



[Pompeo and Lavrov Meet in Washington D.C.](#)

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in Washington D.C. on Tuesday afternoon. Foreign Minister Lavrov also met with President Trump later in the day. Secretary Pompeo warned Mr. Lavrov that renewed Russian interference in American elections would not be tolerated. President Trump also warned the Russian Foreign Minister over his country's actions in jeopardizing the legitimacy of American elections. Non-proliferation was also on the agenda, but Secretary Pompeo stressed his reluctance to negotiate any nuclear deal that China was not part of.

Foreign Minister Lavrov's trip to Washington D.C. coincides with the release of a report by the Inspector General of the Justice Department that criticized the FBI's surveillance of an advisor to President Trump's 2016 campaign. It was found that in an effort to link Russian interference to the Trump Campaign, the surveillance on advisor Carter Page was unlawful. President Trump and his supporters have used this as evidence of an effort to obstruct and delegitimize his presidency. Sergey Lavrov and representatives of the Russian Government have repeatedly denied interfering in the 2016 election, but the American intelligence community has found evidence on the contrary. During the press conference on Tuesday, Lavrov again denied any interference in American elections, and offered to publish the communications between the United States and Russia regarding the allegations of interference.

The last time Sergey Lavrov visited the United States, then-Director of the FBI James Comey had just been fired by President Trump. Trump believed that Comey's firing would relieve pressure on him from an investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, and told Russian officials during a meeting that a "lot of heat" had been taken off of him. The President also allegedly shared classified information with Lavrov and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in the Oval Office. This increased scrutiny on the President and his attitude towards Russia, and Lavrov's visit this week comes during heightened interest in the President's policy towards them.

At the same time that Foreign Minister Lavrov is meeting with President Trump and Secretary Pompeo, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky were meeting in Paris to discuss the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine's eastern region. President Trump stands accused of withholding aid to Ukraine to assist them in their fight against Russia, which is a topic that will likely be discussed during the meetings in both Washington D.C. and Paris. The Trump Administration has been criticized for hosting Lavrov during a time when negotiations were ongoing elsewhere to resolve the Ukraine conflict without the United States being involved. Opponents of the Lavrov visit argue that Ukrainian President Zelensky should have been invited instead, in order to reaffirm the U.S. – Ukraine alliance.