

I sit before you as President of the United States is a testimony to the power of dissent in the United States over time in creating a different reality. And it's also an important tool for fighting corruption.

So I think it's very important that I come before you with some humility. I think in the past there's been a tendency for the United States to lecture rather than to listen. And we, obviously, still have much work to do with our own democracy in the United States, but nevertheless, I think we share some common values and interest in building a strong, democratic culture in Russia as well as the United States.

And I want to say that this is, by the way, something I do in every country I visit. So whether I visit—travel to Turkey or I travel to England, wherever I go, I think it's always important for me to recognize that the particular

head of state that I'm meeting with is the head of the government, but that the society itself represents a larger spectrum of views.

So I again am grateful to all of you for taking the time. And rather than spend all the time talking, what I'd like to do is listen to you and find out your perspectives, your views, and we can go in any direction that you prefer. We can talk about policy and specific concerns or questions you may have for me. Or we can talk more generally about how democracy is progressing—

[At this point, the remarks continued, and no transcript was provided.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:14 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton hotel. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Understanding by President Barack H. Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev on the START Follow-on Treaty July 6, 2009

The President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation have decided on further reductions and limitations of their nations' strategic offensive arms and on concluding at an early date a new legally binding agreement to replace the current START Treaty, and directed that the new treaty contain, *inter alia*, the following elements:

1. A provision to the effect that each Party will reduce and limit its strategic offensive arms so that seven years after entry into force of the treaty and thereafter, the limits will be in the range of 500–1100 for strategic delivery vehicles, and in the range of 1500–1675 for their associated warheads. The specific numbers to be recorded in the treaty for these limits will be agreed through further negotiations.
2. Provisions for calculating these limits.
3. Provisions on definitions, data exchanges, notifications, eliminations, inspections and verification procedures, as well as confidence building and transparency measures, as adapted, simplified, and made less costly, as appropriate, in comparison to the START Treaty.
4. A provision to the effect that each Party will determine for itself the composition and structure of its strategic offensive arms.
5. A provision on the interrelationship of strategic offensive and strategic defensive arms.
6. A provision on the impact of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles in a non-nuclear configuration on strategic stability.
7. A provision on basing strategic offensive arms exclusively on the national territory of each Party.
8. Establishment of an implementation body to resolve questions related to treaty implementation.

9. A provision to the effect that the treaty will not apply to existing patterns of cooperation in the area of strategic offensive arms between a Party and a third state.
10. A duration of the treaty of ten years, unless it is superseded before that time by a subsequent treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms.

For the United States
of America:

BARACK OBAMA

The Presidents direct their negotiators to finish their work on the treaty at an early date so that they may sign and submit it for ratification in their respective countries.

Signed at Moscow, this sixth day of July, 2009, in duplicate, in the English and Russian languages.

For the Russian
Federation:

DMITRY MEDVEDEV

NOTE: This item was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 8. An original was

not available for verification of the content of this joint understanding.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Giorgio Napolitano in Rome, Italy July 8, 2009

President Napolitano. Good morning. President Obama is—will leave shortly, so this will be a very short press conference.

And first of all let me express my deepest appreciation for this visit of President Obama, who came here today with his delegation and for meeting him there today.

We have followed very closely all through the recent months the position that the Obama administration has taken, and this has been subject to a wide consensus by the Italian Government, both by the Italian Government and the opposition.

I would also like to stress that the compliance with the position of the Italian Government is fully shared by the other countries. And over the years, it has also been translated into the participation by the Italian Government into various peacekeeping missions in crises area. And I would like to mention Afghanistan, and President Obama has expressed his appreciation in this connection.

We have also addressed a number of other issues. I would just like to stress that we have agreed on the need for Europe to play its role in a scenario which has radically changed, and where the center of gravity of economic and

political relations has drifted away from Europe.

But we're—Europe still has an important role to play because of experience of integration, per its model of a market economy, and for the historic values which it inspires itself for, in the European constitution.

We can still set an example to the international community, provided that Europe is united and more efficient and speaks with one single voice. And I think that this is widely shared by President Obama.

We are on the eve of the G-8 summit, which will take up various formats, as we all know, these 3 days. And this trust that in the preparation of this important event, especially when it comes to the financial and economic crisis and the measures that have to be taken up to address this crisis, they—we have a wide convergence of ideas and propositions between President Obama, the U.S. administration, and the Italian Government.

Thank you and I wish you fruitful work in L'Aquila.

President Obama. Well, let me begin by thanking the Italian people and President Napolitano for their extraordinary hospitality. I will be leaving right after this press discussion