PARTNERSHIP FOR A SECURE AMERICA

RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN POLICY THROUGH BIPARTISAN ACTION

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Former Top Officials Back Renewed U.S.-Russian Ties

Statement Includes 9 Senators, 4 Defense Secretaries and 4 Ambassadors to Russia

Washington, DC -- Earlier this month in Munich, Vice President Biden said that it is time for a "reset" of our relationship with Russia. The Partnership for a Secure America (PSA), a bipartisan group of top foreign policy and national security officials has provided a concrete list of steps the Obama Administration can take to renew cooperation between the two countries.

The statement released today has been signed by 34 prominent Republicans and Democrats, including nine former Senators, two former Representatives, four former Secretaries of Defense, two former National Security Advisors, and four former Ambassadors to Russia. The signatory list also includes both the Chair and Vice Chair of the 9/11 Commission.

"Both U.S. and Russian leaders appear open to improving ties and increasing cooperation on our many shared interests," PSA Advisory Board Co-Chair former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) said. "The Obama Administration should take advantage of this window of opportunity to move ahead on a series of steps that will rebuild trust and confidence between our countries, and make future cooperation possible."

"Russia has a key role to play in overcoming our most serious international challenges, from Afghanistan to nuclear non-proliferation, to combating terrorism and the drug trade," said PSA Advisory Board member and former Reagan National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane. "But it is essential that the U.S. and Russia address these challenges in concert rather than in competition."

McFarlane and Ambassador Thomas Pickering will discuss U.S.-Russia relations and the PSA statement at an event on Thursday, Feb. 26 at the National Press Club in Washington. For more details or to RSVP, go to www.psaonline.org.

PSA was created in 2005 by Hamilton and former Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH) to foster bipartisan, consensus driven solutions to the major national security and foreign policy challenges facing our country. More information on PSA and bios of our distinguished bipartisan Advisory Board, can be found at www.psaonline.org.

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-- Text of Statement --

The U.S. and Russia: A Window of Opportunity

The U.S. and Russia share a wide range of critical interests, from preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to addressing global energy concerns, to combating international terrorism and the illegal drug trade. Russia's heavy hand at home and with its neighbors is troubling, but these concerns must be addressed through effective U.S.-Russian dialogue, not an escalating war of words. Two decades after the end of the Cold War, it is time to strengthen and renew U.S.-Russian cooperation.

We, the undersigned, agree that to repair the U.S.-Russia relationship, both sides must take steps to restore mutual confidence and trust. The Obama Administration can begin by:

- Emphasizing the importance of the NATO-Russia Council and inviting Russia to participate fully in a collective security strategy, beginning with peace and stability for Afghanistan;
- Engaging in discussions aimed at securing Russian cooperation to establish effective defenses against missile attacks for Europe while providing Russia with security assurances;
- Encouraging Russia to take a leadership role in multilateral negotiations with Iran to stop uranium enrichment;
- Advancing the US-Russia dialogue on arms control and non-proliferation, and working to extend or replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which could be followed by another stage of verified nuclear disarmament;
- Reiterating U.S. support for Russia's WTO candidacy, calling on Congress to repeal the "Jackson-Vanik" trade sanctions, and encouraging other member states to offer Russia a clear path to membership based on its commitment to the WTO Charter; and
- Expanding the US-Russia dialogue on energy and climate change, to include seeking common ground on environmental concerns and new oil and gas pipelines to guarantee reliable energy supplies for the entire North Atlantic region.

If these steps are met by Russia with similar good faith and pragmatism, Presidents Medvedev and Obama, as new leaders, can seize a unique opportunity to renew cooperation based on mutual trust and shared interests.

<u>Signatories</u>

Howard Baker, US Senator (R-TN) 1967-85
Samuel Berger, National Security Advisor 1997-2001
Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense 1977-81
Frank Carlucci, Secretary of Defense 1987-89
James F. Collins, US Ambassador to Russia 1997-2001
John C. Danforth, US Senator (R-MO) 1977-95

Susan Eisenhower, President, Eisenhower Group, Inc.
Slade Gorton, US Senator (R-WA) 1981-87, 1989-2001
Lee Hamilton, US Congressman (D-IN) 1965-99, PSA Co-Chair
Gary Hart, US Senator (D-CO) 1975-87
Arthur Hartman, Ambassador to Soviet Union 1981-87
Rita E. Hauser, Chair, International Peace Institute
Carla Hills, US Trade Representative 1989-93
E. Neville Isdell, Chairman, US-Russia Business Council
Nancy Kassebaum Baker, US Senator (R-KS) 1978-97
Thomas Kean, Governor, New Jersey 1982-90
Donald M. Kendall, former Chairman and CEO, Pepsico
John Lehman, Secretary of the Navy 1981-87
Richard Leone, President, The Century Foundation
Jack Matlock, Ambassador to Soviet Union 1987-91
Robert McFarlane, National Security Advisor 1983-85
Donald McHenry, Ambassador to UN 1979-81
Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense 1961-68
Sam Nunn, US Senator (D-GA) 1972-96
William Perry, Secretary of Defense 1994-97
Thomas Pickering, Undersecretary of State 1997-2000
Warren Rudman, US Senator (R-NH) 1980-92, PSA Co-Chair
Alan Simpson, US Senator (R-WY) 1979-97
Theodore Sorensen, White House Special Counsel 1961-63
James Symington, US Congressman (D-MO) 1969-77
Edward Verona, President, US-Russia Business Council
John Whitehead, Deputy Secretary of State 1985-88
Timothy E. Wirth, US Senator (D-CO) 1987-93
Frank Wisner, Undersecretary of State 1992-93