

Exchange Mail

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TO Pascual, Carlos E. (RUE)
Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE)
Faranda, Regina D. (RUE/INTERN)

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TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Berger-Putin.doc
Berger-Putin Michael

Putin: Good morning, I am happy to welcome you

Berger: Good morning. It's very good to talk to you again. I thought it would be useful to talk after our Presidents met. They had a good meeting after a stretch in our relationship. I very much appreciate your role you played in preparation for those meetings, and the President in his interview with ITOG I tried to incorporate some of the themes that came out of his talks. I hope the interview had a positive theme in Russia. There were a number of items that came out of the meeting that require follow up, and I know Madeleine Albright will be meeting with Ivanov in New York Tuesday, and Strobe and Mamedov had a good talk with Carlos Pascual, my senior Russian person, and Jim Timbey. Timbey and Caravelli from the NSC are in Moscow now heading the talks on nonproliferation. These are very important. I hope we can move to closure on these

issues very quickly. I think what will be important will be a specific response to the Vice President's letter to the Prime Minister [drop] so we can move to resolve the question of the quota. What you told me last time we spoke was encouraging about implementing the ideas that have been worked out between Galucci and (?Hupkep). I think the next steps would be to get a written response from the Prime Minister and put us in a position to make a decision on the [drop] I have some other issues, but would very much like to hear from you.

Putin: Thank you for the assessment on the work we have done. For five days I traveled in Russian and was in Siberia and Volga. I believe if you have enough time it will be significant for you to visit these regions of Russia and the nature there. For me, it was important to hear your assesment of the meeting between our Presidents in Cologne. As for our assessment, we are on the right track. The U.S. experts are in Moscow, and we have been looking forward to meeting them for a long time. As for the Vice President's letter and a possible response, I believe in the near future we will take a decision on the agreement that was reached between Mamedov [drop] and there are some problems that are reserved for us, but taking into account the significance of relations between the U.S. and Russia, we attach significance to that, and you will receive a positive Stepashin response in the near future. We also look forward to the positive response from the U.S. [drop] space launches . I am prepared to hear out any other questions or issues you may have.

Berger: Thank you for those comments. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to travel through Russia. Some day I will accept it and would love it very much. I am pleased to hear you say we are approaching approval of the plan signed by (?Holland) and Mamedov. If you have any reservations, we

can resolve
them quickly. I am also pleased we will get a Stepashin response
soon. It would
be a very good thing if we can put these issues behind and move on to
a new set
of cooperative ventures. One thing I want to mention is the nuclear
issue [drop]
the cooperation between (?Nikayet) with Iran on nuclear assistance.
This is one
area you can investigate and discuss with me in the future what the
results are.
I just have three other final issues to raise very quickly. First, I am
pleased
we were able to issue a joint statement on START III and ABM. It is
clear our
Presidents want [drop] during the remainder of their terms. That's an
ambitious
undertaking but think that it's one we need to work on and achieve.
Second, I
know you will see Jim Collins tomorrow. There is a sensitive
intelligence matter
I asked Jim to brief you on. I will appreciate your personal advice on
how we
can handle this issue. And the final issue is, I wonder if there is any
chance
you can accompany Stepashin to the U.S. so you and I can have a
face-to-face
meeting. If possible, I will suggest to the Vice President that you be
included
on the team when he comes. I will find it very worthwhile and
enjoyable to have
an opportunity to have some time to talk face to face. That's all I have.
I
will interested to hear your thoughts on those subjects.

Putin: Thank you. I will start with the last part. Thank you for the
invitation. It depends [drop] that we take and will be more than happy
to go,
but I believe he is not very happy...to go from Moscow at the moment.
It is
quite possible, I would be more than happy to accept it. We are indeed
preparing
our visit and believe it would be a [drop] between the U.S. and Russia.
As to
the [drop] I believe it is very complicated to separate the
issues...opposition
to our ...one thing is clear now: It is very advisable to meet socially
our
actions in this field so that the sense of confidence does not
disappear...essence

to avoid international...I am more than happy to meet Collins tomorrow and will discuss the subjects you propose for the talks. That is all I wanted to say.
May I add the following on the first subject we discussed in our conversation. I would like to inform you the Duma approved the law on export controls. This is the law we discussed during our last conversation, and it will create a good legal basis in the field which gives rise to our...and through you, I would like to express my gratitude to the experts here in Moscow...control. For us it is of the essence to achieve a mutual understanding, a common language. I am sure we have the chance to have...in these fields as well as what we have done in Kosovo recently. By the way, those arrangements I have...by the way and as far as I understand, the public perceives as very positive. What really matters ...to coordinate our positions and bring them subject to each. Thanks again for the invitation. I do hope the context we have will develop and is the essence for us. Thank you very much , Sandy. It was nice talking with you.

Berger: It was nice also talking to you. Congratulations on the Duma's actions.
That is very good news. Congratulations to you and the Prime Minister. If it is not convenient for you to come with Stepashin, perhaps we can arrange for a separate time but will leave that to you.

Putin: Thank you very much indeed, Sandy.

Berger: Have a good day.

Putin: Goodbye.