

depends on our relations. It's about the maintaining the strategic balance of forces on our planet. We have been able to keep this balance in place, and after the new START Treaty, it has improved, I believe.

Today we talked about how to keep and further develop these achievements and how to develop our relations in, well, quite sensitive issues, including antimissile defense. I have told my counterpart Barack Obama that this issue will be finally solved in future, like, for example, in the year 2020, but we, at present, might lay foundation for other politicians' activities. And this would be a sound foundation for cooperation between our two countries in future. We will, of course, pursue this track, but political impetus are necessary.

We have talked of Middle East and North Africa. We'll continue the discussions, especially in the framework of G-20. We have dealt

with settling the Iran issue. We have also talked of the necessity and we have emphasized the necessity of improving economic cooperation between our countries and stepping up Russia's WTO accession. I hope we'll be able to conclude this process finally. But we need motivation and impetus for that. And we have agreed as a result of these talks to instruct respectively our teams.

Let me once again emphasize that I'm quite happy about the way our personal relationship develops. I hope it will have a positive impact on our bilaterals. We have a lot to do together.

President Obama. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:59 p.m. at the Royal Barriere hotel. President Medvedev spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia on Counterterrorism Cooperation *May 26, 2011*

When we met in June of last year, we pledged to cooperate in addressing terrorism, which has emerged as one of the greatest threats to global peace and security in the 21st century. Subsequent events, including the tragic bombing at Domodedovo Airport in January and the attempt to put bombs aboard cargo planes bound for the United States in October, underscore how important it is to strengthen our joint efforts in the struggle against this threat to the security and well-being of citizens in both our countries.

We have agreed to focus on all aspects of this challenge through cooperative actions of law enforcement, transportation security, intelligence sharing, combating terrorism finance, counterterrorism technology, and within the framework of multilateral fora such as the United Nations, Group of Eight, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and the soon-to-be established Global Counterterrorism Forum. Today, we are pleased to note

several additional steps we are taking to strengthen our bilateral partnership.

Protection of the traveling public remains a key focus of our efforts. We intend to enhance our cooperation by putting in place measures to strengthen security in airports serving our two countries and enhance cooperation on other modes of transportation. We remain committed to constructively exploring additional steps we could take, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. In particular, we intend to discuss how we can improve in-air security through the deployment of law enforcement personnel on select flights, the state-of-the-art in explosives detection measures, and how we can work together in multilateral organizations to improve global supply chain security.

We reaffirm our common view of the threat to global security posed by al Qa'ida and advocate continued cooperation to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat this terrorist organization.

There can be no justification for terrorist activities, and no terrorist should feel safe from

international efforts to bring them to justice. In this regard, the Russian Federation welcomed the decisions of the United States to separately designate Doku Umarov and his group Caucasus Emirates as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224, and to support Umarov's inclusion in the UN's Consolidated List pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1267. The United States is also announcing today that it has included Doku Umarov in its "Rewards for Justice" program, offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information that leads to the location of this key terrorist leader, who has claimed responsibility, among other things, for organizing the

Moscow subway bombing and the attack on rail traffic between St. Petersburg and Moscow in 2010, and the Domodedovo airport bombing this year.

We are pleased with the cooperation we have established to date in this area, but remain cognizant of the need to deepen further means to promote international security, counter violent extremism, repel terrorist threats, protect the lives and rights of citizens, and bring terrorists to justice.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia on Cooperation in the Bering Strait Region *May 26, 2011*

The President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation:

- Calling for protection of the shared natural and longstanding cultural heritage of Alaska and Chukotka;
- Recognizing the worldwide cultural and natural significance of the Bering Strait region, both as an ancient crossroads and as an area of present-day cooperation between our two countries;
- Noting that the Bering Strait region is important to the economies of both countries;
- Recognizing the many successes of the "Shared Beringian Heritage Program" in better understanding our shared history and sustaining the cultural vitality of the native peoples in the Central Bering Strait Region today;
- Confirming the mutual interest of both countries in deepening cooperation and strengthening ties, particularly in the region of our common boundary in the Bering Strait;
- Noting the important need to protect the rights of native peoples residing in Alaska and Chukotka, and to ensure that resi-

dents and native peoples engaged in cultural and traditional activities aimed at providing for their personal needs have continued access to natural resources in accordance with each nation's laws;

- Conscious of the importance of cooperation to protect nature and natural resources in the Bering Strait region and to apply effective strategies aimed at sustainable development of the Arctic regions of our countries;
- Understanding the significance of unique Arctic ecosystems of Alaska and Chukotka in the Bering Strait region; and
- Conscious of the effects of climate change and other pressures on the common natural and cultural heritage of the Bering Strait region;

Declare an intention to deepen cooperation between the United States of America and the Russian Federation in the cross-boundary Bering Strait region, including the expansion of interaction between the national agencies that are responsible for the specially protected natural territories/areas of both countries in the State of Alaska and the Chukotka Autonomous District, including their commitment to developing a dia-