

Putin Appoints Antonov as New U.S. Ambassador

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Anatoly Antonov Russian Defence Ministry Press Office / TASS

President Vladimir Putin on Monday appointed Russia's former Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov to be the country's next Ambassador to the United States.

A [statement](#) on the Kremlin's website said ■ Antonov was appointed by presidential decree, replacing Sergei ■ Kislyak, who was drawn into the controversy over Russian meddling in ■ last year's U.S. presidential election after meeting with members of ■ Donald Trump's campaign team.

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The former deputy defense minister, who is widely [seen](#) as a "hardliner" was first chosen as a possible candidate in the autumn of 2016 during the presidential campaign.

The news of Monday's appointment comes as the U.S. Embassy in Russia is temporarily suspending processing non-immigrant visa applications in response to Russia's expulsion of American diplomats.

"Due to the Russian government-imposed cap on U.S. diplomatic personnel in Russia, all non-immigrant visa operations across Russia will be suspended on Aug. 23," the U.S. Embassy [said](#) in a statement published Monday morning.

The move is just the latest in a series of tit-for-tat measures between Russia and the United States as part of an ongoing diplomatic spat over fresh sanctions codified by U.S. President Donald Trump on Aug. 2.

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