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NEW WORLD ORDER? Vladimir Putin wants to 'restore' relations with Donald Trump's America

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has written to US President-elect Donald Trump, saying he hoped the two countries could "restore" relations once the Republican has officially assumed office.

By [JON ROGERS](#)

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Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a book in 2012

The letter, dated December 15, was released by Mr Trump and saw the Russian leader express an desire for greater co-operation between the two countries.

The nations had seen a deterioration in relations, especially after Russia's military intervention in the Ukraine and had worsened over allegations Russia had hacked information from Democratic Party figures in an attempt to have an influence on the US election.

Mr Putin wrote: "Serious global and regional challenges, which our countries have to face in recent years, show that the relations between Russia and the US remain an important factor in ensuring stability and security of the modern world.

I hope that after you assume the position of President of the United States of America we will be able – by acting in a constructive and pragmatic manner – to take real steps to restore the framework of bilateral cooperation in different areas as well

Vladimir Putin writing to Donald Trump

"I hope that after you assume the position of President of the United States of America we will be able – by acting in a constructive and pragmatic manner – to take real steps to restore the framework of bilateral cooperation in different areas as well as bring our level of collaboration on the international scene to a qualitatively new level."

The letter was signed "V Putin" and included a personal holiday message: "Please accept my sincere wishes to you and your family of sound health, happiness, wellbeing, success and all the best."

Mr Trump, who released the letter almost two weeks later endorsed Mr Putin's views, calling them "so correct".



US President-elect Donald Trump speaking at a rally

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He said: "A very nice letter from Vladimir Putin; his thoughts are so correct. I hope both sides are able to live up to these thoughts, and we do not have to travel an alternate path."

Earlier analysts had predicted there would be a proliferation in the nuclear arms race after Mr Trump had pledged to “greatly strengthen and expand” the US’s nuclear standing and Mr Putin had stated he wanted to “strengthen” Russia’s nuclear forces.

But Mr Putin at an annual news conference on Friday said Russia has no interest in a nuclear arms race.

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Mr Putin said: “Of course the US has more missiles, submarines and aircraft carriers, but what we say is that we are stronger than any aggressor, and this is the case.

“As for Donald Trump, there is nothing new about it, during his elections campaign he said the US needs to bolster its nuclear capabilities and its armed forces in general.”



US President-elect Donald Trump speaking at a thank you rally

At the news conference, Mr Putin also said he hoped to have a productive relationship with Mr Trump: “Nobody believed he would win except for us.”

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