

# From Russia With Octopussy

**After Moscow's strange revelations, U.S. spies in disguise are turning up everywhere**

By [Kevin Rothrock](#)

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Pixabay

Given the Kremlin's great concern about the supposed collapse of the good, old-fashioned values that built the Western world, it's no surprise that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has also accused U.S. diplomats of dressing as women in public.

The wig-donning, cross-dressing allegations he shared with journalists on Tuesday are a perfect combination of everything Moscow says about its adversaries in the United States: these people are deviant, incompetent, meddlesome weirdos.

Lavrov said some American diplomatic staff even attended political rallies and illegal protests in these unconvincing costumes, also posing as women in attempts to access government

buildings in Russia.

**Related article:** [Spies in Wigs](#)

“You can draw conclusions for yourself,” Lavrov said, without the laughter that followed his infamous comment in October to CNN's Christiane Amanpour, whom he told, “There are so many pussies around your presidential campaign on both sides.”

Lavrov may have been serious when he exposed the cross-dressing spies, but there has been plenty of laughter online, where Internet users are sharing photos of absurdly dressed people, claiming they've discovered shocking footage of American agents.

**Embed:**

переодетые американские дипломаты возвращаются с митинга  
[pic.twitter.com/rSvj5Psa5k](https://pic.twitter.com/rSvj5Psa5k)

— недруги за бугром (@Lndcalling) [January 17, 2017](#)

*Costumed American diplomats return from a political rally.*

**Embed:**

Some pictures Russian internet has posted after Lavrov's statement today that US diplomats attended anti-Putin protests in disguise [pic.twitter.com/D1vtxgNoEA](https://pic.twitter.com/D1vtxgNoEA)

— Maria Antonova (@mashant) [January 17, 2017](#)

The meme has also incorporated some wordplay, including jokes about the word “diplomat,” which in Russian also means “a briefcase.” One Twitter user appropriated the “How Should a Dog Wear Pants?” meme, popularized in December 2015, asking, “If diplomats [briefcases] disguised themselves, would they wear pants like this or like this?”

**Embed:**

Если бы дипломаты переодевались, они бы носили джинсы так или так?  
[pic.twitter.com/Equ37p3llv](https://pic.twitter.com/Equ37p3llv)

— Шри Махавойд (@mahavoid) [January 17, 2017](#)

Internet users — some in Russia and some in Ukraine — have also taken to blaming the public drunkenness on American diplomats, joking that U.S. agents are disguising themselves as homeless boozers in a campaign to embarrass Russia.

**Embed:**

Переодетые американские дипломаты пытаются опозорить Россию / ФОТО  
[pic.twitter.com/Zq0xpYHZos](https://pic.twitter.com/Zq0xpYHZos)

— Дядюшка Шу (@Shulz) [January 17, 2017](#)

*Disguised American diplomats are trying to bring shame on Russia / PHOTO*

**Embed:**

переодетые американские дипломаты пробуют российские деликатесы  
[pic.twitter.com/o7284dHHAR](https://pic.twitter.com/o7284dHHAR)

— Луцилин Даниил (@westrip4) [January 17, 2017](#)

*Disguised American diplomats sample some Russian delicacies.*

**Embed:**

У меня во дворе переодетые дипломаты пьют водку под окном. Видно, что американцы. Не закусывают.

— karl\_marx (@karlFucks) [January 17, 2017](#)

*In the courtyard outside my apartment, some disguised diplomats are drinking vodka outside my window. They're clearly Americans. They aren't even chasing with snacks.*

Before Lavrov inspired this latest online trend, the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, appeared on national television on Sunday, and described another incident bungled by American diplomats. According to Zakharova, U.S. officials tried and failed to recruit a Russian diplomat working in the United States, seizing money and medication desperately needed for former Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who died in June 2015, following a prolonged illness.

The money was never returned and the medication never reached Primakov, despite State Secretary John Kerry's efforts to intervene, Zakharova said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry's embarrassing allegations conform to the Kremlin's broader assault on the Obama administration, which has gained momentum in Moscow, ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration in Washington on Friday.

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