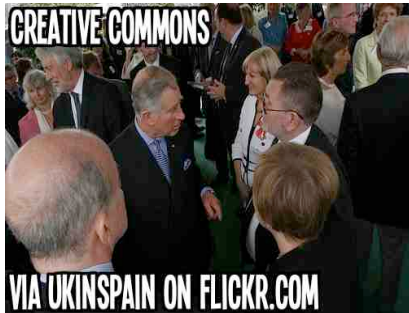


Putin says Prince Charles comment 'unroyal'

25th May, 2014



Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Britain's Prince Charles' comments about him were "not royal". The British heir to the throne has been the subject of a lot of

controversy over comments he reportedly made in comparing Mr Putin's actions in Crimea to those of the Nazis in the run-up to World War II. The prince was talking to a former Polish war refugee and likened Putin's recent annexing of Crimea to the actions of Hitler. Mr Putin told reporters on Saturday that he had not heard the exact words Prince Charles supposedly used. He said: "This is definitely unacceptable if this is true." He added: "I know him and members of the royal family personally and this was not royal behaviour."

Mr Putin said the fuss caused by Prince Charles' alleged comments would not damage relations between Britain and Russia. He told the media: "I think that if our partners in Great Britain, just as I am, are guided by national interests rather than some other considerations, then all this will pass quite quickly and we'll continue to co-operate as we have done before". Mr Putin and Prince Charles are both due to attend a D-Day anniversary in France next month. It has the potential to be an awkward meeting, although it is likely diplomatic etiquette will ensure things go smoothly. British Prime Minister David Cameron said the prince was free to express his opinions.

Sources: TASS / Voice of Russia / BBC

Writing

Monarchs should never express political opinions.
Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

royal / throne / controversy / World War II / refugee / reporters / unacceptable / true / fuss / relations / media / national interests / co-operate / diplomatic / etiquette

True / False

- Britain's Prince Charles compared Vladimir Putin's to the Nazis. T / F
- The Prince made the comments to a Russian refugee. T / F
- Mr Putin said he knows exactly what Prince Charles said. T / F
- Mr Putin personally knows members of Britain's royal family. T / F
- Mr Putin said Prince Charles' comments could damage relations. T / F
- Mr Putin said the whole issue would pass fairly quickly. T / F
- Prince Charles and Vladimir Putin are due to meet each other soon. T / F
- Britain's prime minister said Prince Charles should keep quiet. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. comments | a. taking over |
| 2. subject | b. factors |
| 3. former | c. theme |
| 4. annexing | d. commotion |
| 5. definitely | e. remarks |
| 6. fuss | f. communicate |
| 7. damage | g. capacity |
| 8. considerations | h. harm |
| 9. potential | i. ex- |
| 10. express | j. certainly |

Discussion – Student A

- Why did Mr Putin say such comments would not damage relations?
- What do you think of Mr Putin's actions after the comments?
- Is the press making a mountain out of a mole hill out of this?
- How do you think the meeting between the two men will go?
- What is diplomatic etiquette?
- What is royal behaviour?
- Is the British leader right about Charles being free to express his opinions?
- What questions would you like to ask Prince Charles?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- The British heir
- a former Polish
- he had not heard
- This is definitely unacceptable
- I know him and members of the royal family
- the fuss
- national
- the potential to be an awkward
- ensure things go
- free to express
- smoothly
- personally
- meeting
- to the throne
- caused by Prince Charles
- if this is true
- his opinions
- war refugee
- the exact words
- interests

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'royal'?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you think such comments are "un-royal"?
- Should monarchs and heirs stay out of politics?
- How much damage do you think the comments have done?
- What do you think of Britain's Prince Charles?
- Should Prince Charles tell the press exactly what he said?
- If the comments were actually used, are they unacceptable?

Spelling

- The British heir to the neotr
- a lot of yoescrvrot
- a former Polish war eegeruf
- recent xngienan of Crimea
- This is dietfeyln unacceptable
- not royal ourbvhai (UK) iraobhev (USA)
- Prince Charles' edlagel comments
- other ecoinrssotadin
- continue to oc-rpoaete as we have done before
- a D-Day raeniarvnys in France
- an rwakwad meeting
- diplomatic tuiteetqe

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Power

You think the power would be the best thing about being a royal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the palaces, the fame or the job.

Role B – Palaces

You think the palaces would be the best thing about being a royal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the power, the fame or the job.

Role C – Fame

You think the fame would be the best thing about being a royal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the power, the palaces or the job.

Role D – Job

You think the job would be the best thing about being a royal. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): the power, the fame or the palaces.

Speaking – VIP

Rank these with your partner. Put the people you most want to meet at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- royalty
- rock star
- world leader
- religious leader
- sports star
- gaming champion
- comedian
- fashion designer

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.