bio, the Embassy of the Eurasian nation informed Sputnik. - [Sputnik on 10-FEB \(content in Spanish\)](#)
- A Russian diplomat reports that Iran, Russia, and China are preparing to hold a joint naval exercise in the waters of the Indian Ocean. "The next multilateral naval exercise will be held in the northern Indian Ocean in mid-February 2021," Russian Ambassador to Iran Levon Dzhagaryan confirmed in an interview with Russian news agency RIA Novosti. The senior Russian diplomat has detailed that this trilateral exercise seeks to

"work in cooperation in search and rescue operations and measures to ensure the safety of navigation." - [TeleSUR on 08-FEB](#)

- Argentina's new Ambassador to Russia, Eduardo Zuain, says the government is keen to deepen closer ties with Moscow, eyeing an improvement in "strategic coordination" beyond the Sputnik V vaccine. Zuain, a former deputy foreign minister during Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's second presidential term, was confirmed as envoy to Moscow by Decree 51/21 in the Official Gazette. - [Buenos Aires Times on 06-FEB](#)
- President Alberto Fernández spoke with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, with the latter saying that production of the Sputnik V vaccine had been stepped up in order to meet Argentina's requirements. The two leaders conversed for 30 minutes, with the Peronist leader praising the Russian-made coronavirus vaccine and describing that the government's mass vaccination scheme was "excellent." - [Buenos Aires Times on 06-FEB](#)
- State media reports the Russian-Chilean talks on deploying a station of the automated warning system on hazardous situations in outer space (ASPOS OKP) have been temporarily suspended, Deputy Director General for International Cooperation at the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos Sergey Savelyev told TASS. - [TASS on 02-FEB](#)
- State news reports President Luis Arce announced via Twitter that representatives of the Russian Federation (Rosatom) hold a meeting with Bolivian authorities regarding the nuclear center that will be built in El Alto city. The Russian counterparts value the project's worth at \$300 million. - [TeleSUR on 21-JAN](#)
- State media reports Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez held a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, about the state of the bilateral relations. On his Twitter account, Rodríguez referred to the exchange of opinions, which also dealt with issues on the regional and international agenda. - [Prensa Latina on 21-JAN](#)
- For the first time, Russia used the designation "foreign agent" to brand three journalists and two activists. All are critics of Russian president Vladimir Putin. The recently amended law is similar to the one that also just took effect in Nicaragua. The five victims were on the list for working or collaborating with media that receive financing from outside the country. They are now "foreign agents", according to the law taking effect in Russia at the end of 2019. Such individuals must then classify all their journalistic material as elaborated by a "foreign agent". - [Confidencial on 31-DEC](#)