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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
LANGLEY, VA

October 11, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Congress

SUBJECT: **Tactical Nuclear Weapons in the Ukraine and Status of
Russian President Vladimir Putin**

There are two urgent developments.

First, President Vladimir Putin has recently authorized all necessary means to repel and retake the Russian territory occupied by Ukrainian forces and to end the war with Ukraine. This has been interpreted by U.S. intelligence to mean the redeployment of Russian troops currently operating in the Ukrainian theater to recapture Russian territory occupied by Ukrainian forces and the deployment and use of tactical nuclear forces to capture Ukrainian territory. Satellite imagery confirms the movement of some tactical nuclear forces closer to the border. This order was likely given by President Putin last week and is a potentially ominous escalation of the conflict.

Second, President Putin has disappeared from the public. While some believe this is a prelude to the use of tactical nuclear weapons, other intelligence assessments are concluding with a strong degree of certainty that President Putin has recently exhibited symptoms that are consistent with Havana Syndrome. This has limited President Putin's ability to govern on a day-to-day basis. It is believed that images and videos of President Putin within the past few days are not him, but of one of several body doubles that the Russian government is believed to use from time to time.

The U.S. intelligence community is monitoring both situations and will provide Congress with an update as they develop.