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U.S. Puts Fresh Sanctions on Russia Over Hacking, Election Interference

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A suspected Russian cyberattack of the federal government has breached at least six cabinet-level departments. WSJ's Gerald F. Seib explains what the hack means for President-elect Joe Biden's national security efforts. Photo illustration: Laura Kammermann (Video from 12/23/20)

WASHINGTON—President Biden on Thursday announced retaliatory measures against Russia over election interference, the SolarWinds cyberattack and other malign activity, saying he isn't seeking to kick off "a cycle of escalation" but would take more drastic action if necessary.

The sanctions, diplomatic expulsions and other actions, while among the most punitive steps taken against Moscow in years, stopped short of the most drastic and potentially disruptive economic measures the U.S. could have imposed, according to analysts and investors.

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