

NATIONAL SECURITY

White House's Top Russia Adviser Fiona Hill to Leave Position

National Security Council's non-proliferation director to succeed her



Before joining the White House, Fiona Hill had written extensively about the need to exert greater pressure on Russia and authored the 2013 biography, 'Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin,' portraying a corrupt leader. PHOTO: EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Vivian Salama

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WASHINGTON—President Trump's top Russia adviser is leaving her position in August and will be succeeded by the current head of the National Security Council's office of nonproliferation, Tim Morrison, a spokesman for the council said.

Fiona Hill, a Russia expert and staunch critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has held the position since March 2017.

Mr. Morrison joined the NSC in July 2018, shortly after John Bolton became the president's top national security adviser. Mr. Morrison previously served as the Policy Director on the House Armed Services Committee.

Ms. Hill had just assumed her position at the NSC when Mr. Trump invited Russia's foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, and its top diplomat to the U.S., Sergey Kislyak, into the Oval Office for a meeting, drawing criticism from many in the foreign policy community.

It was later reported that Mr. Trump shared classified information he had received from Israel with the Russian visitors.

Ms. Hill was also part of Mr. Trump's expanded meetings with Mr. Putin. Before joining the White House, she had written extensively about the need to exert greater pressure on Russia. She came to the White House from the Brookings Institution after serving as the National Intelligence Council's top intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia.

Her 2013 biography, "Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin," portrayed a corrupt leader attempting to balance his various public personas in an effort to hang on to power.

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