

kinds of institutions, both political, civil, economic, that allow for improving standards of livings and greater security for the people of Africa, that we've moved them on a trajectory in which they are integrating with the global economy, and that a young person growing up in Johannesburg or Lagos or Nairobi or Djibouti can say to themselves, "I can stay here in Africa; I can stay in my country and succeed, and through my success, my country and my people will get stronger."

That would be a good legacy. I don't expect that we're going to get there in 4 years or 8 years, but I think we can get on that path. And

the United States is a critical partner in that process.

All right?

Q. I need another hour or so. [*Laughter*] But I thank you for your time.

The President. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The interview began at 3:03 p.m. in the Blue Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe; and President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 7. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Moscow *July 7, 2009*

Prime Minister Putin. Mr. President, I'm very glad to meet you here, and I'm glad to have this opportunity to be an acquaintance of yours. The history of relations between Russia and the United States has very many different occasions and events of different, shall we say, color. There were periods when our relations flourished quite a bit, and there were also periods of, shall we say, grayish mood between our two countries and of stagnation. With you, we link all our hopes for the furtherance of relations between our two countries. We are very glad to see you here and welcome you here in Russia.

President Obama. Thank you. Well, I very much appreciate you taking time to meet with me. We had excellent discussions with the President yesterday. And I'm aware of not only the extraordinary work that you've done on behalf of the Russian people in your previous role as

Prime Minister—as President but in your current role as Prime Minister.

We think there's an excellent opportunity to put U.S.-Russian relations on a much stronger footing. And we may not end up agreeing on everything, but I think that we can have a tone of mutual respect and consultation that will serve both the American people and the Russian people well.

So thank you very much. I look forward to a very useful exchange of ideas. I also want to thank the Prime Minister for arranging very nice weather in Moscow.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 a.m. at the Novo Ogaryovo estate. In his remarks, he referred to President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia. Prime Minister Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Graduation Ceremony at the New Economic School in Moscow, Russia *July 7, 2009*

Thank you so much. Well, congratulations, Oksana. And to the entire class of 2009, con-

gratulations to you. I don't know if anybody else will meet their future wife or husband in class