

France recalls its ambassadors to Australia and US

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A major diplomatic spat has erupted after France recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the USA. The rift follows Australia cancelling an order for France to supply it with 12 conventional diesel-powered submarines. The

deal was signed in 2016 and was worth \$37 billion in business to the French. Instead, Australia has opted to buy nuclear-powered submarines, reneging on the 2016 agreement. France's President Macron called the cancellation of the deal a "stab in the back" and a "betrayal" by Australia. Mr Macron also recalled France's top diplomat to the USA. He said the US and Australia were exploring "the possibility of future cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines".

A new, strategic security alliance between Australia, the UK and the USA is the cause of the split between the traditional allies. The alliance is called AUKUS - an acronym based on the names of the three countries signed up to it. AUKUS means Australia will be provided with the technology to operate nuclear-powered submarines. France says it was only informed of the alliance hours before it was publicly announced to the world. The French foreign minister said his country's "exceptional decision" was because of the "exceptional gravity" of the situation. It is said AUKUS is to counter China's influence in the region. China accused the three AUKUS powers of displaying a "Cold War mentality".

Sources: foxnews.com / bbc.com / cnn.com

Writing

AUKUS is a threat to stability in the region. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

diplomatic spat / ambassador / rift / submarine / agreement / a stab in the back / strategic / alliance / acronym / technology / decision / influence / region / Cold War

True / False

- 1) France recalled ambassadors to Australia, the USA and UK. T / F
- 2) Australia and France signed a submarine deal in 2016. T / F
- 3) The French president said Australia stabbed France in the back. T / F
- 4) The article says Australia and the UK will talk about future cooperation. T / F
- 5) There is a new alliance between Australia, the USA, UK and Canada. T / F
- 6) France was told about the alliance a week before the rest of the world. T / F
- 7) France is the oldest US ally. T / F
- 8) China said the actions of AUKUS were like something from the Cold War. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. major | a. chosen |
| 2. rift | b. seriousness |
| 3. conventional | c. serious |
| 4. opted | d. union |
| 5. betrayal | e. extraordinary |
| 6. alliance | f. breach of trust |
| 7. informed | g. disagreement |
| 8. exceptional | h. outlook |
| 9. gravity | i. traditional |
| 10. mentality | j. notified |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the diplomatic rift?
- b) How important are submarines?
- c) Should France have recalled its ambassadors?
- d) Was Australia right to cancel the order for France to build submarines?
- e) How damaging could this rift be?
- f) What are the consequences of countries reneging on deals?
- g) How much of a 'stab in the back' is Australia's decision?
- h) What advice do you have for the French government?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. A major diplomatic spat has | a. on the names |
| 2. The deal was signed in 2016 and | b. hours before |
| 3. reneging | c. cooperation |
| 4. a stab in the back and a | d. alliance |
| 5. the possibility of future | e. on the 2016 agreement |
| 6. A new, strategic security | f. erupted |
| 7. an acronym based | g. of the situation |
| 8. it was only informed of the alliance | h. mentality |
| 9. the exceptional gravity | i. betrayal by Australia |
| 10. displaying a Cold War | j. was worth \$37 billion |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you be a good diplomat?
- What do you think of the AUKUS alliance?
- Could the rift affect how NATO operates?
- How grave is the diplomatic rift?
- Is AUKUS a reaction to China?
- Are the AUKUS countries displaying a 'Cold War mentality'?
- What questions would you like to ask Australia's government?

Spelling

- A major diplomatic spat has puedret
- dotpe to buy nuclear-powered submarines
- giegrnne on the 2016 agreement
- a "stab in the back" and a earbaytl
- elnorpgxi the possibility
- future apocrneiot on nuclear-powered submarines
- A new, strategic security alielacn
- an anycmro based on the names
- his country's teoinelcxa decision
- the exceptional ritvagy of the situation
- ueccasd the three AUKUS powers
- displaying a Cold War aiytltnem

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. g	3. i	4. a	5. f
6. d	7. j	8. e	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Sport

You think sport is the most important thing to promote positive international relations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, language or culture.

Role B – Trade

You think trade is the most important thing to promote positive international relations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): sport, language or culture.

Role C – Language

You think language is the most important thing to promote positive international relations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, sport or culture.

Role D – Culture

You think culture is the most important thing to promote positive international relations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): trade, language or sport.

Speaking – World relations

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to promote positive international relations at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| • Border security | • Religion |
| • Sport | • Investment |
| • Trade | • Culture |
| • Military cooperation | • Language |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.