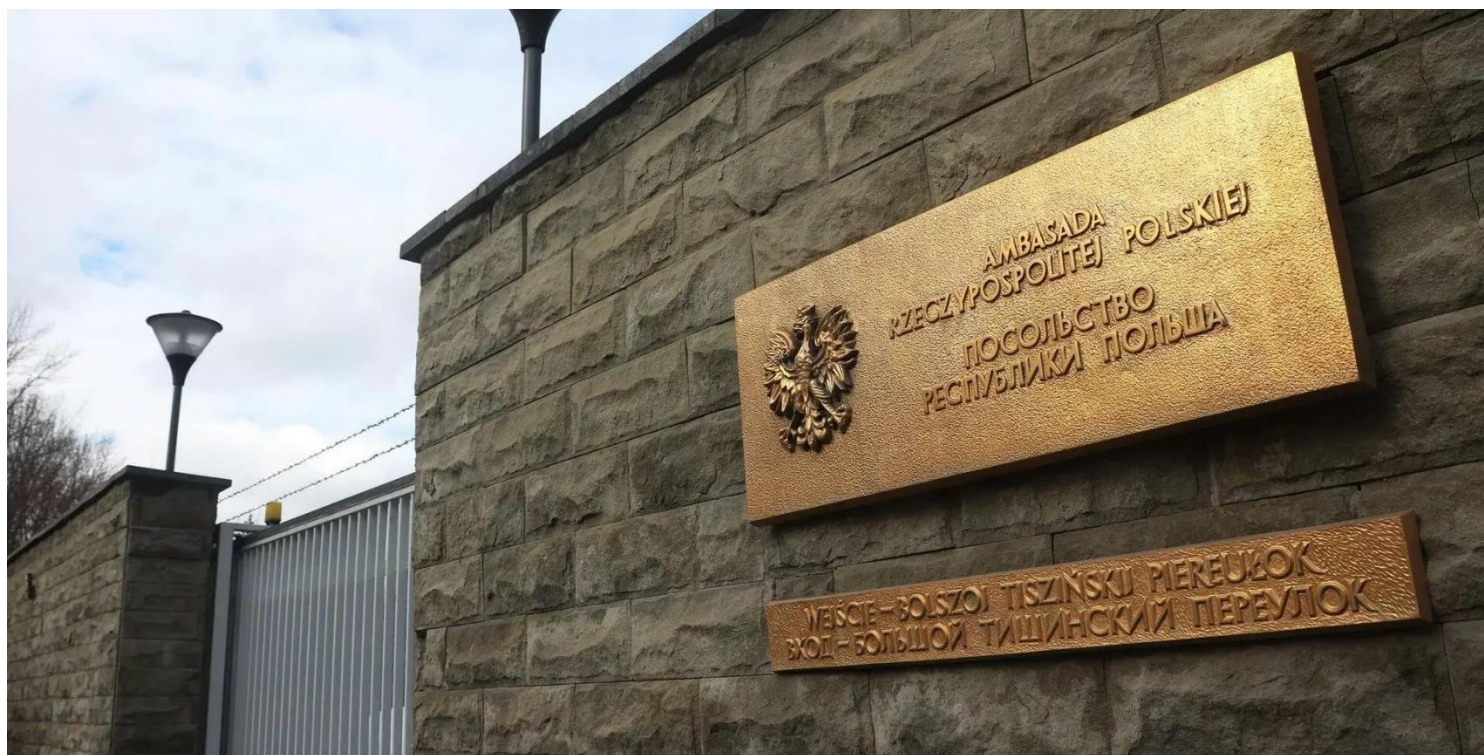


Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



Poland Closes Russian Consulate Due to Security Threats

Kevin Taber

Analyst

Europe Desk

On 22 OCT, Poland's Foreign Minister announced the closure of a Russian Consulate in the city of Poznan. This comes after Polish authorities detained 20 individuals on propaganda, espionage, and other subversive activity charges. One of the people detained was a Ukrainian man who was reportedly paid \$5,000 to carry out an arson attack on a Polish paint factory. Documents from Poland's International Security Agency showed that Russian and

Belarusian agents are using apps like Telegram to communicate with pro-Russian Ukrainians inside North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member nations. The agents use advertisements calling for people to organize protests, commit arson, and share information on Ukrainian and NATO troops.

This arson attempt highlights Russia's use of hybrid warfare tactics including cyber-attacks and the payment of saboteurs to carry out break-ins, assassination attempts, and arson attacks on critical infrastructure and factories throughout NATO member

nations. Poland has been the victim of most of these attacks. Continuous Russian and Belarusian cyber-attacks on Polish critical infrastructure and news sources have caused Poland to increase its cyber-security budget. These attacks mostly attempt to spread misinformation or cause damage to airports, railways, or other vital transportation systems.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely Polish-Russian relations will continue to deteriorate due to the use of cyber-warfare and sabotage tactics by Russia.

South African President Attends BRICS Summit to Increase Bilateral Relationships

Noah Ankenbrand
Senior Analyst
Africa Desk

On 22 OCT, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, along with other government officials of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) members, went to the Russian city of Kazan to attend the three-day 2024 BRICS Summit. This year's agenda includes what BRICS states refer to as “Western-led hegemony” and global economics.

At the 2024 BRICS Summit, South African delegates spoke on increasing bilateral relations with Moscow and

Beijing. South Africa's goal is to increase foreign investment in South African industries and entice BRICS-based firms to expand their operations in South Africa.

BRICS was designed as an organization that challenges Western alliances, their influence, and the US currency, the dollar. In recent years, at least 40 countries have shown interest in joining BRICS. As a member of BRICS, South Africa has gained recognition for its substantial mineral wealth, particularly its natural reserves of platinum, chrome, vanadium, manganese, and gold. South Africa is capitalizing on investments in critical infrastructure and regional and international trade.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely South Africa will maintain its membership in BRICS and focus on deepening its relationship with Russia and China. We assess with moderate confidence that South Africa is likely to see an increase in foreign investment, specifically in critical metal industries, leading to an increase in foreign currency reserves.



Rising Civilian Discontent in Mali

Connor Ellinghaus
Analyst
Africa Desk

On 17 OCT, Mali's junta chief, Assimi Goita, promoted himself to the rank of Army General despite increasing calls from activists across the Sahel region for a return to civilian rule. This move that indicates Goita is not planning to relinquish power.

Since a military coup in 2020, a growing jihadist insurgency has continued to threaten the stability of the country, despite efforts by the Malian Armed Forces to reestablish control. The Wagner

Group has become involved in military operations because the junta claimed the Wagner Group would be better than French troops. However, independent African reporter, Sadibou Coulibaly, has reported that both military and civilian casualties have increased in the past four months.

Furthermore, the junta has reportedly been involved in suppressing media coverage from opposing political parties and the West. Additionally, Mali's junta recently announced it was cancelling the presidential election that was supposed to take place in March 2024. Concern about the junta among the Malian population is increasing,

causing restlessness throughout civil society.

We can assess with high confidence that it is highly likely Mali's military junta will not unilaterally hand power back to civilian control in the near future.



Weekly Intelligence Brief

Editor-in-Chief
Tessa Bentley

Associate Editors
Aubrey Belanger
Samuel Lockett

For access to past issues and other Chanticleer Intelligence Brief projects, visit our website, cibrief.org/publications/wib

