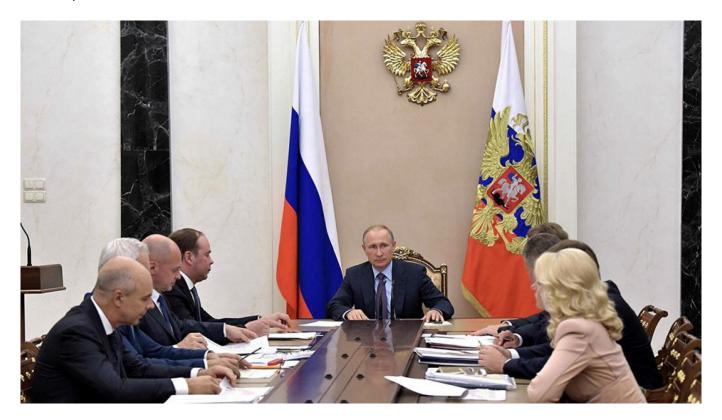


Putin Reappoints Administration, Retaining Kremlin's Core

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President Vladimir Putin has reappointed virtually his entire administration in a salvo of decrees, including Chief of Staff Anton Vaino, spokesman Dmitry Peskov and the Kremlin's one-time "gray cardinal" Vladislav Surkov, but <u>dismissed</u> his internet development adviser German Klimenko.

Putin was re-elected to his fourth overall term in March on the promise of a broad political "breakthrough," and Russia's elevation into one of the world's five biggest economies. Some international monitors and local opposition members complained of ballot stuffing and other irregularities during the election.

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His chief of staff Vaino was described as an efficient and loyal administrator when Putin

named him to the top Presidential Administration post in 2016. Also in the new administration will be Vaino's two deputies Alexei <u>Gromov</u> and Sergei <u>Kiriyenko</u>.

Peskov will <u>keep</u> his dual roles of Putin's press secretary and deputy chief of staff, a post he shares with Vladimir <u>Ostrovenko</u> and Magomedsalam <u>Magomedov</u>. Peskov has been at Putin's side in various capacities for the <u>entirety</u> of the president's 18 years in power.

Despite <u>rumors</u> of his ouster last month, Surkov was <u>reappointed</u> as presidential aide, one of nine aides that include <u>three new names</u>. One of the newcomers is the deputy head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), Dmitry <u>Shalkov</u>.

Putin <u>said</u> at an annual call-in show earlier this month that there were so many <u>familiar</u> faces because new bureaucrats -- "even if they were perfect administrators and well-trained professionals" -- would need at least two years to carry out his agenda.

"We do not have these two years," he said last week.

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