

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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A CHARTER FOR
AMERICAN-RUSSIAN PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

The United States of America and the Russian Federation,

Striving to provide a solid and enduring basis for American-Russian relations of partnership and friendship;

Believing that the advancement of the well-being, prosperity, and security of a democratic Russian Federation and the United States of America are vitally interrelated;

Declaring their determination to observe strictly democratic principles and practices, including the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Recognizing the importance of the rights of the individual in building a just and prosperous society;

Reaffirming their commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and subsequent CSCE documents;

Desiring to build a democratic peace that unites the entire community of democratic nations;

Noting their special responsibility as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for maintaining international peace and security;

Wishing to promote the development of free markets, economic recovery and growth, and closer economic cooperation, trade, and investment;

Have established the following Charter for American-Russian Partnership and Friendship:

DEMOCRACY AND PARTNERSHIP

The United States of America and the Russian Federation reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of democracy, to the primacy of the rule of law, and to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United States of America fully supports the Russian Federation's efforts to build a democratic state and society founded on the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights. Beginning with mutual trust and respect as the basis for their relations, they are developing relations of partnership and friendship.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation will cooperate closely in the international arena in the interest of advancing and defending common democratic values and human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation intend to expand and intensify a comprehensive dialogue at various levels on both bilateral and international issues.

Given the crucial importance of contacts between the President of the United States of America and the President of the Russian Federation for defining the basic directions of bilateral relations and also in terms of global cooperation and stability, Summit meetings will be held on a regular basis.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation express their determination to promote confidence and enhance understanding between their peoples. They proceed on the assumption that an expansion of contacts between citizens will help ensure the irreversibility of the new quality of American-Russian relations.

For this purpose, they intend to facilitate the establishment of direct contacts between citizens and political, social, labor, religious, and other organizations.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation are prepared to facilitate the work of each other's diplomats, journalists, businessmen, scientists, and other citizens by reaching agreement in opening their lands to travel, by lifting other travel restrictions, and by expanding their consulates.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation place particular emphasis on developing appropriate contacts between all levels of government -- federal, regional, and local -- and between private sector and voluntary organizations.

The United States of America intends to continue cooperation toward strengthening democratic institutions and a rule of law state in Russia; including developing an independent judiciary and institutionalizing guarantees for respect of individual rights.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The United States of America and the Russian Federation reiterate their determination to build a democratic peace, one founded on the twin pillars of political and economic freedom. The United States of America and the Russian Federation recognize the critical importance that democracy's success in Russia and the other former Soviet republics can have on international peace and security.

The United States of America and the Russian Federation, proceeding from the basis of mutual trust and respect and a common commitment to democracy and economic freedom and reaffirming the Camp David Declaration of February 1992; the November 1990 Charter of Paris, the December 1991, March 1992.