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Putin clears way for nuclear strike

**MOSCOW threatened
nuclear retaliation last
night after Ukraine fired
US long-range rockets into
Russia for the first time.**

In a dramatic escalation on the 1,000th day of the conflict, Kyiv launched six ATACMS missiles

By **Mark Nicol**
and **Jason Groves**

from an undisclosed location over the border and into the territory.

Russia claimed it shot down five of the missiles and damaged one in the strike targeting the Bryansk region, around 70 miles inside its border.

Meanwhile Vladimir Putin provoca-

tively signed off changes to the country's laws on nuclear weapons to make it easier for his forces to deploy them in retaliation.

The terrifying sabre-rattling was confirmed by the Russian tyrant's ally and deputy chairman of the security council, Dmitry Medvedev, who posted on social media: 'World War III.'

The amendments allow Russia to

launch a nuclear attack in response to a conventional weapons strike, such as one using long-range missiles.

It also says a strike on its territory by any country that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov urged other countries to do a 'very

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