

International

Report: Putin Says Ready to Drop Nuclear Weapons

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MOSCOW -- Russian news agencies are quoting Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as saying that Russia is willing to abandon nuclear weapons if the United States and all other countries that have them do the same.

State-owned RIA Novosti quotes Putin as saying that, "if those who made the atomic bomb and used it are ready to abandon it _ like, I hope, other nuclear powers _ of course we will welcome and facilitate this process in all ways."

Interfax and RIA Novosti reported that Putin made the comments during a meeting Wednesday with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Putin said he was sure that an active role by Germany in this issue would be required.

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