

# Russia Appoints Temporary UN Ambassador

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**The  Moscow Times**

Moscow has appointed Russian diplomat Pyotr Ilyichev acting head of its mission to the United Nations. The post has been vacant since the death of long-serving Russian ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin on Feb. 20.

According to a foreign ministry statement cited by Kommersant on Feb. 24 announcing his temporary appointment, Ilyichev will lead the Russian mission to the UN until a new representative can be appointed. Ilyichev previously served as Churkin's deputy.

**Link:** [Russia Set to Send 'Bull Terrier' Ambassador to Washington](#)

Churkin, who served as Russia's representative in New York since 2006, was one of Russia's most seasoned diplomats. His career spanned some 40 years, during which he served a number of ideologically disparate Russian leaders.

His death was unexpected and reportedly caused by a heart attack. It is unclear who will replace him. Moscow is already preparing to appoint a new ambassador to Washington, and a larger shuffle of Foreign Ministry officials is expected as several top hands are in their mid-to-late 60s.

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