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Russian Disinformation Campaign Aims to Undermine Confidence in Pfizer, Other Covid-19 Vaccines, U.S. Officials Say

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March 7, 2021



To counter skepticism over its Covid-19 vaccine, Russia has built a big public-relations effort at home and abroad. WSJ's Georgi Kantchev explains why the success of Sputnik V is so important for the Kremlin. Photo: Juan Mabromata/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

By Michael R. Gordon

and Dustin Volz

March 7, 2021 10:00 am ET

WASHINGTON—Russian intelligence agencies have mounted a campaign to undermine confidence in Pfizer Inc.'s and other Western vaccines, using online publications that in recent months have questioned the vaccines' development and safety, U.S. officials said.

An official with the State Department's Global Engagement Center, which monitors foreign disinformation efforts, identified four publications that he said have served as fronts for Russian intelligence.

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