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FROM AMBASSADOR JOHN BEYRLE

Dear Friends,

The last two months have seen some important developments in the Russian-American relationship. On September 24 the United Nations Security Council convened a meeting chaired by President Obama and attended by President Medvedev and other world leaders, which unanimously adopted an historic resolution committing to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons and endorsing a broad framework of actions to reduce global nuclear dangers. Later in the week, President Obama, President Medvedev, and the other leaders of the G-20 met in Pittsburgh and laid out a plan to better regulate the global financial system and advance our common interest in a global recovery and to renew prosperity for our people. Russia and the United States are working together productively in areas where our interests converge, giving concrete substance to the "reset" in our relationship.

Last month I went to Sochi to take part in the International Investment Forum. The level of American involvement was striking: representatives from ten major US companies, from Microsoft to Wal-Mart, joined me in my meetings with regional leaders. The CEOs of General Electric and Morgan Stanley flew in directly from the US to participate in the main panel with Prime Minister Putin. There were 10 people on that panel: five Americans and five Russians. It was a thought-provoking discussion: now that we can see the end of the global economic crisis, now that we know we've avoided the melt-down catastrophe we feared we were headed for a year ago, what lessons have we learned? It was remarkable to hear some of the panelists worrying about an excess of liquidity starting to build up again -- a starkly different concern than we were hearing just six months ago.

I also toured the 2014 Olympic sites. There is a lot of construction underway, but the scale of work that lies ahead -- especially transport infrastructure -- is huge, and that opens up opportunities for U.S. companies in partnership with the Russian organizers. America has a lot of experience hosting both winter and summer games in recent years, and we're happy to share what we've learned with Russia.

Media interest at the Sochi Forum -- at least the questions I was asked in my interviews with Channel One, Rossiya, and NTV -- centered around President Obama's announcement on Missile Defense. The point I tried to stress was that our decision to restructure the architecture of the system in Europe to more effectively counter the most immediate threat -- from short- and medium-range Iranian missiles -- just underscores what we have said from the start: that this system is focused on an emerging threat from Iran, and was never intended to be directed against Russia. I sincerely hope that this argument, which I always saw as largely artificial but which nonetheless grew into a very real, enormous, emotional obstacle in US-Russian relations over the past several years, is behind us. There is a backlog of work we need to do together, such as the joint assessment of missile threats that Presidents Obama and Medvedev agreed to in July, and setting up a Data Exchange Center for notifying each other about our own missile test launches. In other words: constructive, productive work in areas where our interests coincide.

Secretary of State Clinton will be coming to Moscow this month to help us launch the Presidential Commission and working groups announced by President Obama and President Medvedev in July. I'll report to you about our progress in my next newsletter.

Best regards,
JOHN BEYRLE

To read the President's remarks click below:

[REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SUMMIT ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, September 24, 2009](#)

[REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON STRENGTHENING MISSILE DEFENSE IN EUROPE, September 17, 2009](#)

Expedition 20, A Historic First for NASA and Roscosmos



On May 27, 2009, the international crew of Expedition 20 launched aboard the Russian Soyuz TMA-15 spacecraft to the International Space Station. Commander Gennady Padalka of Russia led a six-member crew of astronauts from Canada, Europe, Japan, Russia, and the United States. All five of the International Space Station's partner agencies – NASA, Roscosmos, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the European Space Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency-were represented together in orbit for the first time. Among the many accomplishments that Expedition 20 has made during its mission included conducting experiments related to the depletion of the ozone layer and the effects of long-term spaceflight on the cardiovascular system. A highlight of the

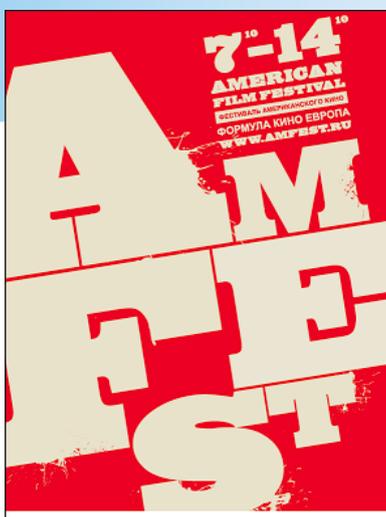
Mission was when the international crew of Space Shuttle Mission STS-128 joined Expedition 20 on August 30 to conduct more science experiments. Expedition 20 illustrates the strong cooperation that exists between NASA and Roscosmos. *(Photo: The Expedition 20 crew holds a welcome ceremony in the Zvezda service module. By NASA)* ([click for more information](#))

The Cultural Fellowships in Russia Program brings American Professionals to Russia with Russian Funding



The participants of the Dmitry Likhachev Foundation's 2009 Cultural Fellowships in Russia Program, where recently honored at a reception in St. Petersburg hosted by U.S. Consul General Sheila Gwaltney and attended by Ambassador John Beyrle. The program is the first of its kind to bring Americans to Russia with Russian funding for the purposes of cultural exchange. The program targets American professionals working on innovative projects related to Russian culture and history, which should help promote interest in Russian culture among the general American public. Organized by the Dimitri Likhachev Foundation and funded jointly by the President Boris N. Yeltsin Foundation, the Russkiy Mir Foundation, and the City of St. Petersburg, the program has many U.S. partners including the Library of Congress' Open World Leader-

ship Program, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, CEC ArtsLink, the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the Kennan Institute, and the U.S. Consulate General in St. Petersburg. *(Photo: U.S. Ambassador John Beyrle (right), the Dmitry Likhachev Foundation's Chairman of the Board and famous Russian writer Daniil Granin (center), and Cultural Assistant Tatyana Kosmylina (left) speak to guests at the reception. By Vera Sevastyanaova, PA St. Petersburg)*



The Fourth Annual American Film Festival starts October 7

The Fourth Annual American Film Festival will take place in Moscow October 7 - 14 at the Formula Kino "Europa" movie theatre (Kievskaya Metro). The festival has become the most important festival of American cinema in Russia. The aim of the festival is to present a more complete cinematic image of American life than is portrayed in the standard Hollywood blockbuster. The festival will provide movie buffs with the opportunity to see several Russian premieres, including "Julie & Julia" starring the acclaimed actress Meryl Streep, and the latest film by Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh, "The Girlfriend Experience". Outstanding American documentary and independent feature films will also be presented during the festival, including "Trouble the Water," which offers an unforgettable,

first hand account of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, Emmy winner "Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired," and "Make Out With Violence", which uses the supernatural genre to explore the sorrow of loss and the pain of growing up. For more information about the festival, including a schedule of film screenings, please go to the website www.amfest.ru/en/about.

Guardian Industries Celebrates Grand Opening of Its New Float Glass Plant in Ryazan, Russia

On September 21 Michigan-based Guardian Industries, one of the world's largest manufacturers of float glass and fabricated glass products, celebrated the grand opening of its new float glass facility in Ryazan, Russia. Float glass is the highest quality glass being manufactured today in large quantities. The Ryazan plant produces 750 metric tons of float glass per day and targets its production toward residential and commercial construction. Approximately \$180 million dollars were invested in the plant, which features a technologically advanced coating machine. The plant has



directly generated 325 jobs and has indirectly created an additional 1,000 jobs. Ambassador Beyrle has noted that “the success of projects like Guardian Steklo Ryazan illustrates the strength of our bilateral business ties.” Guardian sees a huge future for construction in Russia. According to Russ Ebeid, chairman of the board and the president of Guardian's Glass Group, “We are so confident in the opportunities in Russia that we are already in the very early days of planning a second float glass plant in Rostov.” In recent years, Russia has been extremely active in the use of highly energy efficient building materials including insulation and windows. Guardian's coated glass products are key components to meeting Russia's energy efficiency standards. (Photo: Russell Ebeid, Chairman of the Board, Guardian Industries (left); Oleg Kovalev, Governor, Ryazan Oblast (center); and Jonathan Marks, U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Officer, Embassy Moscow (right))

President Medvedev Visits Moscow School That Mainstreams Disabled Students Using USAID-Funded Program



On September 1, the official start of the Russian school year, President Medvedev visited School 518, a Moscow school that mainstreams disabled students and is specially equipped to work with children with special needs. The school's inclusive education program was developed through the efforts of the USAID-funded organization Perspektiva, a Russian NGO that promotes the rights of the disabled. Seventeen children with a range of disabilities will attend this year alongside regular students. Two of the teachers also have disabilities, and one of them uses a wheelchair. After speaking with the students, Medvedev met with school administrators and teachers, who explained the benefits of the inclusive education model for both disabled and non-disabled students, and what is required for its effective adoption and implementation. Medvedev promised that he will work with the relevant government ministries

to further develop the practice of inclusion in the Russian education system. The visit was covered by the media and a video can be seen on the news site: <http://www.vesti.ru/videos?vid=242496>. The Kremlin also posted an article with photos on its web site: <http://www.kremlin.ru/news/5339>. (Photo: President Medvedev talks to a student at a Moscow school that mainstreams children with disabilities. By Perspektiva)

Ambassador Beyrle Pays His First Official Visit to Nizhny Novgorod



On September 15-16 Ambassador Beyrle visited Nizhny Novgorod, his first visit to the city as U.S. Ambassador. Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's third largest city, is the major industrial, economic, science, and educational center on the Volga river. While in Nizhny, the Ambassador met with both the Governor of Nizhegorodskaya Oblast and the Russian President's Special Representative in Privolzhskiy Federal District, and visited the Intel Corporation's Lab in Nizhny, one of the largest Intel research and software development centers in Europe. He also had the opportunity to speak with alumni of US exchange programs at the local American Center and give interviews to the local media. A highlight of his trip was his meeting with Nizhny Novgorod State University students, where he gave a short talk on the “resetting” of U.S.-Russian relations and answered students' questions. (Photo: Ambassador Beyrle speaking to journalists at Nizhny Novgorod State University.)

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USEFUL LINKS

[Ambassador's Blog in Russian on LiveJournal](#)
[United States Embassy Moscow](#)
[U.S. Visa Information](#)

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas on this newsletter and about what the Embassy is doing.
Please send them to askambrussia@state.gov