

NATO Says No Sign of Russian Troops' Withdrawal

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The  **Moscow Times**

NATO has seen no sign that tens of thousands of Russian troops are withdrawing from close to the Ukraine border, a NATO official said Tuesday, despite a Russian statement that the troops had returned to their permanent positions.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in a phone call on Monday that Russian forces, which started drills near the border last week, had returned to their permanent positions.

"We currently have no information that indicates a withdrawal of Russian troops from the Ukrainian border. We continue to urge Russia to abide by the Geneva agreement and to pull back all its troops along the Ukrainian border in favor of diplomacy and dialogue," a NATO official told Reuters, asked about Shoigu's assertion.

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