

Putin will not hand Snowden to U.S.

27th June, 2013



The escapades of US whistleblower and fugitive Edward Snowden continue. Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed on Tuesday that the former CIA worker was in the

transit area of an airport in Moscow. Mr Putin had earlier said Mr Snowden had not crossed any Russian borders, which proved to be true with Snowden being in transit. Snowden seems to have given the international media the slip while in Moscow. After discovering his name on a flight list to Havana, Cuba, around 30 journalists purchased last-minute tickets for the 16-hour flight to Cuba, only to be dismayed to find out after takeoff that he had not boarded the aircraft. Reports are that Snowden is heading for Ecuador, which has granted him asylum.

The Snowden affair is stoking up diplomatic tensions between the USA, and China and Russia. Washington is furious that China allowed Snowden to leave Hong Kong for Russia earlier this week. US Secretary of State John Kerry is now pressing hard for Russia to extradite Snowden back to the US. Mr Putin told reporters: "Mr Snowden has not crossed the state's border, and therefore does not need a visa. Furthermore, any accusations against Russia of aiding him are ravings and rubbish." He explained that the US and Russia had not signed any extradition treaty and that he would not hand Snowden over to the US. Mr Kerry acknowledged this but said, "there are standards of behaviour between sovereign nations".

Sources: Reuters / The Moscow Times

Writing

People who leak state secrets should be imprisoned for at least 20 years. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

escapade / whistleblower / CIA / in transit / give someone the slip / dismayed / asylum / diplomatic tensions / furious / extradition / accusations / ravings / treaty / behaviour

True / False

- a) Edward Snowden is not in a Russian airport. T / F
- b) Snowden has not crossed the border into Russia. T / F
- c) Many journalists got on a plane they thought Snowden was on. T / F
- d) Ecuador has said it would take Snowden in. T / F
- e) The Snowden affair is creating tensions between China and Russia. T / F
- f) Putin said he would not sign an extradition treaty with the USA. T / F
- g) Putin accused the USA of crazy talk over the Snowden affair. T / F
- h) John Kerry suggested Russia should behave and hand Snowden over. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. escapades | a. adding fuel to |
| 2. confirmed | b. refuge |
| 3. dismayed | c. allegations |
| 4. boarded | d. adventures |
| 5. asylum | e. pact |
| 6. stoking up | f. repatriate |
| 7. allowed | g. got on |
| 8. extradite | h. verified |
| 9. accusations | i. permitted |
| 10. treaty | j. horrified |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Should the USA have protested less to keep good diplomatic relations?
- b) Why don't the USA and Russia have an extradition treaty?
- c) How much damage has Snowden done to America's national security?
- d) Do you think Russia is helping Snowden evade capture by the USA?
- e) What do you think of Putin describing US talk as "ravings and rubbish"?
- f) What did Kerry mean when he said, "there are standards of behaviour between sovereign nations"?
- g) Has this affair damaged Barack Obama's presidency?
- h) What would you like to ask Snowden?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. escapades of US whistleblower and | a. international media the slip |
| 2. seems to have given the | b. treaty |
| 3. After discovering his | c. diplomatic tensions |
| 4. he had not boarded | d. asylum |
| 5. granted him | e. fugitive Edward Snowden |
| 6. stoking up | f. nations |
| 7. pressing hard for Russia | g. the aircraft |
| 8. extradition | h. of behaviour |
| 9. standards | i. name on a flight list |
| 10. sovereign | j. to extradite Snowden |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about what Edward Snowden did?
- Do you think Snowden is a hero or traitor?
- Is whistleblowing a good or bad thing?
- What do you think of the USA accessing millions of private e-mails and phone calls?
- Is Putin right to let Snowden leave Moscow?
- How do you think journalists felt when Snowden wasn't on the plane?
- Would Snowden's story make a good movie?
- What do you think Snowden is thinking right now?

Spelling

- US whistleblower and eiuiqftv Edward Snowden
- oepvdr to be true
- around 30 iuasotrijns
- rhpdecsau last-minute tickets
- ...only to be edmdysai to find out...
- granted him syalum
- stoking up ocmilaptdi tensions
- Washington is ufusior
- any onasatisucc against Russia
- ixirnoeattd treaty
- Mr Kerry ecakdwdlnego this
- between visogrnee nations

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. j	4. g	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. c	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Barack Obama

You think every country in the world should help return Snowden to the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. It is the 21st century and nations need to cooperate. Snowden is a criminal. The fact that the USA accessed private e-mail accounts and phone calls doesn't matter.

Role B – Vladimir Putin

You will not hand Snowden over to the USA. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell Obama you are tired of America telling other countries what to do. What America did in accessing mails and phone calls is worse than what Snowden did in telling the world about it. The USA must stop spying.

Role C – Edward Snowden

You think you have done nothing wrong. Tell the others three reasons why. All countries spy, which is worse than what you did. You are shocked the USA could access private mails and e-mails on such a large scale. You are also concerned at the scale of Chinese hacking.

Role D – Xi Jinping

Edward Snowden is not a criminal. Tell the others three reasons why. You see no reason to have stopped him going to Moscow. Ask Obama why he attacks China non-stop for hacking, but has a huge project to hack into people's e-mail. The US should end spying and pardon Snowden.

Speaking – Spying tools

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- fake passports
- laptop computer
- gun
- gloves
- face disguise
- muscles
- being multilingual
- ability to climb up buildings

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.