The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian House Speaker Threatens to 'Take Back' Alaska

July 07, 2022



State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin speaks during the closing plenary meeting of the spring session of the Russian State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament. **Russian State Duma Press Service/TASS**

The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament threatened Wednesday to "claim back" Alaska if the United States froze or seized Russian assets as punishment for its invasion of Ukraine.

"Let America always remember: there's a piece of territory, Alaska," Vyacheslav Volodin said at the last session of parliament, the State Duma, before it goes on summer break.

"When they try to manage our resources abroad, let them think before they act that we, too, have something to take back," Volodin said.

He noted that deputy speaker Pyotr Tolstoy had proposed holding a referendum among Alaskans to join Russia.

“We don’t interfere in their domestic affairs,” Volodin responded, holding back laughter, after applause from State Duma deputies.

Embed:

Volodin previously suggested that Moscow could also seize the Russian assets of “hostile” countries in retaliation to the U.S. proposal to sell of seized Russian oligarchs’ assets to rebuild Ukraine.

Russians are speculated to have first reached Alaska in the 1600s. Regular commercial fur trapping expeditions between Siberia and Alaska began in the 1740s, at which time Russian settlements began appearing on the Alaskan coast.

Russia sold Alaska to the United States in 1867 for $7.2 million, or roughly 2 cents per acre.

Also on Wednesday, ex-President Dmitry Medvedev took to social media to invoke the threat of nuclear war if the International Criminal Court (ICC) moved to punish Russia for alleged crimes in Ukraine.

The Kremlin warned of a “long crisis” in relations with Western nations last month as Russia’s military campaign to seize territories in Ukraine entered its fourth month.

“We will never trust the West again,” President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview at the time.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/07/russian-house-speaker-threatens-to-take-back-alaska-a78230