

PUTIN GRANTS SNOWDEN RUSSIAN CITIZENSHIP

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President Vladimir Putin on Monday granted Russian citizenship to U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, who exposed massive surveillance by the National Security Agency and was granted refuge by Moscow.

A presidential decree published on Monday included Mr. Snowden on a list of newly minted Russian citizens, at a time when relations between Washington and Moscow are at historic lows over the conflict in Ukraine.

Mr. Snowden said in November 2020 he had applied for Russian citizenship but that he would aim to keep his U.S. nationality.

The former intelligence contractor, who revealed in 2013 that the U.S. government was spying on its citizens, has been living in exile in Russia since the revelations.

Moscow several years ago relaxed its citizenship laws to allow individuals to hold Russian passports without rejecting their original nationalities.

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