



Finland Set For NATO Entry As Soon As Summer – Russian Official Warns “Destruction Of Their Country” Coming

Description

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday issued a new warning against Finland and Sweden seeking NATO membership, after the [Sunday Times](#) reported that **“Finland’s application is expected in June, with Sweden expected to follow.”**

Peskov [said that](#) **“the alliance remains a tool geared towards confrontation”** – but Washington is said to be supporting the move, with Western officials cited as saying that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is proving to be a **“massive strategic blunder”**.



*NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin.
Image: Finnish govt*

It was first revealed last week that Finland in particular has changed its thinking regarding its historic neutrality on the NATO question; however, there would be a period of domestic political debate before any application is made, and also with Sweden expected to determine its course independently.

After those reports first emerged days ago, a Russian lawmaker from parliament's upper house, Vladimir Dzhubarov of the Federation Council, issued the most dire warning from among Moscow officials, [threatening that](#) such a "strategic mistake" as Helsinki petitioning NATO means Finland **"would become a target."**

"I think it [would be] a terrible tragedy for the entire Finnish people," said Dzhubarov. He also strongly suggested it would result in **"the destruction of their country."**

He expressed hope that it's unlikely that "the Finns themselves will sign a card for the destruction of their country" – as originally cited in RIA Novosti. The Finnish foreign ministry subsequently said it "does not comment on the statements of individual MPs" when asked to respond.

According to a recent [Axios](#) report, "60% of Finns now support joining NATO, according to a [survey](#) conducted last month — a 34-point jump from last fall, and the highest level since polling on the issue began in 1998."



Map: The Daily Mail

Early this month Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin [signaled a complete reversal](#) of policy direction, saying that a "new security environment" in Europe brought on by Russia's invasion of Ukraine means the country has to rethink its long-standing policy of neutrality toward the NATO bloc. **"Russia is not the neighbor we thought it was,"** she [said](#) of Moscow's ongoing assault on Ukraine, calling it a "flagrant violation".

"In this new situation and changed security environment, we'll have to evaluate all means to guarantee the safety of Finland and Finns," Marin said. "We'll have to seriously mull over our own stance and approach to military alignment. We'll have to do this carefully but quickly, effectively **during the course of this spring.**"

by Tyler Durden

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