



Rand Paul invited Russian officials to Washington, and they agreed

Kathryn Krawczyk

August 6, 2018

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) is the latest politician to invite Russian officials to the U.S., and he got a very definite "yes."

During a Monday visit to Moscow, Paul and Russian foreign affairs official Konstantin Kosachev agreed to send a Russian delegation to Washington, Paul announced in a press release. It'll be Russia's first Capitol visit in nearly three years.

Paul didn't announce a date for the U.S. visit, but Kosachev said it could happen this fall, The Washington Post reports. Paul also wants members of Congress to meet up with the Russian lawmakers, in Washington or maybe somewhere else. Monday's meeting wasn't on official U.S. business, seeing as the president of The Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, accompanied Paul in the meeting.

This agreement comes just weeks after Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland, and invited Putin to Washington. Putin's D.C. visit was originally slated for this fall but has since been pushed to sometime next year. Paul defended the president's much-derided Helsinki performance, and said the meeting he planned is an "important next step" toward improving U.S.-Russia relations, per the release. Kathryn Krawczyk