
TRUMP EXPECTS RUSSIA TO 'RETURN CRIMEA' - WHITE HOUSE

- 15.02.2017

Rt, 14 Feb 2017

US President Donald Trump has been tough on Russia and expects Moscow to return the Crimea peninsula to Ukraine, the White House spokesman told reporters.

Addressing the resignation of National Security Adviser Michael Flynn □ hounded by the media over his contacts with Russian diplomats prior to Trumps inauguration □ Spicer pointed out that Russia seized Crimea under the Obama administration and that the Trump-appointed ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has strongly denounced the Russian occupation.

"President Trump has made it very clear that he expects the Russian government to de-escalate violence in the Ukraine and return Crimea," Spicer said at the daily news briefing on Tuesday. At the same time, he fully expects to - and wants to - get along with Russia."

Crimea is a part of Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control of the peninsula to Ukraine, Haley said at the UN Security Council meeting on February 2.

Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin responded by citing the US Constitution and pointing out that Crimeans overwhelmingly voted to join Russia, after the US-backed coup in February 2014 overthrew the elected government in Kiev.

It is in the national and economic interest of the US to have a good relationship with Russia, Spicer explained, but said that Haley speaks for the president on the matter of Crimea.

Kaynak/Source: