

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia in Moscow, Russia

July 6, 2009

President Medvedev. Mr. President Barack, distinguished members of the American delegation, on this occasion, I would like to welcome you in the Kremlin. And it is our expectation that during the deliberations we will have today and tomorrow, we'll have a full-fledged discussion of the relations between our two countries, closing some of the pages of the past and opening some the pages of the future.

So among those difficult questions our countries are tackling together are those pertaining to economy, security, and the strategic offensive armaments. And it is my hope that it will be possible for us to tackle successfully this problem jointly and to—[inaudible].

So once again, I'd like to welcome you and to wish you success.

President Obama. Thank you. Well, let me just thank President Medvedev and his entire delegation for their extraordinary hospitality. We are confident that we can continue to build off the excellent discussions that we had in London, and that on a whole host of issues, including security issues, economic issues, en-

ergy issues, environmental issues, that the United States and Russia have more in common than they have differences, and that if we work hard during these next few days, that we can make extraordinary progress that will benefit the people of both countries.

So we are very much looking forward to our meetings, and again, I want to thank not only you, Mr. President, but the people of Russia for hosting us today. We're very glad to be in Moscow.

President Medvedev. Even the weather favors such an intercourse between us, since it's going to be chilly outside, and it's better to work inside.

President Obama. We might as well be inside today. [Laughter] Although the last time I was here in Moscow, it was 80 degrees.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Kremlin. President Medvedev spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Afghanistan

July 6, 2009

Expressing concern over the continuing conflict in Afghanistan and noting the importance of stepping up the international community's efforts to help stabilize that country and promote the democratic process and economic growth there, we reaffirm our commitment to the goals of the common fight against the threats of terrorism, armed extremism, and illegal drug trafficking in Afghanistan. We shall continue and develop our cooperation in the interest of enhancing the capabilities of the Government of Afghanistan to accomplish key socioeconomic objectives, to raise living standards, and to ensure the security of its people.

We reaffirm our strong determination and capacity for expanding cooperation within the framework of the Russian-U.S. Counter-Terrorism Working Group and intend to make effective use of this mechanism to coordinate practical joint work in all aspects related to stabilization efforts in Afghanistan.

We are prepared to increase the assistance provided to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in strengthening and developing the capabilities of the Afghan National Army and police, and in training counternarcotics personnel. In this regard, we are intent on further implementation of the counternarcotics project under the auspices of the