

Jon Huntsman Confirmed as Next U.S. Ambassador to Russia

September 29, 2017



Chris Keane / Reuters

Jon Huntsman has been confirmed as Washington's man in Moscow, following the departure of John Tefft on Thursday.

The U.S. Senate on Thursday unanimously [confirmed](#) the appointment of Huntsman, a former envoy to China, alongside new U.S. envoys to Afghanistan, Bahrain and an assistant state secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs.

The Russian media and officials have [portrayed](#) Huntsman as a “hardliner” at a time when Russian-U.S. diplomatic relations have soured over election meddling allegations.

Appointed by the Trump administration in July, Huntsman [said](#) in last week's confirmation hearing that “there is no question” that Moscow interfered in the U.S. presidential election.

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Huntsman [wrote](#) on Twitter after his confirmation that he was “honored and humbled” to serve in the new capacity.

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Honored and humbled to serve our great country as U.S. Ambassador to Russia. Looking forward to joining America's Embassy team in Moscow.

— Jon Huntsman (@JonHuntsman) [September 28, 2017](#)

Huntsman's Russian counterpart, Anatoly Antonov, extended his congratulations. “I wish him success in restoring Russian-American relations,” he was [quoted](#) as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Tefft [left](#) Moscow on Thursday after nearly three years in the post.

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