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'Darth Vader' Claims Land in Ukraine

By The Moscow Times

November 21, 2011



KIEV — Welcoming the local authorities' move to the dark side, Darth Vader has asked for a land plot in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Odessa to park his space ship. ⊠

An Odessite dressed as the "Star Wars" villain visited the mayor's office last week to claim a free land plot citing Ukrainian legislation that grants every citizen the right to own 1,000 square meters of land. ⊠His visit followed a decision by city authorities to grant attractive land plots along the seacoast to a group of people for free, prompting public concerns about corruption, according to local media. ⊠

The mayor's office has since said the move was a mistake but has not yet canceled it, according to a local news web site, dumskaya.net.

"I am Darth Vader, the right hand of Emperor Palpatine," the man introduced himself to amused policemen, as seen in a video posted on YouTube and accompanied by the Imperial March music. ⊠"Knowing that many [local legislature] deputies and the mayor have switched to the dark side, I have come for a land plot, for my space cruiser." ⊠

Officials accepted the man's application after he showed his passport and removed the black helmet equipped with a voice-distorting device. ''The application has been registered and will be considered,'' a spokeswoman for the mayor's office said. ''We are not on the dark side, we are light-side people,'' she added.

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