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# Russian Ex-President Medvedev Slams Japan Over Kuril Islands Claim

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Dmitry Medvedev. **Yekaterina Shtukina / POOL / TASS**

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Tuesday slammed Japan's prime minister after he said his government remains committed to signing a peace treaty with Moscow to resolve the territorial dispute over an island chain claimed by Tokyo.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in a policy speech to parliament earlier Tuesday that Tokyo "remains fully committed" to negotiations over what Japan refers to as the Northern Territories and signing an agreement formally ending World War II.

Kishida also said that his government's support of Ukraine and sanctions against Russia "would not waver."

"We don't give a damn about the 'feelings of the Japanese' concerning the so-called 'Northern territories'," Medvedev wrote X (formerly Twitter), referring to the Far East Kuril Islands.

“They’re not ‘disputed territories,’ but Russia,” he said.

**Embed:**

> Japan’s Prime Minister Kishinda has once again spoken in favour of a peace treaty with Russia. Surely, on condition of discussing the Kurils and maintaining the sanctions.
> Well, nobody’s against the peace treaty on the understanding that:
> 1. The “territorial question” is closed... pic.twitter.com/nC52MzyEU9
>
> — Dmitry Medvedev (@MedvedevRussiaE) January 30, 2024

Medvedev, whose rhetoric has become increasingly vitriolic since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, vowed to continue deploying weapons on the Kuril Islands and “grow their strategic role.”

Russia has controlled the island chain, which lies north of Japan’s island of Hokkaido, since seizing it in the final days of World War II in 1945.

The territorial dispute and Russia’s growing militarization of the island chain have kept Moscow and Tokyo from signing a peace accord that would formally mark an end to the war.

In his social media post, Medvedev said that Japanese officials seeking Russia’s territorial concessions should commit suicide.

“Those of the samurai who feel especially sad can end their life in a traditional Japanese way, by committing seppuku. If they dare, of course,” he wrote.

“Surely, it feels a lot better French-kissing Americans, having totally forgotten Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

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