

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

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Unofficial translation from Russian

**Mikhail Kamynin, the Spokesman of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Answers a Question from RIA Novosti Regarding Instances of Violation of Traffic Rules by American Diplomats in Russia**

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**Question:** The recent case of a violation of traffic rules by a Russian diplomat in New York immediately received wide publicity in the American media. Demands were also being heard that tough measures be taken against the Russian representative. Have there been any similar cases with American diplomats in Russia?

**Answer:** The principle of respect for the laws and customs of a host country for the diplomats accredited in the state is well known. As a rule, this principle is undeviatingly observed by Russian diplomats in the US and American in Russia alike. Nevertheless, incidents do occur, unfortunately. For example, our internal affairs organs have recorded traffic violations, in a number of cases repeated violations, by American diplomats. According to available data, 25 serious violations have been noted in Moscow alone over the last two years.

The Russian side strives to settle such cases in a spirit of constructive cooperation, avoiding speculations and especially not whipping up an unnecessary fuss about them.

I have to note that serious incidents have also occurred. In October 1998 as the result of a road traffic accident that took place through the fault of the US consul general in Vladivostok a Russian citizen received grave bodily injuries and was left disabled.

The Foreign Ministry has been intently watching the course of the continuing legal proceedings in the US over compensation for the harm which has been done to the victim's health.

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